



# 淨土

## 芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館雙月刊

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### 蓮池大師

Quote from Patriarch Lianchi

#### 楚失弓

楚王失弓，左右欲求之。王曰：『楚人失弓，楚人得之，何必求也。』仲尼曰：『惜乎其不廣也。胡不曰：人遺弓，人得之，何必楚也。』大矣哉！楚王固滄海之胸襟，而仲尼實乾坤之度量也。雖然，仲尼就楚王言之，而未盡其所欲言也。何也？尚不能忘情於弓也。進之則王失弓，王猶固也，無失也；假令王復得弓，王猶固也，無得也。雖然，猶未也，尚不能忘情於我也。又進之，求其所謂我者不可得，安求其所謂弓也、人也、楚也。

#### Story About the King of Tsu Who Lost a Bow

The King of Tsu, a feudal state in the Spring and Autumn Period in China, lost his bow, and his people wanted to find it for him. The king said: "A Tsu citizen lost the bow, some other citizen of Tsu will find it. Why waste your effort to find it?" Confucius said: "Good! This is broadminded, but not good enough. Why not say: 'A person lost a bow, some other person in the nation will find it; the person doesn't have to be a Tsu.'"

Wonderful! The King of Tsu indeed had a broad mind—one as big as his state. But Confucius had a broader mind—one as expansive as the entire nation. Confucius did not speak to the fullest of his broad-mindedness because his statements were responding to what the king said. Why do I say this? Both minds in the conversation dwelt on the lost bow. From a broader perspective, losing a bow or getting it back does not change fact that the king is the king—he does not lose or gain anything! But thinking so is still not perfect because the mind still dwells on the "self." Taking this a step further, as the "self" is not permanent, why should we even dwell on the bow, on the people, or on Tsu?

#### 發行人的話 -- 二力法門

● 林麗淑

自本期開始，本館雙月刊改為以訂閱及網頁公告方式發行。感謝各地同修及讀者支持，訂閱的朋友十分踴躍。

訂閱者中，以電郵閱覽訂閱者為多數，不但人數眾多，而且包括了許多來自世界各

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地，我們從不知道的新讀者。這麼多朋友採用電郵閱覽訂閱，確實可幫圖書館省下不少印刷、郵寄費用，也幫義工省下許多裝訂、摺疊的工夫。不過，另一方面，我看到了仍有不少朋友指定訂閱印刷出來的雙月刊，仍要求採取郵寄到府的方式，實在很覺高興，頗有“知音不少”之感。

十月初我去哥斯大黎加參加了一項會計師的專業講習會議，其中有一位主講者是管理專家，他認為有史以來，對人類生活影響最大的發現與發明，是網際網路的使用；他認為網際網路對改變人類生活而言，其重要性及影響之深遠，甚至超過小兒麻痺疫苗。我不知道多少人會贊同此論，不過，網際網路的使用，確實徹底改變了許許多多人的工作與生活方式。即以本館雙月刊為例，也是拜了網際網路無遠弗屆之賜，才能有電郵閱覽訂閱之方法。

當然，仍有許多事物，絕非網際網路可替代。比如說，我自己雖日夜利用電腦工作，但卻喜歡閱讀印刷出來的文章、資料，不太喜歡在網頁上閱讀大篇文章。或許，這也是我會欣喜仍有不少朋友指定訂閱印刷出來的雙月刊，並有“知音”之感的理由吧！

再次感謝讀者大眾支持。如有朋友要新訂閱，或改變訂閱方式，都非常歡迎隨時通知本館。

此次在哥斯大黎加時，有一天是空檔，未排講習課程，因此，我也與美國各地前往之會計師同仁一起，參加了當地飯店安排的特色旅遊。這項旅遊果然很有特色，包括身繫鋼索，滑越樹梢、盪越河谷，以及頗為驚險的峭壁實地攀岩。

我雖從無攀岩經驗，且常自嘲“看來不老，其實不小”，不過，身手一向矯健，因此，沒多作考慮，即欣然參加攀岩；而等到手脚並用，援峭壁上之鋼釘攀爬而上幾步，才發覺這比西嶽華山之“上天梯”更要困難。主要是身在峭壁，直行而上，真正必須步步為營，不能有一步踏空。可喜的是，當我繼續攀爬而上數步，尚未開始感到氣喘，竟覺腰繫之鋼索略有拉力，原來峭壁頂上平台有位哥斯大黎加兄弟，大概看我長相斯文，居然已經開始伸出援手，助我一長臂之力！

