

# With Unbounded Gratitude, Marching into the Next Half of the Century

Report on the Highlights of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Planting the Dharma in the West

## 感恩心，邁向下一個半世紀

宣公上人西方弘法五十週年系列活動報導

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法界佛教總會（以下簡稱「法總」）於2012年6月22日晚間至24日，紀念創辦人宣公上人西方弘法50週年暨涅槃17週年，約有2700餘人參加。除了來自不同國家的信眾之外，金山灣區、沙加緬度與南加州等地信眾，共計21部大巴士前往萬佛聖城。22日晚間首先舉行幽冥戒，共有920餘人報名，為亡者求受幽冥戒。23日清晨，來自各地的巴士陸續抵達，參加宣公上人西方弘法50週年紀念活動。

The Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's bringing Buddhadharma to the West and commemorated the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his entering Nirvana from the evening of June 22 until June 24, 2012. Over 2700 people attended these events. There were 21 chartered buses taking people from the San Francisco bay area, Sacramento, and southern California to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB), and there were also attendees from other countries. The Precepts for the Deceased ceremony was held on the evening of June 22. More than 920 plaques were set up for the deceased to take the precepts. More buses arrived early next morning for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VM Hua's bringing Buddhadharma to the west events.

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# 感恩心，邁向下一個半世紀（續）

—宣公上人西方弘法50週年活動報導—

## With Unbounded Gratitude, Marching into the Next Half of the Century (continued)

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### （續封面內頁）

6月23日，定名為「回顧與感恩」的紀念活動，包括三個主題：回顧五十年、介紹上人四大功業、實現上人傳法西方弘願，以座談形式進行。會中邀請上人資深的東西方弟子和法總中青生代成員，分享個人與上人或者參與上人四大功業的經驗。珍貴有趣的故事，令老弟子們回憶起當年跟隨上人的歲月，更鼓勵無緣與上人見面者，繼續為上人西方弘法的家業而努力。

本期擇要刊出「回顧五十年」部分內容，其餘各場將分期登出。

法總現任會長恒實法師說，上人一生都在教化人。上人看人並非觀種族、性別、美醜，而是看他們的佛性，然後教導他們恢復自性的光明。萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師以修建金門大橋的艱難為譬喻，上人的一生猶如一座大橋，將佛法從亞洲傳到西方，並幫助眾生到達解脫的彼岸。我們也須檢視是否走在上人為我們搭建的「六大宗旨」橋上。方丈也說明了萬佛聖城的東區擴建計畫。修改設計後的計畫，避開溼地向北延伸，於2011年獲得政府批准，目前正在籌備階段。

1981年恒來法師跟隨上人到亞洲弘法，上人對他說：「你現在很難過，因為你跑不掉。因為累劫前，你就發願將來要跟我到西方弘法。」來法師說：「可是我不記得。」上人說：「不論你記不記得，你都要依照誓願這樣做。」來法師說，我們都將繼續成為

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On June 23, the program titled “Reflection and Dedication” including three themes: “Reflecting on 50 Years,” “Legacies of Master Hua,” and “Fulfilling Venerable Master Hua’s Vows,” was conducted as plenary talks. Many senior Asian and Western disciples of Ven. Master and junior members of DRBA were invited to share their experiences of studying with Venerable Master or contributing to his legacies. These precious and interesting stories made the senior disciples recall the days of staying with the Master and inspired those who never met the Master to continue their contributions to the Master’s vows of planting Dharma in the West.

The following are some highlights of “Reflecting on 50 Years.” The remaining parts will be continued in upcoming issues.

The presiding president of DRBA, Dharma Master Heng Sure said that the Master taught and transformed people throughout his life. He didn’t differentiate people by their race, sex, or appearance, but looked at peoples’ Buddha natures and taught them to regain their brightness. Dharma Master Heng Lyu, the Abbot of CTTB, took the difficulties of building the Golden Gate Bridge as an analogy. The Master’s life can be compared to a big bridge—he brought the Buddhadharma from Asia to the west and helped living beings to get to the other shore of liberation. We should check if we are walking on the bridge of the “Six Principles” the Master set up for us. The Abbot also talked about the IIPE East Campus project. DRBA re-applied for the permit with a new design and was passed in 2011. The new design extends 600 feet north and thus avoids the wetland and reduces construction cost a lot. Now it is in the process of preparation.

