



淨土

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印光大師法語

Quote from Patriarch Yin Guang

當恪守淨宗列祖成規，持齋念佛，改惡修善，知因識果，植福培德；
企現生消除業障，臨終正念往生；
庶不虛此一生，及親為如來弟子耳。

We shall follow the rules set by the Pure Land patriarchs: be a vegetarian; be mindful of Buddha; refrain from committing evil and, instead, cultivate good deeds; be conscious of cause and effects; and plant the seeds for good fortune and nurture conditions so we can eradicate our karmic obstacles and be re-born in the Pure Land at the end of this life. This way, we will not waste our life, thus, not waste our opportunity of being the students of the Buddha.

年終二日念佛法會及聚餐晚宴特別報導 A Special Report of the Year-end Two-day Retreat & Dinner Party

● 本館編輯室 (Editor's room)

本館舉辦之年終二日念佛法會及聚餐晚宴，已在一片熱鬧歡喜聲中圓滿結束。

念佛法會一如往常，一切圓滿。法器組的同修表現極佳，中規中矩；而特別值得一提的，是此次有多位外籍朋友受了三皈，非常難得。

本館之年終聚餐晚宴，原是義工感謝宴，往年一向都在林館長家中舉行；為使更多同修能一同歡宴，今年之年終聚餐晚宴首次改在館內舉行，結果，共有一百多人參加晚宴，熱鬧非常。

不過，由念佛法會第二日之午間學佛講座因聽眾人數頗多，椅子不得不擺到門口，到聚



(左起：高師兄、林館長、鄭處長伉儷及孔師兄。From the left: Brother Gao, Director Lin, Director Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cheng of TECO, and Brother Kung.)

餐晚宴時因參加人數太多，幾乎連轉身都嫌太擠，在在處處，都顯示一個事實 - 我們道

場實在必須擴建了！此次聚餐晚宴中首次附加的才藝表演，不但令大眾驚喜連連，也讓大家渡過了一個溫馨難忘的除夕夜。肩負總策劃及主持重任的高永進師兄果然不負眾望，將晚會辦得有聲有色。不但邀來許多極為出色的表演者，而且表演內容豐富，令大家喜出望外。每一個表演者都令人讚嘆，而最得人心的，還是晚會中最高齡以及最年輕的一老一小兩位表演者。高齡 84 的胡顏伯父高歌一曲，又表演了一段順口溜，博得滿堂彩；而年僅 2 歲的高如月小妹妹以稚嫩童音細聲細氣背詩，更牽動了全場大小觀眾的心！



(高齡 84 的胡顏伯父高歌一曲。Senior performer Brother Hu is 84 years old!)

除了高永進師兄、學經班的翁慧娟老師，以及手語表演的陳亮吟師姐之外，還有眾多義工默默奉獻，才讓這次的聚餐晚宴及才藝表演如此成功，這裏面，也包括了翁慧娟老師的同修孔慶怡師兄。

斯文風趣、任勞任怨，自嘲是『檢場』的孔師兄，原來是孔子後裔。當初林館長禮請翁慧娟老師主持學經班，只因信任翁老師的學經歷以及負責個性，相信她會盡責適任，並不知這對賢伉儷與孔家有特殊淵源，如今看來，倒是因緣殊勝，是再好不過的安排！

The library's 2006 year-end two-day retreat and dinner party completed successfully and happily.

The retreat, just like in the past, was carried out flawlessly. The instrument team performed

especially well. And of particularly note is that many western friends underwent the Ceremony of Taking the Three Refuges and formally became Buddhists.

To express the appreciation to the volunteers, the library has held a year-end party which has previously been hosted in Director Lin's home. In order to include more Dharma friends, we decided to host it in the library this year, and we had over one hundred guests.

On the second day of the retreat, there were so many people in the audience for the lunch time Dharma talk that we had to expand the seating area right up to the library doors. And with all the guests at the party it was very difficult just to turn around in the crowd. These clearly indicated that: "the library needs a bigger space!"