接下來之攀岩，變得輕鬆許多，因為明確知道需要之時，有人會伸以援手。當然，我還是費力不少，方攀爬至頂，但途中幾次鋼釘之間間距較大，鋼索適時傳來拉力，也幫助我省力了一些。爬上峭壁頂上平台之後，我對那位第一次見面的哥斯大黎加兄弟大表感謝之意，而他回報我的燦爛笑容，與我初覺鋼索略有拉力之喜悅，至今仍依稀存在心中。

回來之後，我在“學佛講座”中告訴圖書館同修，這次的特色旅遊，讓我深刻體認了

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“二力法門”之殊勝。確實如此，若完全依憑自力、不繫鋼索，不是不能從事同一項攀岩活動，但一方面費力太多，一方面若不小心失足，真正粉身碎骨，實不應輕身涉險。

我們念佛人，依賴佛力，彷彿參加這項特色旅遊之朋友，依賴現代化之保全設備與當地保全人員；當地素不相識之保全人員之適時拉引，已令我們大省其力，能夠安心、順利完成驚險旅程，而佛之慈悲與大神力，當更能協助我們在菩提道上少障少難、順利而行。

同時，這次攀岩也讓我對蕩益大師之“信自”與“信他”多了一層體會。能參加攀岩之人，必須先要自量其力，一定要相信自己真有體力、真能手脚並用、從事此一活動，方能嚐試，這是“信自”。

能夠“信自”，相信自己真夠資格參加、真能爬上去，然後，再加上“信他”，相信現代化之保全設備與當地保全人員，這樣，才會真敢參加，也才能真正完成這項活動。

我們念佛人，豈不也正是如此？必先深信我有佛性、必可成佛，再深信佛之慈悲願力、必接引我，那麼，西方之必生，也就像此次攀岩之必成，是絕無可疑的了。

願與大眾共勉！阿彌陀佛！

### Publisher's Note

● Li-Su Tan

Cultivation Method with two types of efforts

● Bert Tan (Translation)

Beginning with this issue, the newsletters will be delivered according to the readers' choice of either paper or e-mail notification. We want to express our appreciation to all subscribers for their support.

The majority of the readers, many of whom are new subscribers, chose the e-mail version. With so many readers choosing an e-mail subscription, the library will save significant expense in printing and postage, and the volunteers will save considerable time and effort in stapling, folding, etc. On the other hand, there are still many subscribers who chose paper media. I am glad to see many friends share my favorite newsletter version.

I went to Costa Rica for a CPA's professional conference in early October. One of the speakers is a business administration profession. He thought the Internet is the most significant invention in history. He even thought its influence in terms of changing our lives is greater than that of the polio vaccine. I am not sure how many people concur with this view; however, the Internet has certainly changed the lifestyles of many of us.

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For example, the option of using e-mail for the newsletter delivery is taking good advantage of the Internet.

Nevertheless, there are many items which cannot be replaced by the Internet. For instance, I like to read printed materials instead of online materials. To me, printed materials cannot be replaced by the Internet. Perhaps this is the reason that I am glad to see many friends with the same favorite as mine.

Again, we thank all readers for their support. Readers can change the subscription method at any time.

When I was in Costa Rica, I joined a canopy and rock climbing trip with other CPAs on an event-free day. It was a very special experience; I swung between trees and over a valley, and I went rock climbing.

Although I did not have any previous rock climbing experience and I often teased myself: "though I do not look old, I am not really young," I have always been fit and energetic. Therefore, I joined the rock climbing without much consideration. When I needed to use both my hands and feet to grab the nails on the rock to gradually climb up, I realized it is more difficult than climbing some part of Hua San, known as the West Mountain, in China. Climbing those parts has been described as "climbing a sky ladder." It was difficult because I was directly in the middle of the cliff going up straightly, and because I had to watch every step I made. When I had climbed just a few steps up and before I began to feel any shortness of breath, I was glad to feel a pull on the cable which was secured to my waist. From the top of the cliff, a Costa Rican friend had extended his hands to assist me. Perhaps he already sensed I might soon have difficulties.

After that, I felt much relaxed in the climbing because I knew there would be assisting hands when I needed them, although I still put in a lot of effort to climb to the top! When I was at the top I thanked the friend who warmly smiled back to me. Today, I still remember the joy when I first felt the pull on the cable.

