



淨土

芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館雙月刊

第四十期二〇一〇年三月

Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago
Bi-Monthly Newsletter – March 2010

地址(Address): 2753-2755 W. Maple Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532, USA

網址: www.amitabhalibrary.org

電話 (Tel): (630) 428-9941, 傳真 (Fax): (630) 428-9961

發行人: 林麗淑

主編: 譚祖德

排版: 編輯室

印光大師法語—評修持各法

Quote from Great Master Yin Guang—Notes on Different Practices

吾人心性，與佛同儔，只因迷背，輪迴不休。
如來慈憫，隨機說法，普令含識，就路還家。

法門雖多，其要唯二，曰禪與淨，了脫最易。
禪唯自力，淨兼佛力，二法相較，淨最契機。

如人度海，須仗舟船，速得到岸，身心坦然。
末世眾生，唯此堪行，否則違機，勞而難成。

發大菩提，生真信願，畢生堅持，唯佛是念。
念極情忘，即念無念，禪教妙義，徹底顯現。

待至臨終，蒙佛接引，直登上品，證無生忍。
有一秘訣，剴切相告，竭誠盡敬，妙妙妙妙。

. . . .

Our true nature is the same as that of Buddhas. But simply because we become deluded and violated this nature, we have been trapped in the endless cycle of reincarnation.

The Tathagatas took pity on us and taught us the Dharma according to sentient beings' conditions so that we might all return to our true nature.

There are many methods to practice; the two most important are Zen and the Pure Land.

They offer us the easiest ways to transcend endless reincarnation.

For the Zen method, one relies solely on one's own effort. For the Pure Land method, one relies on both one's own effort and Amitabha Buddha's help. Comparing the two, the Pure Land method suits our characters the best.

Just like a person who wishes to across a sea must expediently and comfortably take a ship to the other side.

Sentient beings in the Dharma-ending stage will find the Pure Land method is the only reliable method. Other methods do not suit our characters and are difficult to succeed in.

One makes up one's great Bodhi mind, establishes one's sincere faith and vow, practices being mindful of Amitabha Buddha, and upholds it throughout one's lifetime.

When one practices this method this deeply, all attachments in one's mind will drop such that being mindful of Amitabha Buddha or not being mindful does not differ. The exact and profound state of the Zen practice thus completely surfaces, as well.

At the end of one's present life, one will be escorted by Amitabha Buddha to be reborn in the Pure Land in a high grade and with the attainment of no-birth and no-death.

There is a key secret I want to advise sincerely, that is, to practice with one's utmost sincerity and respect is immensely wondrous, tremendously wondrous, and tremendously wondrous.

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觀音菩薩聖像結緣公告

Announcement — Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva Statues for Free Distribution

● **本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)**

本館於恭鑄地藏菩薩聖像與金色阿彌陀佛聖像與各地同修結緣之後，繼續應同修之請，恭鑄觀音菩薩聖像，與世界各地同修結緣。首批恭鑄之觀音菩薩聖像 280 尊預計將於六月份抵達美國。

此一觀音菩薩聖像為粉彩噴金座像，聖像連同底座，高為 12 英吋，底座為橢圓形，長寬約為 6 英吋 X 7 英吋，每一尊菩薩聖像之重量 (連包裝) 約為 4 公斤。聖像法相端麗慈祥，殊勝莊嚴。謹附照片以供參考。

每尊觀音菩薩聖像之製作成本為美金 28.00 元，運費估計平均每尊約為美金 12.00 元，因此，每尊之實際成本約為美金 40.00 元。歡迎世界各地學佛同修及寺院、道場以傳真 (630-428-9961) 或電郵 (books@amitabhalibrary.org) 直接向本館書目組王麗卿師姐及翁慧娟師姐申請。

同時，本館已再恭鑄金色阿彌陀佛聖像 120 尊，預計將於五月份完成，也歡迎世界各地學佛同修及寺院、道場前來申請。



After the Ksitagarbha Bodhisattva statue program and the golden Amitabha Buddha statue program, in response to the requests by many Dharma friends, the library has now started another project to make Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva statues for distribution. The first shipment of two hundred eighty statues is expected to arrive in the United States in June.