(2 歲的高如月小妹妹背兒詩。The youngest performer, Ju-Yueh Gao, was reciting a poem from memory. She is two years old.)

Unlike at the parties in the past, this year we had a talent show performance program. Not only did it delight every guest, but it also gave everyone a warm and unforgettable New Year's Eve. The program director, Mr. Eugene Gao, did a superior job and far surpassed everybody's expectations. He invited performers of all ages and even included a few famous ones. The most impressive performers were the most senior and the youngest ones. The senior performer was Mr. Hu, who is eight-four. He sang a song and performed a talk show, which earned a loud applause from the delighted audience. The youngest performer

was Ms. Ju-Yueh Gao, who at the age of two, recited a poem from memory. Her performance moved the entire audience!

In addition to Brother Gao, Ms. Hui-Chuan Weng, the teacher of the Buddhism Class for Children, and Ms. Chen who presented the sign language performance, there were numerous volunteers who silently dedicated their time and effort to make the party and the performance programs a great success. Included in the silent volunteers was Mr. Kung, the husband of Ms. Hui-Chuan Weng.

Mr. Kung, who made fun of himself as the tech crew, is a gentle, humorous, and steadfast worker, and a descendent of Confucius. When Director Lin invited Ms. Hui-Chuan Weng to be in charge of the Buddhism Class for Children, her decision was based purely on the confidence in Ms. Weng's, experience, and strong sense of responsibility. Director Lin trusted that Ms. Weng would definitely fulfill the responsibility, and did not know that they have special affinities with Confucius' family. Looking back now, it appears to be the best arrangement!

書目組公告-新書抵達，可供結緣

Announcement – New books

- 本館書目組 (Catalog Team)

華藏淨宗圖書館年終兒童才藝表演晚會 感言

After Conducting a Children's Talent Show in the Year-end Party

- 陳亮吟 (Nancy Chen)

二〇〇七年第一個星期天，我到佛堂參加共修時，館長林師姊囑付我為年終的晚會寫一篇文章，我想，末學才疏學淺，但是，能藉著雙月刊的一角，表達我長久以來想說的感謝的話，也是個好機會，就點頭答應了。

二〇〇六年除夕傍晚，我一走進圖書館，就被眼前的景象愣住了，佛堂已佈置成正式的

本館持續收到大批新書，書目組義工師兄姐努力整理，已有不少新書可供借閱及結緣流通，包括：觀世音菩薩普門品講錄、天台四教儀註彙補輔宏記(上下)、及大乘本生心地觀經講記等可供借閱，以及：大方廣佛華嚴經(四十華嚴)上下、大乘起信論講義、及圓覺經略釋等可供結緣。

如有外地同修或各地學會需要法寶，亦歡迎向本館書目組申請。請以電郵聯絡書目組鄧師姐 chifang1@hotmail.com，或於每週一及週三下午 12:00 – 2:30 致電本館 (630-428-9941)。

Recently, we received a large number of books, many of which are new titles. After our cataloging volunteers put in a lot of effort to organize them, many books are now available for check out and free distribution. The titles in English include: "In One Lifetime: Pure Land Buddhism."

Friends or organizations in other states who are interested in obtaining books and other Dharma materials can contact Ms. Chi-Fang Duong at chifang1@hotmail.com, or call (630)-428-9941 on Monday or Wednesday between 12:00 and 2:30.

表演會場，閱覽區的桌上擺滿了豐盛的素食佳餚和同修們製作的點心，館內一片喜氣洋洋。由於與會人士眾多，譚師兄必須用擴音器對大眾說話，我聽他不停地說：「每位參加者，都是我們的 V.I.P.」，聽了，內心感嘆著，館長和副館長為了弘揚佛法，真是用心良苦啊！