I shared the experience in the lunch time Dharma talk after I returned to Chicago. I told our library friends that from this experience, I realized the uniqueness of the "two-force cultivation method." If we climb the rock alone without a pulling cable, we must put in a lot of effort and it is very dangerous. But with a pulling force, not only can we save energy, but also it is more secure.

Pure Land practitioners chanting Buddha Amitabha's name are relying on his help just as the friends on this trip relied on the safety personnel and the equipment. The timely pulling force from the safety personnel saved us a lot of energy and helped us complete the climbing trip. Buddha Amitabha's great compassion and power will help us to overcome the barriers on the Bodhi path and complete the journey so we will attain Buddha-hood smoothly.

Also, I better understand Patriarch Ouyi's advice "being faithful on oneself", and "being faith on the Buddha Amitabha (the helper)." Rock climbers must first assess themselves and establish self-confidence before committing to climbing. This is "being faithful on oneself."

After "being faithful on oneself," plus "being faithful on Buddha Amitabha," (the helper specifically in this case) trust the safety personnel and the equipment. Then we will be able to join in and complete the rock climbing safely.

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Pure Land practitioners chanting Buddha's name are mirroring the rock climbing example. We first must deeply believe in our own Buddha nature and that we can become a Buddha. This is "being faithful to oneself." We also must believe Buddha Amitabha's great compassion and vow to assist us. This is "being faithful to the helper." Then, to be reborn to the Western Pure Land is just like the rock climbing on the Costa Rican trip—its success is without a doubt.

Let's encourage each other! Amitabha!

## 年終二日念佛法會暨聚餐晚宴通告

### Announcement – Year-end Two-day Retreat & Dinner Party

#### ● 本館編輯室(Editor's room)

為倡導念佛，並勉勵同修修行，本館決定承往年之例，將於十二月三十日(星期六)與三十一日(星期日)，舉辦年終二日念佛法會，並將禮請悟琳法師前來主持三皈儀式及英文學佛講座。

悟琳法師與本館因緣頗深，幾年來已數度前來本館及大芝加哥地區道場指導外籍朋友學佛，極受學生歡迎。此次除將於念佛法會兩天之休息時間中主持三皈儀式之外，並應本地外籍學佛同修之請，將於兩天之下午連續在本館閱覽區以英文啟講阿彌陀經，歡迎大眾前來參加。

有關此次年終二日念佛法會之詳細日程，請見隨附之文宣資料。其中，與往年法會不同的有兩項：

**第一：**十二月三十一日適逢星期天，本館每週日固定之午間學佛講座將照常舉行，由林館長主講，譚副館長現場英文翻譯。

**第二：**十二月三十一日(星期日)晚間將在本館舉行年終聚餐晚宴。此項聚餐晚宴往年一向在林館長家中舉行，雖亦盛大熱鬧，但館長家中僅能容納七十餘名賓客，每次聚餐都難免有遺珠之憾。為使更多同修能一同歡宴，今年之年終聚餐晚宴將改在本館舉行。

除依慣例將有精美之素食餐飲及甜點供養同修及好友之外，此次聚餐晚宴更將由本館聯誼組長高師兄精心策劃才藝表演及同樂歌唱聯誼。

高師兄擅長主持大型晚會，素負盛名，此次精心安排並主持才藝表演及同樂歌唱聯誼，可謂輕車熟路。其中，才藝表演之重點是將由“幼兒學經班”之翁老師及學生、家長一同以表演方式發表學習成果，深值期待；同樂歌唱聯誼則將由歌聲優美之康師兄配合高師兄一起，安排以歌會友，必定熱鬧精彩。

年終聚餐晚宴時間如下：十二月三十一日(星期日)晚間 5:30 至 6:45 用餐；7:00 至 8:15 才藝表演；8:30 至 10:30 同樂歌唱聯誼。歡迎有興趣參加才藝表演之朋友與高師兄聯繫(手機電話：630-699-5837)，更竭誠歡迎本地及各地同修、好友闔府前來參加聚餐晚宴，與我們歡聚一堂。

There will be a year-end two-day retreat sponsored by the library. The retreat will be on December 30 (Saturday) and December 31 (Sunday). We have invited Venerable Wu Ling to conduct the ceremony of Taking the Three Refuges and give lectures in English.

Venerable Wu Ling has deep affinities with the library. She has come to the library many times as well as other places in the Chicago area to introduce Buddhism to American friends, and the students always warmly welcome her. This time, she will conduct the ceremony of Taking the Three Refuges during the breaks in the two days. In response to requests from American friends, she will lecture on the *Amitabha Sutra*,

two sessions on each day. We welcome everyone to attend.