The statue is in a standing position with nicely colored face and golden robe. Each statue is 12" tall with an oval base measured L x W approximately 6" x 7". The gross weight (including the box) of each statue is approximately 4.0 Kg (8.8 lb). The statue radiates beauty and compassion as shown in the picture.

The cost of making each statue is US \$28.00, and shipping is about US \$12.00; the total cost is about US \$40.00 each. Interested Dharma friends, temples, and cultivation centers can contact the library

via fax (630)-428-9961 or e-mail books@amitabhalibrary.org, with attention to Edith Wong or Hui-Chuan Weng.

In the meantime, the library has ordered an additional one hundred twenty golden Amitabha Buddha statues. The statues expected to be available in May. We also welcome Interested Dharma friends, temples, and cultivation centers to apply for it.

法會預告

Retreat Announcement

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

為配合悟行法師及澳洲淨宗學院法師來訪之行程，本館今年 2010 年春季法會已確定延至 八月七日及八日 (星期六及日) 兩天舉行，本館將於五月份及七月份之雙月刊中公告法會細節。

今年 2010 年 5 月 23 日為本館七週年館慶，本館將於該日延長念佛時間，其餘日程比照每週之固定共修。詳情請參見後附日程表，並歡迎各地同修前來參加念佛。

To accomodate the traveling schedules of Venerable Wu Shin and other venerables from the Pure Land Learning College Association, inc. in Australia, the Spring retreat of 2010 will be postponed and held on August 7th and 8th (Saturday and Sunday). The details will be published in the May and July Issues of newsletter.

May 23, 2010 will be the library's seventh anniversary. The regular Sunday morning practice will be extended to the afternoon by adding the second incense; other schedules remain the same. The details are below. We welcome all Dharma friends to participate.

五月二十三日 念佛共修課程 Extended Sunday Practice Schedule on May 23, 2010		
10:00 – 11:35	第一柱香 1 st Incense	恭誦阿彌陀經、念佛 <i>Amitabha Sutra</i> Recitation, Chanting, and Meditation
11:40 – 12:30	午 齋 Lunch	
12:40 – 14:10	午間學佛講座 Dharma talk	佛說無量壽經 – 林館長主講 Lecture by Director Lin on the <i>Infinite Life Sutra</i>
14:30 – 16:00	第二柱香 2 nd Incense	讚佛偈、念佛、晚課 Praise of Amitabha Buddha, Chanting, and Meditation

活動報導—越南法師及同修前來本館走春禮佛

Report—A Warm Welcome for Vietnamese-American Friends Chinese New Year Visit

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

大約一百五十多位越南同修朋友乘坐三輛大型遊覽車，浩浩蕩蕩，由位於芝加哥的越南寺院—光明寺住持釋明行法師及另外一位法師帶領，於二月二十日 (大年初七) 中午至本館走春禮佛，一時之間，館內熱鬧非凡。

越南許多風俗習慣都和中國相似，越南朋友也過農曆年，而且，學佛同修習慣於春節時由法師帶領，至各寺院參訪，祈求新的一年能平安順利。

這些越南同修先至佛堂禮佛，再由本館林麗淑館長致上歡迎詞與祝福。這是光明寺的四眾同修第三次至本館走春禮佛。因釋明行法師事先打過招呼，本館義工早有準備，備好大量之佛像、念珠、繫中國結的佛卡、念佛機、精美的捲軸佛像及中英文經書等法寶，與這些同修結緣。結果，不但所有準備好之法寶全部結緣出去、林館長還特別禮送金色阿彌陀佛聖像及地藏王菩薩聖像各一箱給光明寺，可謂皆大歡喜。



釋明行法師領越南同修禮佛 Venerable Ming Hanh led the group to pay respect to the Buddha



林館長及義工們與兩位法師合影 Director Lin, two Venerables, & volunteers

About 150 Vietnamese friends in three buses, led by Venerable Minh Hanh, the Abbott of Quan Minh temple, accompanied by another nun, visited our library on February 20 (the seventh day of the Chinese New Year). All of a sudden, the Library became very lively!