負責籌備晚會的師兄和師姊們，前前後後地忙著，大家通力合作，共同的目標，就是把晚會辦好，每位義工都不計辛勞，我知道有些師兄姊忙得沒時間用晚餐呢！

我帶領的手語表演是第二個節目，所以我一邊站在後台準備，一邊聽館長林師姊在表演

前的致詞。我聽到她說，有位參加此次佛二的師姊，感應到我們念佛的力量能幫助海峽兩岸的和平。我的心裏也想著：“是啊！這是每位佛弟子的心願啊！”放下對立，放下是非人我，內心慈悲就沒有敵人。師父淨空上人近年來倡導“和諧世界，從心開始”。如果每個人都存好心，學習佛菩薩的慈悲心懷，這世界的災難必定會減少很多。師父在講經時，就經常開示著我們：依報是隨著正報轉的。

淨空老法師慧眼見真，多年前，就帶領新加坡淨宗學會舉辦嘉年華會，邀請各族群、宗教領袖們參與盛會，目的在促使各族群及不同的宗教能和諧相處。而我們圖書館第一次舉辦的大型年終晚會，我想也有異曲同工之處。看看與會的人士，來自不同的宗教、族群或政治背景，但是每個人都面帶笑容，存著一顆歡喜的心。才藝表演晚會的節目精采，大家都度過了一個難忘的夜晚，也懷著喜樂的心情，迎接新年的到來。

佛教是佛陀對九法界眾生至善圓滿的教育。館長和副館長多年來護持圖書館，推廣佛陀教育，更不忘紮根教育，於去年秋天開辦兒童和青少年學經班。小女莫愁有幸成為第一屆的學員，身為人母者，對圖書館感激不盡，也感謝老師翁慧娟師姊的細心教導。在海外，由於不同的語言環境，要讓小菩薩們深入了解中國古聖先賢所留下來的智慧，不是那麼容易，翁老師學養深厚，又付出了很多心血，小菩薩們都喜歡翁老師，快樂地學習“弟子規”。也希望有更多的父母，體會到啟蒙教育是孩子一生為人處世、幸福成功的基礎，趕緊加入我們的行列，共同為紮根教育努力。阿彌陀佛！

When I walked into the library on the first Sunday morning of 2007 to join the practice, Director Mrs. Lin asked me if I would write an article on participation in the 2006 year-end party. My first reaction was that I did not know much to write. Then, I thought it would be a good opportunity to express my long-held

appreciation; therefore, I accepted the invitation to write an article.



(手語表演。Sign language performance.)

When I entered the library on the New Year's Eve, I was delighted by the beautiful arrangements: the chanting room had become a performance auditorium, the reading area tables were covered by the splendid catered vegetarian foods and the snacks carefully made by Dharma friends; and the joyful atmosphere was everywhere. Because the rooms were crowded with many guests, brother Tan had to use a portable speaker to speak to us. He continuously said: "Every guest is our V.I.P." Listening to this many times, a grateful sigh arose in my heart—for spreading and propagating the Dharma, Director and Co-director really dedicated their hearts and efforts! The party-planning committee members were still busy putting the party together with a common goal in mind; that is, they wanted the party to be successful. I knew for a fact that many of them did not even have time to eat.

My sign language performance was the second on the program. I stood at the back of the stage and listened to the welcoming speech by Director Lin. I heard her say that a participant of the retreat felt that the power from our dedicated Buddha-name chanting would foster the peace between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. I was also thinking: "Yes! This is also every Buddhist's wish!" By letting go of ideological standoff and righteousness, and always being compassionate, we will not think of others as enemies. Also, Venerable Master Chin Kung has been advocating "A harmonious

world starts within our minds.” If everyone could have a loving mind and learn the great compassion from the Buddha, the number of disasters and tragedies would definitely be reduced significantly. Venerable Master Chin Kung constantly reminds us that anything we receive is driven by our mind.

Venerable Master Chin Kung has *wisdom eyes* to see the reality. Several years ago, he began to invite leaders of many different ethnic groups and religions to the “Carnival” like parties hosted by the Amitabha Buddhist Society in Singapore; his purpose was to deepen harmonious interaction and dynamics between the different groups. I think our library’s first large-scale year-end party would have the same effect. Although the guests at the party were from different religious, ethnic, and political backgrounds, everyone was smiling and happy. The talent shows were excellent and everyone had an unforgettable New Year’s Eve and happily welcomed in the New Year.