The details of the two-day retreat can be found in the attached agenda and registration form. There are two events differing from the retreat sponsored by the library in the past:

1. December 31 is a Sunday. The lunch time Dharma talk, given by Director Li-Su Tan, and translated by Bert Tan, will continue.
2. There will be a year-end dinner party on the evening of December 31 (Sunday) in the library. This party used to be in Director Li-Su Tan's home. Although this had worked out well, her house can only accommodate about seventy people for a party. Therefore, this year we are holding the party in the library so more people can join us.

Just like in the past, we will have delicately prepared vegetarian dishes and deserts. In addition, there will be talent shows and Karaoke programs. Mr. Eugene Gao is in charge of the planning and coordination.

Eugene is well-known for planning and acting as the M.C. at large parties. This party should be easily taken care of by him. Among the programs, the children in the Children's Buddhism class, the teacher, and the parents will present programs to demonstrate what they learned. Mr. Kai Tim Hong, together with Eugene, will be the in-charge of Karaoke song arrangements.

The year-end dinner party times are: December 31 (Sunday) 5:30 – 6:45pm for dinner, 7:00 – 8:15pm for talent show, and 8:30 – 10:30pm for Karaoke. If you are interested in contributing to the talent shows, please contact Eugene by cell phone (630)-699-5837. We cordially welcome everyone, including your family and friends to join the fun.

### 特別通告 – 2007 月曆

#### **Announcement – 2007 Calendar**

- 本館編輯室 (Editor's room)

本館已收到佛陀教育基金會所寄贈之2007年護生月曆，印刷精美，歡迎同修前來領取。

We received a few boxes of the beautifully printed 2006 Reverence for Life Calendar from the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation. If you are interested, please feel free to stop by and get one.

### 書目組公告 – 大批新書抵達，可供結緣

#### **Announcement – New books for free distribution**

- 本館書目組 (Catalog Team)

本館持續收到大批新書，書目組義工師兄姐努力整理，已有大量新書可供結緣。為讓各地同修前來申請法寶時方便攜帶，書目組義工師姐更特別設計、訂製了精緻法寶袋，預計十二月底法會之前可收到，供養大眾，歡迎同修常來申請法寶。

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](mailto: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. Now that our cataloging volunteers have put in a lot of effort organizing them, many books are available for free distribution. To make it easier for friends to carry books and Dharma items, our cataloging volunteers designed and ordered several hundred tote bags for Dharma items. They are expected to be available at the end of December. Interested friends are welcome to stop by and select from the many books now in stock.

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](mailto:chifang1@hotmail.com), or call (630)-428-9941 on Monday or Wednesday between 12:00 and 2:30.

## 悟和法師南美洲弘法之行特別報導 Special Report – A trip to South America to Propagate the Dharma

● 譚祖德 (Bert Tan)

十月二十日上午，末學經過了十一個半小時的飛行後，終於抵達 Buenos Aires 機場，一位阿根廷朋友已在登機門處手持末學名牌等候。出了海關，一小時前先行抵達的悟和法師及陳美君師姐與前來接機的張環師姐及許多同修們已在外等候。我們很快的就到了淨宗學會的道場。

中午用過了同修們為我們準備的豐盛的午餐後，法師即開始教導阿根廷師兄姐練習平常做功課時所唱誦的讚、偈，與使用法器。法師並交代末學用隨身電腦錄音。



(悟和法師指導阿根廷同修練習法器。Venerable Wu He was teaching playing Dharma instruments.)

第二天，如同半年前悟行法師來此弘法時一樣，由張環師姐精心策劃的連續三日的弘法活動終於正式展開。一樣是由阿根廷慈濟功德會的鄭師姐擔任司儀，悟和法師在中華會館連續三天的下午主持了講座——『地藏經的啓示』，吸引了不少聽眾。法師的開示非常成功且受歡迎，有不少朋友在會後繼續提出問題，悟和法師一一耐心解答，討論持續約兩小時才結束。由於弘法開示均是安排在下午，阿根廷同修們利用上午的時間，勤練法器。

連續三天的弘法開示結束後，悟和法師為阿根廷同修們主持了一日念佛法會。阿根廷同修們非常精進，不但非常投入的念佛，他們同時還不時地注意觀摩法師、陳美君師姐與末學使用法器。

