

聖城開光三十週年藝文活動圓滿收場

Culture and Arts Contest Ends on a Perfect Note for CTTB's 30th Anniversary Celebration



二月初起，為配合聖城開光三十週年，中小學中文部即積極成立藝文活動小組，舉辦徵文、書法、繪畫、背經及佛學常識比賽等五項活動。

徵文題目為「萬佛聖城對我的影響」。在A組大專以上的成人組，有三篇感人肺腑的文章，皆是作者在聖城真實的體驗，王一丹、梁玉棋、莊雅嬪分獲菩提獎、慈悲獎、喜捨獎。B組高中部分，林于新榮獲菩提獎，陳薇羽、朱瑞敏並列慈悲獎，王欣平、張瑜庭並列喜捨獎，另外陳慧濱、潘佩瑩、鄭秉樞為蓮花獎。C組中學部分林于安榮獲菩提獎。D組小學部分，呂明賜榮獲菩提獎，Meagan Huean榮獲慈悲獎，Tatum Lovsey榮獲喜捨獎，江親解為蓮花獎。

書法作品來自臺灣、馬來西亞及聖城。臺灣的曾有忠老居士以84歲高齡，每日以寫《心經》修心養性自娛，書法功夫有其獨到之處。大部分書法內容以上人法語為題材。「童畫聖城」則為小學生之作品，表現出天真無邪的內心世界，把聖城做了不同的詮釋。其中馬來西亞的小朋友，把聖城、出家人、孔雀、松鼠，以豐富的想像力勾勒出美麗的圖案。還有幾位法師和畢業校友也熱心提供作品，使得展覽更具內涵。

這次從臺灣帶著兒子來參加夏令營的蔡明宏居士發大心，花了很多巧思，

Since early March, in order to cooperate with the Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas, the Chinese Departments of both the Middle and the High Schools actively organized a Culture and Arts Committee sponsoring five activities, including essay-writing, calligraphy, painting, sutra memorization and a Knowledge of Buddhism Contest.

The essay topic was, "The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas' Influence on Me." In the Adult/College group of Team A, (Essays) there were three articles in particular that touched just the right chords. All were the authors' true experiences at CTTB. Then, Yi-Dan Wang, Yu-Chi Liang and Ya-Zhen Zhuang received the Bodhi Award, the Compassion Award and the Joy and Giving Awards, respectively. For the Team B High School students, awards were given as follows: Yu-xin Ling, Wendy Chen and Mandy Chu each received the Bodhi Award; Xin-Ping Wang and Yu-ting Zhang both received the Joy and Giving Award; Hui-bin Chen, Pei-Ying Pan and Bing-Shu Zheng received the Lotus Award. Yu-An Ling received the Bodhi Award for the Middle School as the Team C contestant. For the Team D Elementary School students, awards were given as follows: Michael Lu received the Bodhi Award; Meagan Huean received the Compassion Award; Tatum Lovsey received the Joy and Giving Award and Qin-Jie Jiang received the Lotus Award.

Calligraphy was submitted from CTTB, as well as from as far away as Taiwan and Malaysia. A Taiwanese layman, You-Zhong Zeng, for example, who is 84 years old, wrote out the *Heart Sutra* every day, not only as self-entertainment, but also as a way to cultivate the mind and nature. His calligraphy skills are unique. Most of those who submitted calligraphy for consideration, however, copied out Dharma words from the Venerable Master. Submissions from the Elementary School students (mostly Fairy Tales) really show the innocent and pure states of their minds. Each child expresses his/her ideas about CTTB in different ways. Among them, for example, the Malaysian children drew a beautiful picture of CTTB,

使得展覽會場書畫氣息的韻味洋溢。方丈和尚參觀後，對於整體作品的佈置，以及小朋友的創作天份讚不絕口。

背經示範表演有四位小朋友參加，每人3至5分鐘。來自金聖寺12歲的黃漢翔小朋友背〈楞嚴咒〉，聽了小朋友背佛教中最長的咒，更讓大人要下決心了。培德女中的李嘉儀同學背《地藏經》，她的母語是英文，但居然能夠突破障礙背《地藏經》。從金聖寺來的李海昱小朋友，臺風穩健，《楞嚴經》的經文就如行雲流水般從她口中宣洩而出！育良小學六年級的呂明賜小朋友，於隔天在佛殿背〈普賢行願品〉。

