



歡喜的第一步

— 金山寺第一次書展

The First Step to Happiness:

The First Book Exhibition by Gold Mountain Monastery

摘自（金山通訊）書展義工們感言

Excerpted from the *Gold Mountain Monastery News* - Reflections by the Book Exhibition Volunteer Staff



金山寺在 Sherman 馮居士的發心下，於六月十六、十七日，在聖馬刁市的華人工商展中辦了第一次書展，介紹佛法和灣區的民眾結緣。因為這是第一次承辦，經過幾次往來萬佛城及金山寺，終於把書展的書搬齊。而書展的日期也隨之到來，在法師和義工的齊力下，圓滿該項活動。

在贈書的書展中，我們的攤位人潮擁擠，特別是星期日有更多的人聞風而來，因此送出了很多的結緣書。有些人一聽到這些書是結緣的，就拼命拿，深怕慢了一步，就被別人搶走。而有些人則是一聽到是結緣，就逃之夭夭，覺得我們是幌子。

Due to Sherman Fong's sincere offering, Gold Mountain Monastery had its first book exhibition at the Asian-American Expo in the city of San Mateo on June 16 and 17. The event gave Bay Area residents an opportunity to learn about Buddhism. Since this was the first time Gold Mountain Monastery has sponsored this kind of event, after going back and forth several times between Gold Mountain Monastery and CTTB, we finally gathered everything for the event.

Our booth was packed with people during the two days of the Expo, especially on Sunday when many people heard about our booth and came over. We distributed many books and created affinities with all sorts of people. Some people heard that we were giving out free books. They grabbed all the books they could get like there was no tomorrow. On the other hand, some people heard "free books" and ran away as fast as they could, thinking that there is no such thing as free lunch—we must be a hoax.

Some people were interested in the schools at the City of the Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) and Betty patiently talked to them all about it. Despite our big Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) banner, many people



有的來賓對萬佛城的學校特別有興趣，Betty 很有耐心的講給他們聽。雖然我們有一條大的布條寫著法界佛教總會，但還是有不少人問我們從那裏來？我們就回答說是萬佛城，他們一聽，就說：「哦，從那麼遠來的！」有一位女眾拿了書後，意外地拿了幾杯有機豆漿來給我們喝，因為她的攤位是賣豆漿的。

有人問起吃素的問題：「怎麼吃才有營養？會不會不健康？」Jennifer 和 Green Petal 就解釋給他們聽。並指著 Nancy 說，她從小就是吃素長大的，還長得很高呢！有人拿了很多書，覺得不好意思，要捐錢給我們，我們就將法總的名片附上，請他們自己寄去。也有人沒拿書，卻在我們的攤位裡外走一圈，之後來問：「你們的功德箱在那裏？」我就說：「我們沒有功德箱。」他們有點訝異。

在此特別感謝馮先生，他不但提供攤位給金山寺，還處處照顧義工們。在星期日快收攤時，他還派人問有誰不是義工，他會付這兩天的工錢。他難以相信說：「全部義工？Are you sure？」因為會場裏又悶又熱，加上人聲吵雜，義工站了大半天沒有怨言，時時面帶微笑為大家服務。雖然書展後我們都很累，但內心非常高興，因為有那麼多人請書回去，種下菩提種子。

still asked where we came from. We all replied that we were from CTTB. After hearing it, they all said, "Oh, you come from far away?" One of the ladies left our booth with some books, and brought back several cups of organic soy milk for us to drink because that was what her booth was selling.

Some people asked questions about being a vegetarian: How can you eat

nutritionally? Is it healthy to be a vegetarian? Jennifer and Green Petal explained to them how to eat a nutritionally balanced diet and pointed at Nancy saying she had grown up eating vegetables and was tall. Some people said that they felt guilty after taking many



books from us, and wanted to donate money. We explained to them that we weren't taking donations, but if they insisted we gave them the DRBA's business card so they donate it directly. Some people did not take any books from us. They just walked around our booth, then came and asked us where our donation box was. When I told them we did not have one they were shocked.

We appreciated Mr. Fong's good gesture, besides taking care of us and providing the booth, he sent someone over and asked me to see him when the event was near the end on Sunday. He told me that he would pay these two days' salary to those who were not volunteers. We told him, "We are all volunteers." He could not believe it and said, "All of you are volunteers, are you sure?" since it was noisy and hot in the exhibition, and we needed to stand all day. However, rather than complaining, volunteers always carried a smile on their faces and were ready to answer any questions. We were happy even though we were all tired after the book show, because through these books we were able to plant many Bodhi seeds.