在悟和法師前往巴西的前一天，阿根廷同修們為法師、陳美君師姐與末學安排了 Buenos Aires 一日遊，晚間並去觀賞舉世聞名的阿根廷探戈舞，過了輕鬆的一天。

如同上次一樣，末學對此次阿根廷之行，印象深刻。特別值得讚嘆的，是阿根廷佛友們對念佛與學習法器的精進。譬如說，阿根廷同修們誦經與念佛的聲量、念佛的時間及在念佛時投入的程度，真是不可思議，幾乎已到了忘我的境界。法器組同修們對於練好法器的熱切，亦是如此。末學可以充份感覺到大家都念得與練得法喜充滿，喜悅萬分。



(悟和法師為阿根廷同修們開示。Venerable Wu He was lecturing in Argentina.)

悟和法師所有在阿根廷的開示及所教的唱誦偈子，均已燒製成音響光碟兩套，一共八片，末學在離開時已留予阿根廷的同修們。

十月二十六日下午，悟和法師、陳美君師姐與末學一同飛往 St. Paulo 繼續悟和法師此次的南美洲弘法行程。步出 St. Paulo 機場，由謝昌遠師兄所領導的同修們已在機場恭候；法師出海關時，師兄姐們立即給與悟和法師熱烈的歡迎。由謝昌遠師兄所精心籌劃的三日弘法活動，正式展開。

由於悟和法師此行是第一次到巴西弘法，休息數小時後，悟和法師在當日晚間即主持了一場小規模的開示，與謝昌遠師兄等同修們共約二十位一一認識並交談，大約於十時半結束，賓主盡歡。

第二、第三及第四日，悟和法師主持了連續三天每天三小時的講座，講演『地藏經的啓示』，吸引了大約五、六十名聽眾，另有約二十多位葡裔的聽眾，坐在講堂の後段，經由現場直譯，聆聽法師開示。三天的弘法中，悟和法師並主持了一場半日念佛法會，與見證皈依儀式，有不少葡裔的同修，在此殊勝的因緣下，接受了三皈依。

於三天的弘法講座結束後次日，謝昌遠師兄招待悟和法師及末學等遊覽舉世聞名的Iguacu瀑布，於當日傍晚飛抵當地的城市，隨即去拜訪巴西承天寺。悟和法師與住持道容法師一見如故，暢談數小時。道容法師並親自邀請悟和法師於下一次造訪巴西時，能至承天寺弘法。第二天，道容法師更陪同悟和法師、謝昌遠師兄及末學等暢遊瀑布。

十一月一日清晨，悟和法師、謝昌遠師兄及末學等飛回 St. Paulo，末學等準備於當日晚間回美。在中午，末學等隨同悟和法師拜訪巴西佛光山如來寺，悟和法師與住持妙多法師暢談在海外弘法事宜，妙多法師亦邀請悟和法師於下一次造訪巴西時，能至如來寺主持法會。末學等於當日晚間回美，悟和法師則於次日在中觀寺主持巴西清明節法會後，於十一月三日飛返阿根廷，繼續所餘十天的弘法行程，講演『阿彌陀經要解』。

悟和法師在巴西的開示，亦已燒製成音響光碟，一共七片，已留放於中觀寺予巴西的同修們。

自悟行法師到南美洲弘法，至今已兩年半。這兩年半以來，南美洲阿根廷及巴西兩地法

緣的成熟，不可思議。末學對於兩地民眾善根、福德、因緣的深厚與成熟，也深感慶幸與歡喜。所謂『若要佛法興，唯有僧讚僧』，端看道容法師、妙多法師與悟和法師間的互動，末學暗喜佛法之興有望矣！

After an overnight eleven and a half hour flight our plane landed in the Buenos Aires airport on the morning of October 20, 2006. As soon as I exited the gate, an Argentine friend holding a sign with my name greeted me. He helped me go through immigration and customs, thus the entire process went smoothly. Many Argentine Dharma friends, led by Sister Chang, and Venerable Wu He and Ms. Mei-Chu Chang who had arrived one hour earlier, were waiting outside for me. We then went to the Pure Land cultivation center.

Argentine Dharma friends prepared a feast-like lunch for us, after which we took a short rest. Venerable Wu He began to teach our friends in Argentina to sing the songs of praise and the poems used in the chanting practices, and also how to play the Dharma instruments. Venerable Wu He asked me to record his singing on my notebook computer.