Many Vietnamese customs are very similar to those of the Chinese. Vietnamese also celebrate Chinese New Year. The Buddhists are used to being led by a venerable to visit temples during New Years to pray for and bless the New Year with peace.

When they arrived at the library, they entered the chanting room first and paid homage to the Buddha.

Director Li-Su Lin delivered a warm welcome speech and blessing for the New Year. This was the third time the Dharma friends of the Quan Minh temple have visited us. Because Abbott Minh Hanh notified us well in advance, the library volunteers had prepared many Dharma items such as Buddha's pictures, chanting beads, bookmarks with Buddha's pictures, chanting machines, Buddha's image scrolls, and Buddhist texts for them. All the prepared items were graciously accepted. In addition, Director Lin offered the Quan Minh Temple a special gift of one box each the golden colored statues of Amitabha Buddha and Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva. Everyone felt very happy with visit.

活動報導—本館應邀於南伊利諾州大學(南伊大, SIU)舉行英文基礎佛學講座

Report—Buddhism Speech at SIU

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's Room)

因應南伊大 (SIU) 佛學團體 Sunyata Center 的主持人 Kathy Frith 的邀請，本館副館長譚祖德及義工華劍峰於二月二十日清晨，由下著小雪的瑞柏市 (Naperville) 出發，中途在香檳市 (Champaign) 接了另一位義工劉居士，一起前往南伊大所在之城市 Carbondale，為當地及附近城市的朋友介紹基礎佛學。

到了 Carbondale，天氣卻變成華氏 60 度左右，豔陽高照、有如初春一般，正適合聽眾前來聽講，共有五十多位中外人士前來參加講座。在接受 Kathy 熱烈的午餐招待後，隨即開始二小時的英語基礎佛學介紹。



演講前聽眾們陸續到達等候 Audience gathering before the speech

Invited by Kathy Frith, a professor in SIU and the president of the Buddhist Organization at Sunyata Center, Bert, the Co-director, and Mr. J. J. Huan left Naperville, IL very early in the morning on February 20 in a light snow shower and picked up another volunteer, Mr. Liu, in Champaign, IL. Together, they drove to Carbondale to give an introductory speech on Buddhism for the friends in Carbondale and from other cities nearby.

When they arrived at Carbondale, it was at 60°F, spring-like weather, the best for the audience to come to the speech. It helped bring the audience to more than fifty participants. The two-hour speech started on time at 2:00 pm right after the welcome lunch and Kathy and her husband Michael's warm hospitality.

Bert started the speech by introducing the origin of Buddhism and its propagation into China, followed by highlighting the center idea of Buddhism teaching—the Law of Causality and karma. Bert then explained what are Buddhas and Bodhisattvas and the meanings of prostrating to them. He also succinctly illustrated where to start practicing and sutra selection. There were questions and answers during and after the speech. The discussions were very interactive.

According to Kathy Frith, many people came and thanked her afterward for organizing this speech to let them finally understand Buddhism, or how they would change their thinking.

讀者投書 — 譚副館長於南伊大(SIU)的基礎佛學講座

From Readers—Bert T. Tan Shares the Dharma Message with Southern Illinois

• Michael Frith

A warm welcome greeted Bert L Tan at the Sunyata Buddhist Center in Carbondale, Illinois on Saturday afternoon, February 20. Mr. Tan spoke on "The basics of Buddhism: An art of living" to an attentive crowd of about 60 people from Carbondale and surrounding cities and towns in Southern Illinois.

The unexpectedly large attendance at the talk was probably due in part to Mr. Tan's intriguing statement that "Buddhism is neither a religion nor a philosophy," which was quoted in the local press. In the space of two hours, Mr. Tan was able to present a detailed overview of Buddhist theory and practice, well illustrated with dynamic examples. The high level of interest that Mr. Tan generated in the audience led to a lively questions and answers exchange.