Buddhism is the Buddha’s education for all sentient beings in the nine realms. For many years Director and Co-director have sponsored the library to propagate the Buddha’s education. Additionally, they began Buddhism classes for children and adolescents to begin grass-root seeding. My daughter, Mo-Chou, was lucky to be a student in the children’s class; as her mother, I am very thankful to the library and also thankful to the teacher, Ms. Hui-Chuan Weng, who has put so much effort into teaching the children. Due to language and cultural barriers, we overseas Chinese have difficulty teaching our children and helping them to understand and accept the wisdom pass down to us from our ancestors. Ms. Weng who has a solid background put so much effort that she is very well liked by her young students who happily learned *Standards of Being a Good Child and Student*. I hope that more and more parents will realize that the education at childhood is the foundation for our children’s success and happiness in the future and that these parents can join us to grass-root seed for our next generation together. Amitabha!

弟子規學經班話劇演出有感

After the Play Standards of Being a Good Child and Student

● 翁慧娟 (Hui-Chuan Weng)

其實寫一篇籌備十二月三十一日晚會的感想，由高師兄來寫是最合適的，因為整個晚會從構思到完成，都是他竭盡心力安排的；不過非常謙虛的他，希望由我來寫這篇文章，我也只好不揣淺陋，就我參與的部分——弟子規學經班話劇，來和大家分享這一次難忘的經驗。

本來以為身為老師的我，只要躲在幕後支援，讓小朋友們上台唱唱歌、背背弟子規就可以了，不需要“拋頭露面”；沒想到高師兄不讓我美夢成真，他希望導演一齣話劇，把學經班上課的情形搬上舞台，藉此鼓勵更多的小朋友來學習弟子規。這是個非常好的構想，但是老師不就也得演戲嗎？幾次向高師兄暗示：我是最不會演戲的，能否請個替身演員？可是他很堅持：“不行”，因為我最了解上課的情形。退而求其次，我暗示他隨時可以換角，不用因顧慮我的感受，而影響話劇的品質，他也很堅持：“不會考慮中途換角”。我家師兄很同情我，因為他知道我實在是個非常內向害羞，容易緊張的人。不過事已至此，我也只好勇敢的面對現實，接受挑戰；但是在排演的過程中，還是忍不住作困獸之鬥：“我的台詞少一點好不好？”“這兩句讓小如蓮來講好不好？”高師兄真是個非常有耐心的導演，除了那兩次對我說不之外，他不僅和顏悅色容忍我的討價還價，還儘量做調整來配合我的不合作，實在是萬分感激他。他鼓勵我多作正面思考：“演戲對一個老師而言，是很好的訓練，能讓自己的教學更生動”，“這個話劇很有意義，可以讓更多人知道弟子規”。同時他也不給我太多負擔，只讓我在演出時，像平常上課說話一樣，高難度搞笑的部分由他來做，所以我實在是很幸運。

現在來談談一群可愛的小演員。除了學經班的學生，此次有三位小朋友友情客串演出，

更壯大了我們的聲勢。高師兄是個懂孩子，很優秀的導演。基本上，除了背誦弟子規，他希望小朋友能自由發揮，展現孩子快樂活潑的真性情，讓他們忘記是在演戲還是玩遊戲。小朋友興奮的告訴我，最期待的是 bad guy〈高師兄飾演〉的出現，和玩老鷹抓小雞時的緊張刺激。他們面對這麼多觀眾，仍能字正腔圓，有模有樣的背誦經文，那認真的神情，童稚的聲音，著實令人感動，實在讓我這為人師的與有榮焉。而高師兄的演技精湛，他適時的穿針引線和逗趣的表演，不僅讓我和小朋友忘了緊張，也增添了濃郁的歡樂氣氛。為了讓觀眾們了解，孩子不只會背誦弟子規，也努力在生活中應用它，我們特別安排了王師姐的心得分享和陳師姐的迷你短劇，非常謝謝她們的拔刀相助；也由衷感激家長們，督促孩子讀經和背經，犧牲難得的假期，帶小朋友來參加排練及演出，沒有家長們的付出，這個表演是無法成功的。