藝文活動的重頭戲——佛學常識比賽，到最後組織出最完美的比賽隊伍。有位法師看了名單後說：「難怪說有精彩好戲可看，原來都是法總的菁英！」參賽者分別來自臺灣、馬來西亞、聖荷西、舊金山、西雅圖和聖城之住眾，年齡則有老中青三代，最小的只有8歲，老一點的則近60歲，陣容龐大，共有十隊五十個人參賽。

這次使用的隊名讓大家覺得很有意思，分別是五臺、九華、峨嵋、普陀、天臺、賢首、善財、龍女、南華、真如等。有人看了隊名後說，光聽這些隊的名字就法喜充滿了，每個人都很滿意自己的隊名。正式比賽前，主持人陳威宏老師別出心裁，要每隊臨時想出一個口號為自己加油。每個隊都很有創意，例如九華隊就把地藏王菩薩抬出來：「九華！九華！地藏王菩薩加油！加油！」

更有意思的是，這十個隊裏頭，有夫妻檔、父女檔、母女檔、兄弟檔，還有呂書德一家三口的全家檔。培德男校則特別把已畢業的兩位校友，和一位在學英文名字都叫Michael的學生請來比賽。湊巧的是，在比賽前幾天，有人臨時退出，馬來西亞的馮永堅（Michael）也加入了比賽。

7月5日下午一點，最重要的時刻來

complete with Monastics, peacocks and squirrels. A few Dharma Masters and alumni also enthusiastically provided their artworks which made the exhibits more meaningful.

Layman Ming-Hong Tsai, who brought his son to participate in the CTTB's summer camp, was especially creative in decorating the exhibition site, which was suffused with classic literary styles in painting and calligraphy. The Abbot of CTTB, D. M. Lyu, visited the exhibit and afterwards praised all the wonderful decorations, as well as the talent and creativity of the children.

Four children participated in the Sutra Memorization event, with 3-5 minutes allowed per person. Twelve-year old Han-Xiang Huang memorized the Shurangama mantra. Needless to say, hearing his memorization of the longest mantra in Buddhism caused the adults present to be even more motivated and determined to memorize the mantra. Katherine Li, a Instilling Goodness Girls School student, whose mother tongue is English, broke through the language barrier and memorized the *Earth Store Sutra* in Chinese. Sandy Lee from Gold Sage Monastery, with incredible stage presence and aplomb, memorized the *Shurangama Sutra* and it flowed from her lips as easily as water flows from a waterfall. Inspired, Michael Lu, a sixth-grader from Developing Virtue Boys School memorized Universal Worthy's Conduct and Vows chapter (from the *Avatamsaka Sutra*) in the Buddha Hall the next day.

The most crucial part of the Culture and Arts Contest, however, was the Knowledge of Buddhism Contest. After the teams were organized, one of the Dharma Masters saw the list and commented, "No wonder people say we will have a good show to watch. It turns out that all the contestants are the elites of DRBA!" Participants came from Taiwan, Malaysia, San Jose, San Francisco, Seattle and CTTB. Their ages spread across three generations, from old to prime-of-life, to young. The youngest contestant was only 8 years old and the oldest was over eighty years old. The "battle array" for the contest was huge, with 10 teams and 50 people all together.

The team names were also very interesting in that they were the names of Wu-tai, Er-mei, Potola, and Tian-tai Mountains. Then there were teams Worthy Leader, Dragon Girl, Nan-Hua and True Suchness. Some said that merely laying eyes on the Team Names filled them with glee and Dharma joy, and that everyone ended up thrilled with the name of their team.

Also, before the contest was officially under way, the Master of Ceremonies, Wei-Hong Cheng, invited each team to come up with a "football cheer" to use for cheering their team on. All teams were creative. For example, Team Jiu-Hua, for Earth Store Bodhisattva, used "Niu-Hua, Niu-Hua, Earth Store Bodhisattva! Go! Go! Go!"

What is perhaps even more interesting is that among the ten teams, some consisted of couples: father and daughter; mother and daughter; or brothers, for instance, while Michael Lu's team actually consisted of his whole family! Also, Developing Virtue Boys School invited two alumnae and a current student from Malaysia to join the contest. All three were, by coincidence, named Michael. But a few days prior to the contest, one of the original Michaels backed out at the last minute, only to be replaced by Feng, Jong-Jian, still another Michael.