On the second day, just like a half year ago, the carefully planned three-day Dharma program by Sister Chang finally took place. Ms. Cheng from the Tzu-Chi Foundation in Argentina served again as the master of ceremony. Venerable Wu He lectured in the afternoons of the next three days on "The Essentials of *Ksitagarbha Bodhisattva's Fundamental Vows Sutra*." There were anywhere between fifty and sixty people in the audiences, including Argentine Bhikkhuni Venerable Zhao Zhan. The talk was well received. Many friends kept asking questions after the talk and Venerable We He patiently answered them all. The conversations ended about two hours later. Since the lectures were all in the afternoons, the instrument team practiced in the mornings.

After the lecture series was concluded, Venerable Wu He conducted a one-day retreat. The Dharma friends were very dedicated in the

chanting. They also paid close attention as Venerable Wu He, Ms. Mei-Chu Chang, and I played the instruments.

On the day before going to Brazil, the friends arranged a one-day Buenos Aires city tour for us, and invited us to see the splendid world-famous Argentine Tango show in the evening. It was relaxing and enjoyable.

Just like the last visit, the experience of this trip was very positive. I especially admire and praise the dedication and diligence of our Chinese-Argentine friends in the Pure Land practice. The volume of their recitation and chanting, and the time they devoted to the practice was incredible. The members of the instrument team, although just beginning, were especially eagerly to learn and practice. They were very dedicated in their chanting and seemed as if they could have happily chanted forever.

All the lectures on “The Essentials of *Ksitagarbha Bodhisattva’s Fundamental Vows Sutra*” and instrument teaching sessions (in Chinese) were recorded, made into audio CDs, and left for the Dharma friends before I came home.



(巴西同修們熱烈歡迎悟和法師。Dharma friends in Brazil delivered a warm welcome to Venerable Wu He.)

In the afternoon of October 26, 2006, we boarded the flight to Sao Paulo. Upon exiting customs, a good number of Dharma friends led by Mr. David Hsieh delivered a warm welcome to Venerable Wu He. Then the carefully

planned three-day Dharma program by Mr. Hsieh began.

In the evening of the arrival day, Venerable Wu He had a small group get-to-know-you dialogue to chat with about twenty friends. The dialogue lasted for about two and half hours and ended at 10:30.



(悟和法師在巴西為同修們開示。Venerable Wu He was lecturing in Brazil.)

For the following three days, Venerable Wu He lectured each afternoon on “The Essentials of *Ksitagarbha Bodhisattva’s Fundamental Vows Sutra*.” Each lecture was three hours long. There were anywhere between fifty to sixty people in the audiences. Also, in the back of the room, there were more than twenty Brazilian friends who listened to the lecture via Portuguese translation. During the three days, Venerable also hosted a half-day chanting practice and conducted a ceremony of taking the Three Refuges. Many Brazilians took the Three Refuges.

On the day after the three-day program ended, Mr. Hsieh treated us with a tour to the magnificent Iguacu Falls. We flew to the city in the late afternoon and went to visit the Cheng-Tian Temple directly after de-boarding the plane. Although Venerable Wu He and the abbot Venerable Dao Yung had just met, they chatted for hours like old friends. Venerable Dao Yung also invited Venerable Wu He to lecture in their temple on his next visit to Brazil. Venerable Dao Yung also accompanied us when we visited the Iguacu Falls on the second day.

Early in the morning of November 1, 2006, we flew back to St. Paulo. I was to fly back to Chicago in the evening. At noon, we visited the Buddhist Light International Association Ju Lai Temple. Venerable Wu He and the abbot, Venerable Miao Duo, exchanged ideas on propagating the Dharma in the West. Venerable Miao Duo also invited Venerable Wu He to host retreats in their temple the next time he visited Brazil. In the evening, Ms. Mei-Chu Chang and I flew back to Philadelphia and Chicago respectively. Venerable Wu He continued to stay for one more day in St. Paulo to host a one-day retreat before he went back to Buenos Aires for his second lecture series in this trip on "The Essentials of the *Amitabha Sutra*."

All the lectures on "The Essentials of *Ksitagarbha Bodhisattva's Fundamental Vows*

*Sutra*" and instrument teaching sessions (in Chinese) were recorded, made into audio CDs, and left in the Chun-Kwan Temple for the Dharma friends in Brazil before I came home.