話劇雖已落幕，高師兄和我誠摯的希望，經由這次的演出，能讓更多的家長知道弟子規，了解弟子規，讓我們的下一代接受弟子規的薰陶，在他們最純真，可塑性最強時，將這顆成賢成聖成佛的種子，深深植入他們的心田，以最大的愛心和耐心來滋潤灌溉，直到成長茁壯的那一天……

If there is one person who would be ideally suited to write an article about the year-end party, it would be Brother Gao because the entire program, from beginning end, was completely planned and implemented by him. But he is very humble and asked me if I would write about it instead. Therefore, I write this article only to share the unforgettable experience of my participation—the play based on *Standards of Being a Good Child and Student*.

Since I am the teacher of the children's class, I thought that I just needed to stay behind the scenes and did not need to appear on the stage. I could just let the students sing songs and recite materials in *Standards of Being a Good Child and Student*. But Brother Gao did

not let me be off the hook that easily. He wanted to direct a stage play to show the classroom conditions, hoping to attract more children to the class. This was a very good idea but it meant that I would need to be on the stage! Although I told him several times that I was a bad performer and urged him to find a substitute, he insisted: "No," because I was the most familiar with the classroom conditions. I then hinted him that he could feel free to replace me anytime if he found out I did not perform the role well. He insisted again: "I won't change people once we begin rehearsing." My husband sympathized with me very much because he know how introverted and shy I am and how easily I become nervous. However, everything was arranged, so I had to move along. Yet I still struggled: "Can I have less to say?", "Can we ask Ju-Liang to do this part?" and so on.

Brother Gao was a very patient director. He nicely tolerated me and adjusted so much to accommodate me. For this, I am very grateful to him. He also encouraged me to think in a more positive way: "Performing is good training for a teacher. It allows you to make your teaching more dynamic," "This play is valuable because it will help more people know about the Standards of Being a Good Child and Student." In reality, he did not put any burden on me. He simply asked me to act as if I was in the classroom and took on the tough parts himself. So, I think I was very lucky.

Now let me talk about these little lovely actors and actresses. We invited three children who were not in the class to join us so we would have a bigger group. Brother Gao is an excellent director and is extremely intuitive with children. Except for the recitation of the material in *Standards of Being a Good Child and Student*, he gave the children total freedom in performing the show. This allowed for a genuine expression of juvenile innocence. As a result, the children behaved very naturally during the show. Many children very excitedly told me what they looked forward to the most was the scene when the "bad guy" (acted by Brother Gao) appeared and tried to grab us. The children moved me when they faced the large audience and calmly and attentively

recited the material. I felt honored to be their teacher.

Brother Gao's skilled and amusing performance not only eased the nervousness of both myself and the little performers, but also enhanced the entertaining atmosphere of the show. The audiences saw that the children could not only recite *Standards of Being a Good Child and Student*, they also realized the principles they learned from the class in daily lives. To illustrate this, we arranged for Sister Wang to share with us the changes in her daughter since she began to attend the class. We also invited Sister Chen to do a skit to reflect the changes in her daughter. We are thankful to them for their help. We also thank those parents who encouraged their children to memorize and recite the material, and sacrificed much time to assist with the rehearsals. Without their support, the show would not have been successful.

The play is now over. Both Brother Gao and I sincerely hope that due to having seen this comic show more parents are now aware of and understand *Standards of Being a Good Child and Student*. Hopefully more parents will arrange for their children to learn these teachings. In this way, parents will help to plant the seeds of goodness when their children are young and continue to nurture the seeds with the greatest compassion until the seeds germinate.

[Attending the Year-end Retreat](#)

● Carol Kloka

I have been attending Sunday practice at the Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago for about four months. After seeing an advertisement for the Library, I attended one Sunday without knowing what I would experience.