Dharma Master Lai still remembers an occasion after they came back from the Asia trip in 1981. The Master said to him, “You are suffering now because you cannot run away. The reason for that is because you made a vow eons ago to propagate Buddhadharma in this country with me.” Dharma Master Lai replied, “But I don’t remember.” The Master said, “Whether you remember it or not, you have to follow your past vow.” Dharma Master Lai

上人的弟子，直到成佛為止，因為這是上人的願力，所以「大家最好都要習慣」。

最早跟隨上人出家的比丘尼恒持法師，回憶上人初來時，座下弟子都是西方人。直到1989年法總到台灣成立佛學院後，亞洲人紛紛前來。持法師說上人很早就說過，西方人跟亞洲人要一起合作，佛法才能延續下去。今日的法總正是如此，許多來自不同國家的人共同合作，使法總成為國際化的道場。

舊金山州立大學退休教授易象乾，上人資深的美籍弟子之一。1968年暑假，他組織了一群西雅圖華盛頓大學的學生，一起到舊金山聽上人講《楞嚴經》。聽完一部《楞嚴經》，5名美國青年跟隨上人出家，開啟了上人在美建立僧團的新頁。展望未來，他期望上人的大願：建立僧團、翻譯經典、興辦教育、宗教交流，都能全球化發展。

美籍小學教師易果參，回憶有一年萬佛聖城舉辦宗教交流會議，遭到一群基本教義派的教徒在山門外抗議。上人親自邀請他們進到山門內，並對他們說天氣太熱了，建議他們在山門內樹蔭下喝冷飲抗議，這群教徒最後決定離開。實法師稍後補充說，這些人回去後換上正式服裝，一起參與宗教交流會譯。事後上人對弟子說：「我總是教你們『不爭』，我這就是付諸行動。」

最早邀請上人來美弘法的譚果正與譚果式曾跟上人抱怨美國並不美，什麼事都要自己動手，很辛苦。上人忍受諸多辛苦與不便，在西方度化許多眾生，也從逐字查字典開始，領導弟子翻譯佛經。至今法總已譯出近兩百種各國語文的佛經與開示。

曼都仙諾縣議會於6月18日通過決議案，頒發賀狀表揚上人在美弘法的貢獻。這份賀狀由縣議員布朗攜來，於23日中午在大齋堂當眾宣讀，讚揚上人促進美國的多元宗教文化，以及在教育與宗教交流方面的貢獻。瑜伽市也致贈一份賀狀。

24日早上，紀念上人涅槃17週年，舉行盛大的傳供並前往無言堂瞻仰上人舍利。2700餘人共進午齋後，近百位信眾求受三皈五戒。下午一點，紀念50週年的藝文活動登場。由實法師帶領的沙彌首先唱誦〈六

said we will continue to be Ven. Hua's disciples until we become a Buddha since this is his vow. "So we better get used to it."

Dharma Master Heng Chih, one of the earliest American monastics under the Master, said that during the early days after the Master came to the U.S., all disciples around him were westerners. It was not until 1989, when DRBA established a Buddhist Academy in Taiwan, that there was an influx of Asians to join DRBA. Dharma Master Chih said, "Ven. Master said in the beginning that Westerners should work with Asians so that Buddhism can continue. I've seen DRBA working this way; people from different countries bring different cultures here and work together to make DRBA an international organization."

Ron Epstein, a senior disciple of Ven. Hua and a retired professor from San Francisco State University, organized a group of Washington University students from Seattle to San Francisco to listen to the Master speak the *Shurangama Sutra* in the summer of 1968. After listening to this sutra, five young Americans left the home life under the Master, which started a new slate for establishing a sangha in the U.S. Looking ahead, he hoped all four legacies of the Ven. Hua—establishing the sangha, translating sutras, promoting education, and engaging in interfaith exchanges—would be universal.