譚副館長為聽眾們由佛教的創始、傳入中國、佛教的中心思想—因果律、業報理論、佛菩薩聖像所代表的意義、經典選擇及修程序等，一一做了扼要的說明，講演中與講演後並有問答與討論。限於時間，講演於熱烈的討論中結束，完成一趟圓滿的弘法之行。

事後，據主辦人 Kathy Frith 表示，許多聽眾朋友特別去謝謝她舉辦了這次演講，讓他們終於知道佛教是什麼。



譚副館長及義工們與主持人 Michael & Kathy Frith 夫婦及當地義工們合影 Bert and local volunteers together with the hosting couple Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Kathy Frith

Before the talk, Mr. Tan and his traveling companions, J.J. Hua, who drove the entire round-trip from Naperville, and Mr. Liu, who joined them in Champaign, were able to meet members of the Southern Illinois student Buddhist group that co-hosts and assists in organizing events at the Center. Ms. Honglian Tan and her family drove from St Louis to attend the talk and lend her support for the event. She also hoped that Mr. Tan's thought-provoking talk might lead her husband to Buddhism.

Mr. Tan was the second speaker in the Sunyata series. Sunyata, established in 2009 as a 501(c) 3, non-profit organization aims to promote an understanding in Southern Illinois of Buddhism, its history and practice and its relationship to other religions. The Venerable Chang Hwa, Director of the Chan Meditation Center, New York City inaugurated the Center in a ceremony last October. Another of Sunyata's goals is to give scholarships to Asian Buddhist students to help them attend Southern Illinois University or one of the local community colleges. Sunyata is in the process of identifying funds to underwrite the scholarships and to provide travel and lodging allowances for visiting speakers.

Mr. Tan's talk was a landmark presentation in Sunyata's public lecture series. The next talk will be by the Venerable Guo Xing, Abbot of the Dharma Drum Meditation Center in New York City on March 21. The Ven. Guo Xing will also lead a meditation workshop at the Student Center on the SIUC campus. Sunyata is grateful to these and other distinguished Buddhist teachers who are travelling to Carbondale at their own expense to share their knowledge.

*For further information contact Michael Frith, (206) 380 9220
michael.frith@gmail.com, or sunyatacenter@yahoo.com, or
visit Sunyata's Facebook page:*

www.facebook.com/pages/Carbondale-IL/Sunyata-Center/123097627786?ref=nl

讀者投書 — 光明寺法師及同修來訪

From Readers—Visit of Abbott, Venerable, and Friends from Quang Ming Temple

• Clara Nieto

It was February 20th and many happy faces were to be seen everywhere. Three busses full of friends came to visit Amitabha Buddhist Library/Temple in Chicago. Our brothers and sisters from Quang Minh Vietnamese Buddhist Temple located at 4429 N. Damen in Chicago graciously selected ABL as one of the annual ten temples to be toured by hundreds of faithful followers. 85% of Vietnam is Buddhist, it was a wonderful site to see that Venerable Thich Minh Hanh has such a large following here in Chicago as well. Three full buses of people were warmly greeted by Director Li-Su and seven devoted sangha volunteers of ABL. Our friends appeared excited and enthusiastic about their visit to Amitabha Buddhist Library/Temple in Chicago.

During the visit the Venerable chanted, bowed and gave a gift to Director Li-Su in our temple. Three bus loads of people were not able to fit in our temple, many stayed in the library section. Outside in the library area it was very busy. Our visitors were gratefully accepting many free Dharma items. A beautiful statue of Ksitigarbha was one of the many Dharma items given to one of our sisters from Quang Minh Vietnamese Buddhist Temple. Our friends appeared very excited. One family requested to have a box of Dharma items to distribute back in Vietnam for their return home. As a Buddhist it was a pleasure to see Dharma items being appreciated and accepted by our Vietnamese brothers and sisters. Venerable Thich Minh Hanh also availed himself for photo opportunities. We hope to continue our relationship with our Vietnamese friends and forge new ones as the opportunities arise. See you next year, Aloha.