When the instrument was struck, I immediately felt an overflow of emotion. Each Sunday, following practice, I feel a peace and calm I had not known before. Daily chanting, Sunday practice, dharma talks, and reading, have since begun to change my life.



(Venerable Wu Ling lectured the Amitabha Sutra.)

I looked forward to the two day retreat held December 30th and 31st. Each day began with chanting and two additional practices were offered in the afternoon. However, during the afternoon hours, Venerable Wu Ling concurrently lectured on the Amitabha sutra and I attended these lectures. Having read her books [Awakening The Buddha from Within](#) and [In One Lifetime: Pure Land Buddhism](#), I was pleased to be able to learn from her. During the retreat I met other individuals learning Pure Land Buddhism and enjoyed sharing experiences with them. I was honored to take the Three Refuges and thereby commit to lifelong practice and learning. The retreat was followed by a New Year's Eve party with more than a hundred guests. There was a banquet, entertainment, and even karaoke at the end.

I am grateful to Li-Su L. Tan, Director, and Bert Tan, Co-Director, for creating and supporting the Library, and for the dedicated volunteers who staff it each day. Amitufo.

[My Experience Attending the Buddhist Retreat](#)

● Stephanie Shinfan Chang

After I moved to the Chicago area at the end of 2005, I started participating regularly in activities at the Amitabha Buddhist Library. I was very eager to attend for the first time the end-of-the year retreat organized by the library. This retreat was special because my adopted American mother, Helen, who is also a Buddhist, came from Columbus Ohio to participate in the retreat. As a volunteer for the

library, I was asked to take care of snack preparation. It was also my first time to play the ground bell during the retreat, as well as to be the co-hostess for the New Year's Eve party.

The New Year's Eve party was an opportunity for me to learn how to organize events and work with others harmoniously. Brother Gao, who was the director and host for the party, was very enthusiastic, diligent, and inspiring in organizing and preparing for the party. He spent hours working patiently with the children, helping them practice their skits and performances for the show. Both times when I observed them, I saw how much he motivated and inspired enthusiasm in the children. Brother Gao also organized the gift-giving ceremony, the purpose of which was to express appreciation and gratitude to all the performers. It was also inspiring to see how dedicated the volunteers were. Before the retreat, they spent hours at the library: cleaning, moving furniture, setting things set up, getting the stage ready, and organizing the printed materials that would be passed out to participants and guests.

The night before the ceremony, I made some soup to serve as a dessert and snack for the retreat. On the first day of the Amitabha Retreat, I was nervous playing the ground bell for the first time. But, thank goodness, with the Buddha's help, I did not make any major mistakes! After the morning practices, I attended Ven. Wuling's afternoon's lectures. It was an enriching and enlightening experience to hear the Buddha-dharma in English from Ven. Wuling. Her calm voice was filled with wisdom and compassion, and her teachings were clear and profound. I was so joyful and grateful to have the fortunate karma to be there and receive the Dharma directly from her. I learned so much Dharma, in particular, she said that the best way to share Buddhism with others, is to live it.

I attended all of her lectures on the *Amitabha Sutra*. I recite the sutra daily in Mandarin, and Ven. Wuling's teachings gave me insights and a better understanding of the sutra. Also, I have always wanted to learn more Buddhist vocabulary in English, and this was a great opportunity for that.

In conclusion, attending the retreat was a wonderful and happy experience for me. Helen, my American mother, and I have always dreamed of doing Amitabha retreats together. Helen said that she learned a lot from Ven. Wuling's teaching, that she was inspired by the Amitabha center, the magnificent and rich shrine, the beautiful Amitabha Buddha statues, the drums and bells, and that the respectful and peaceful atmosphere was great for practice. She said she enjoyed meeting the members, eating gourmet Chinese food, and watching the little children perform. Being a member and volunteering for the library makes me feel like I'm at home. The Buddhist center is my home, because the members are my friends. They are loving and kind, compassionate, respectful, helpful, and we all share the same goal. We are a real family, and I love this new family!



(年終晚會觀眾們觀賞表演。Audiences were watching the talent shows.)