School teacher Terri Nicholson recalled one hot summer when the Master held an interfaith conference, a group of fundamental Christians came for a picketing protest. Ven. Hua invited them to go inside the mountain gate so that they could enjoy cold drinks and protest in the shaded area under the tree. Finally these Christians decided to leave. Dharma Master Sure said later that this group of Christians changed into formal suits and came back again to attend the interfaith conference out of their own intention. Ven. Master said to disciples after the interfaith conference, "I've always told you to not fight, and I'm now putting it into practice."

Two early disciples, Stella Tan and Madalena Tan, complained to the Master that life in the U.S. was tough. You've got to do everything by yourself. The Master endured much hardship and inconveniences to cross numerous people. He also started with looking up words in the dictionary and leading disciples to translate Buddhist scriptures. Presently the International Translation Institute (ITI) of DRBA has translated almost 200 sutras and Dharma talks into different languages.

In recognition of the Master's many contributions to the U.S. and to the County of Mendocino, Mendocino County's Board of Supervisors passed a resolution on June 18 to issue a proclamation extending congratulations to his students and disciples on the 50th commemoration of the Master's arrival to the United States. Supervisor Carre Brown read this proclamation during a luncheon in CTTB's dining hall on June 23. The City of Ukiah also issued a similar proclamation.

June 24 was the 17<sup>th</sup> annual observance of the Venerable Master's entering Nirvana which included paying respect to his relics and the Passing of Offering. Over 2,700 people attended lunch. After lunch the Three Refuges and Five Precepts were transmitted to almost 100 people. The afternoon arts



字大明咒〉與「She Carries Me」兩首佛曲，比丘尼十餘人在良法師帶領下也齊唱〈準提神咒〉與「Way Out West」。清亮的梵唄，令聽眾充滿清涼的法喜。培德中學、金輪寺合唱團、聖荷西火鳳凰青年國樂團，也一同用舞蹈和音樂來表達對上人的崇敬與追思。北京龍泉寺翻譯中心以及北加州紅木谷無畏寺的比丘們，也前來共襄盛舉。宣公上人西方弘法 50 週年徵文比賽的頒獎典禮，於當日下午三點在道源堂裡舉行。

24 日晚間，著名國際級鋼琴家陳毓襄在萬佛城舉行戶外鋼琴演奏會，共有 700 多位聽眾，其中八成是來自鄰近的西方區民。演奏結束後，基督教牧師馬西、猶太教長老德伏拉、回教長老安噶、謙法爾印度教教士帕迪拉等十餘人，代表各自的宗教為現場聽眾祝福，也展現宗教間合作交流的誠意。

兩天的紀念與追思活動皆有網路現場直播。所有的錄影存檔，讀者可至以下網址點選：[www.drba.org/live](http://www.drba.org/live)。✿

consisted of novice monks chanting the mantra of Six Syllables and the song “She Carries Me,” Bihkunis singing the Zhun-Ti Spiritual Mantra and the song “Way Out West,” and performances by students from the Developing Virtue School, the Gold Wheel Monastery Choir, and the San Jose Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra. A delegation from Beijing Longquan Monastery translation center and more than 10 monks from Abayagiri Monastery in Redwood Valley, California were also in attendance. An awarding ceremony of the writing contest of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Venerable Master’s coming to the West was held at 3 p.m. at the Daoyuan Hall.

In the evening, the internationally known pianist Gwhyneth Chen held an outdoor piano concert. 80 percent of the 700 audience were westerners from the local community. Dr. Nahid Angha and Dr. Ali Kianfar of International Sufi Association (Sufi-Muslim), Sally Mahe of United Religions Initiative (Christian), Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Nakasone of Buddhist Churches of America, Sr. Elizabeth Padilla of Brahma Kumaris Anubhuti Mediation Center (Hindu), Sr. Vaishali, Sr. Punam, Br. Mario (Hindu), Sam Chan of United Religions Initiative (Interfaith), Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah of Kol Haemek (Jewish) all went on stage to pray for the audience. The interfaith blessings they brought to the audience were signs showing the sincerity of interfaith exchanges.

All programs was Real-time webcast broadcasted, and archived webcast videos are available online at [www.drba.org/live](http://www.drba.org/live). ✿