The big moment finally arrived at 1:00pm on July fifth. All the workers

臨了！所有的現場工作者已準備就緒。主持人陳威宏老師以幽默詼諧的口吻，緩和了大家緊張的情緒。三位比丘坐鎮評審，可見比賽是多麼地慎重其事。念題法師則中英文俱佳，反應又快。計分員是畢業校友張海淨和陳嘉凡，兩個人合作無間。遞題員是女校學生林于新和沈美儀，當把題目交給念題的法師時，每次都是恭恭敬敬地用雙手遞上，為我們的教育成果做了最佳證明。

初賽分成兩組，每組五隊，取前二名進入決賽。首先普陀、天臺、南華、真如四隊都以積分破百脫穎而出，進入決賽。其餘六隊則再舉行一場敗部復活賽，前二名善財、峨嵋亦入圍，故決賽計有六隊。整個比賽都在祥和的氣氛中進行，每個人臉上的笑容都是那麼燦爛，並互相鼓掌、加油、打氣，一點火藥味也沒有，因為實力都在伯仲間，往往形成拉鋸戰，觀眾看得很刺激、過癮。

連續三場比賽後，為了讓中文組的參賽者鬆一口氣，英文組的十位小朋友分成五隊一起上場。來自西雅圖的Alex和弟弟Sam搭檔，勇奪第一名；育良小學的Hugh和Emory緊追在後得第二名；第三名是Alan和Jackie。整個比賽非常有趣，小朋友的風度又好，幾乎沒有答不出來的問題，可見他們有多用功！

緊接著是中文組的決賽，題目的設計也比較特別，往往不聽到最後，就會答錯，搶太快的人就「上當」了，但也惹得臺上臺下哈哈大笑，反而製造「笑果」。比賽結果，天臺85分，南華80分，真如75分為前三名。一對美國祖父母級的觀眾說：「美國人玩這種比賽是很緊張的，為什麼你們佛教徒的比賽是如此祥和呢？」

實法師和方丈律法師特別在百忙中趕來頒獎，並給大家開示，令參賽者既感動又法喜。這場比賽真是名符其實的君子之爭，大家相約明年再次歡聚一堂，以法會友。聖城開光三十週年藝文活動就在一片歡樂聲中，圓滿收場！

had completed their preparations, tasks and duties. The MC used humor to ease everyone's nervousness. Three Bhikshus sat as judges. From here you could see we have taken this event seriously. The Dharma Master reading the questions was eloquent in both Chinese and English. She was also quick in responding to situations. The two alumnae, Hai-jing Zhang and Jia-fan Chen, were score recorders who worked well together. Yu-xin Lin and Mei-Yi Shen, who passed the questions to the Dharma Masters always handed the question cards respectfully with two hands. This is the best proof for our successful education.

The preliminary game divided the teams into two groups, each of which consisted of five teams. The result was that the scores of four of the teams: Potola, Tian-Tai, Nan-Hua and True Suchness broke 100 points to take the lead and to qualify for the finale. The other six teams who had fallen in defeat were then given an opportunity to redeem themselves. Then, the victor-survivors of that round - the winning teams of Good Youth and Er-Mei, entered the finale. Consequently, a total of six teams entered the finale. The atmosphere of the contest was at all times friendly and harmonious. Everyone's smiles were bright - so bright, and everyone encouraged one another, and there wasn't even the slightest smell of gunpowder in the air. The teams were so well-matched in strength that they almost tied. The audience felt very happy and excited and enjoyed themselves to the full.

After three consecutive rounds of competition, the ten English contestants were divided into five teams so that the Chinese teams could take a break. The two contestants from Seattle, Alex and his younger brother Sam, won First Place. Hugh and Emory of DVBS, got Second Place, while Alan and Jackie came in Third. The game was quite interesting throughout. Not only were the children happy, but also they were quite polite, civil and courteous, and there was not a single question that they couldn't answer. So from here, we can see how hard they have worked to prepare for the contest.

Next, it was time for the finale of the Chinese group. The questions were especially designed so that if a contestant didn't wait to hear the whole question, chances were that they would get the answers wrong. So, when the contestants pressed the bell too quickly, they got fooled. This made the audience laugh uproariously. The resulting scores for the first three winning teams were: Tian-Tai, 85; Nan-Hua, 80 and True Suchness, 75. An American grandparent in the audience commented later: "When Americans participate in this kind of contest, it is usually very nerve-racking. How is it that you Buddhists are so peaceful and calm under pressure?"

Dharma Master Sure and Abbot Dharma Master Lyu, taking time out of their very busy schedules, came to present the awards to the winners and to give instructional talks. The contestants were touched and full of Dharma joy. The contest was truly a competition among the gentleman. Everyone said that they hoped to gather together so happily again next year with their friends in the Dharma. So, the Culture and Arts Contest for CTTB's Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration ended on a perfect note and full of great joy.