It has been two and half years since the sponsored the visit of Pure Land School venerable Wu Shin to South America. It is incredible how quickly the Dharma conditions in Argentina and Brazil have matured. I am especially delighted to see this and happy for the friends there. As it is said, "Sangha members' praising each other is the only effective way to propagate the Buddha Dharma." When I saw the warm interaction between Venerable Wu He and Venerable Dao Yung, and then between Venerable Wu He and Venerable Miao Duo, I was very happy that the popular acceptance of the Buddha Dharma is perhaps now close.

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## **From the Reader – 1: Attending the Buddhism Class**

### ● **Yvonne Hammond**

As a person raised as a Christian, I admire the justice of the Buddhist system, according to which people reap what they sow, and unlike Christianity, Buddhism doesn't dominate or preach to people. This doesn't mean that I criticize the Christian religion, and I don't claim it inadequate. It has the potential to help millions of people, as do all religions. I appreciate the potential in each religion and respect all those who follow them. Since I have only begun my journey into Buddhism, I cannot say that I have had a deep, spiritual experience, but I agree with the concept of self-redemption, that there is no easy path to get where we want to go. I think everyone can agree that nothing of value comes easy.

As a child, I did not get much religious teaching because my parents wanted me to be free to choose my own path. I've always believed in a creator, but not a "personal God" who listens to my thoughts and prayers. I felt that nature's energy was controlling everything. Every object, animal, blade of grass has an energy

emanating from it as well as people. We are all part of the chain of life. One action sets off a reaction, so I believe in the law of causality and the never-ending chain of life. The Buddhist teaching rings true to me as I've always felt this since I was a child.

There are two significant moments in my life that confirm my belief in a life after life. One amazing experience was one my mother had which made me a true believer! She claimed that when she was a just a tiny girl in her crib, she looked at the cracked ceiling in the bedroom of her parent's small, dingy apartment and said silently in her mind, These people are very poor!" "You told me it was going to be different this time! The voice answered back, "Just be patient, it will be different, you will see." Upon reflection, she said she didn't know who she was talking to and who answered her, but she said they were right, she really had a fruitful future as she received a full scholarship to University, had a fulfilling career, happy marriage and a home life with no money worries!

The other significant experience happened to me. I am named after my Grandmother

“Yvonne”. She was my mother’s mother and everyone loved her dearly. My Grandfather died before her at age 93 and she lived to be 94. For those years without my Grandfather, she seemed lost. She worried terribly that she wouldn’t find my Grandfather in the afterlife. She told my Mother this often. My Mother, by the way, is a big Opera fan and there isn’t an Opera she doesn’t know. (You need to know this because it gets really spooky in a minute). My Grandmother died and everyone was grieving, especially my Mom, because she had taken care of her for 7 years in her house. About a week after she died, I had a dream that I was in Church and the organ was playing. I was walking up the aisle holding lavender flowers and there in the pew was my Grandmother in her favorite pink dress. She was younger looking and looked happy and peaceful. She stood up suddenly and started to sing an absolutely beautiful song! Her voice was like an Opera singer’s; much more beautiful than any other song I’ve heard. When I awoke, I immediately called my Mother to tell her this dream, I hummed the music that Grandma sang and my Mother nearly dropped the phone! It was the aria from Orpheus and Eurydice, a Greek myth about a man trying to find his lover in Hades (Hell) and must save her by bringing her back without looking at her. This song was sung upon FINDING HER! I could not have known the inner meaning of this, as I was not familiar with this particular Opera. I believe my Grandmother was sending a message only my Mother could interpret. It was to console her and tell her that she had found my Grandfather and they were together. After that amazing experience, I believe that this life is not an end. There is another realm after this.

I enjoy coming to class and hearing Bert speak of his personal experiences. He brings

infectious enthusiasm to the class and offers analogies that even a child could understand. His patience with us novices is admirable. Due to my new-found understanding, it reminds me to be more careful about what I say and how I say it, as there are always consequences. This is not the end, but only a moment in time.

## From the Reader – 2: Attending the Buddhism Class

### ● Zenobia Nippert

I grew up in a 'Christian' home. Neither my parents nor siblings knew anything about or was interested in Buddhism. I began learning Buddhism when I was about 11 or 12 years old. I remember having terrible arguments with my mother over reincarnation. I read what I could find and get through without my mother or teachers (I went to a private school) discovering. I have, unfortunately, had some gaps in my understanding and knowledge. I've waited for a teacher for nearly 40 years. It was very helpful and instructive to 'begin at the beginning' and learn the history of Buddha and Buddhism. For years I've felt lost whenever I try to understand some of the concepts. Taking them out of context has created a great deal of confusion and I've felt like I have been missing something, all these years. Thanks to you, Bert, it's all beginning to make sense. The things others in the class share about their readings is also helpful and instructive. I look forward to every session. Having the disks to listen to again and again only reinforces what I learned each week. I 'hear' something new each time.

The two greatest gifts anyone can give, is to give time to others and to share knowledge by teaching. Thank you for being here for us and for giving your valuable time to teach us.

# 芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館

Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago

## 兩日念佛共修法會通告

Two-day Retreat Notice

2006年12月30及31日（星期六及星期日）

December 30（Saturday）and 31（Sunday），2006

### 念佛共修日程

#### Retreat Agenda

地點：芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館

Where: Amitabha Buddhist Library In Chicago  
2753 – 2755 W. Maple Avenue  
Lisle, IL 60532

10:00 – 11:30	1 <sup>st</sup> Incense 第一支香	Amitabha Sutra Recitation, Chanting, & Meditation 恭誦阿彌陀經、念佛
11:30 – 13:15	Lunch 午齋	12月31日（星期日）午間學佛講座 - 林館長主講 Lunch Time Dharma Talk on 12/31 : Director Li-Su Tan
13:30 – 15:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Incense 第二支香	Praise of Amitabha Buddha, Chanting, & Meditation 讚佛偈、念佛 英文開示（於閱覽區）：悟琳法師 Dialog on Buddhism: Venerable Wu Ling
15:00 – 15:30	Break 休息	三皈依儀式：由悟琳法師主持 Venerable Wu Ling will conduct the Ceremony of Taking the Three Refuges during the break on both days.
15:30 – 17:00	3 <sup>rd</sup> Incense 第三支香	Praise of Amitabha Buddha, Chanting, & Meditation 讚佛偈、念佛、迴向、警眾偈、三皈依 英文開示（於閱覽區）：悟琳法師 Dialog on Buddhism: Venerable Wu Ling
17:30 – ?? (12/31 only)	Year- End Dinner Party 年終聚餐晚宴	歡迎攜眷闔府參加！ Please bring family!

E-mail: [library@amitabhalibrary.org](mailto:library@amitabhalibrary.org) 傳真 (Fax) : 630-416-9488

聯絡人電話 (Contact Tel) : 630-721-1130 (鄧紀鳳 Chi-Fang Duong); 630-416-9422 (李寶娜 Bao Li)

(Continue on back page)

# 芝加哥華藏淨宗圖書館

Amitabha Buddhist Library in Chicago

2006 年終兩日念佛共修法會報名表

2006 Year-end Two-day Retreat Registration Form

姓名 Name		性別 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
地址 Address		電話 Phone	
		手機 Cell	
		E-mail:	
若參加三皈依，請註明日期。 Check mark the date you plan to take the Three Refuges.		12/30 <input type="checkbox"/>	12/31 <input type="checkbox"/>

## 請註明參加念佛及用餐人數

Enroll in the activities & indicate the number of people for the meals.

	第一柱香 1 <sup>st</sup> Incense (10:00 – 11:30)	午餐 Lunch count (11:30 – 13:15)	第二柱香 2 <sup>nd</sup> Incense (13:30 – 15:00)	第三柱香 3 <sup>rd</sup> Incense (15:30 – 17:00)	年終聚餐晚宴 Year-end Dinner Party (17:30 on 12/31)
12/30	人數 _____	人數 _____	人數 _____	人數 _____	
12/31	人數 _____	人數 _____	人數 _____	人數 _____	人數 _____

### 備註:

- 12/30、31 之午餐及 12/31 之聚餐晚宴均由本館免費供應，但為避免浪費或短缺，參加用餐者請務必報名。本館將於報到時依報名表發放餐券，憑以用餐。
- 法會一切免費，歡迎自由樂捐。
- 為準備餐飲，請務必於 12 月 26 日前用傳真或 e-mail 報名，並請確實註明用餐人數。

### Notes:

- The library will provide the lunches for 12/30 and 31 and the year-end dinner party on 12/31. In order to prepare adequate yet not to cause waste of food, please register if you want to eat lunches and/or join the year-end party. We will have meal tickets for those who registered for having them.
- The retreat programs are free; voluntary donation is warmly welcomed and appreciated.
- Please register on or before December 26 by fax or e-mail.

E-mail: [library@amitabhalibrary.org](mailto:library@amitabhalibrary.org) 傳真 (Fax) : 630-416-9488

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