

火燄飛處見觀音

Guan Yin Bodhisattva's Blessing amidst a Blazing Fire

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Since 2011, Diann Sommers has participated in three Guan Yin Recitation Sessions at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Her affinity with Guan Yin Bodhisattva began about twenty years ago in San Diego, before she moved to Lake County in northern California. Many years later, reading about Guan Yin Bodhisattva in a pamphlet at CTTB's Jyun Kang Restaurant triggered that affinity again, and she started to take the hour-long drive to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas for Guan Yin Session.

On August 15, 2012, three days after participating in the Guan Yin session, Diann experienced the blessing of Guan Yin Bodhisattva. At the time, there was a wildfire raging in the vicinity. When she saw the flames advancing toward her house, she barely had enough time to get her horses out of the barn before the fire burned it down. There was no time to evacuate. The fire consumed everything in the surrounding area except a circular perimeter around her house. When interviewed by a reporter from CBS, who asked her how she had survived the fire unscathed, Diann expressed her feeling of awe at why she was spared by the fire. Despite the loss of her barn and the solar panels*, she was still amazed that she had escaped the disaster without any injury. She was totally blown away by the miracle that she just experienced. She believes that it couldn't have been just good luck and that Guan Yin Bodhisattva saved her house. Diann now

從2011年開始至今，黛安·索莫斯已經在聖城參加過三次的觀音七法會。約摸二十年前，當她還在聖地牙哥尚未遷移至北加州的湖郡之前，她已認識觀音菩薩。多年後，當她在君康素食館的一本小冊子裡閱讀到觀音菩薩，讓她思想起過去和觀音菩薩結的緣。自此之後，她開始每次驅車一小時，到萬佛聖城參加觀音七的法會。

2012年8月15號，也是夏季觀音法會結束後的第三天，黛安感受到了觀音的庇護。那一天，野火在附近肆虐，她沒有機會撤離，也幾乎沒有時間在大火燒毀馬廄之前，把馬救出來。大火吞噬了她家周圍的區域，然而，黛安房舍邊一整圈地卻絲毫未損。當時她接受CBS電視台新聞記者採訪，媒體詢問黛安是如何全身而退躲過這場大火。黛安對於自己能倖免於火表達了敬畏之感，儘管她失去了太陽能系統及馬廄，她仍然對自己能夠毫髮無傷脫離惡難覺得難以思議。這次奇蹟似的經歷，讓黛安感動莫名。她相信這不僅僅是好運而已，而是觀音菩薩救了她的家。黛安現在相信《普門品》經文中所云：

「若有持是觀世音菩薩名者，設入大火，火不

Fires ravage county



ABOVE: Firefighters battle the blaze near Indian Valley Reservoir Monday. (Photo by Bob Minenna/minennaphotography.com)



RIGHT: A large smoke plume emanates from the Wye Fire shortly after it began about 4 p.m. on Sunday. (Contributed by Rick Silva)

BELOW: A decimated landscape remains Monday where the Wye Fire began near the 'Y' junction of highways 20 and 53, east of the Clearlake Oaks Moose Lodge. The fire began Sunday about 4 p.m. and scorched approximately 6,000 acres. (Photo by Miguel Lanigan)



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BODHI FIELD | 佛壇田

believes in *the Universal Door Chapter*, which says : those who recite Guan Yin Bodhisattva's name will not be burned by fire. (*The barn and the solar panels were outside the path where she does for her chanting routine.)

Diann has three Guan Yin Bodhisattva statues, one of which is a thirty-inch standing Guan Yin that she placed at the entrance to her garden. Several times a week, she circumambulates her property, which has a circumference of about half a mile, while chanting the names of Guan Yin Bodhisattva, Amitabha Buddha, and Shakyamuni Buddha, as well as the mantra Om Mani Padme Hum. She dedicates one circumambulation to each and recites them 100-150 times. Four years ago, when her mother passed away, she ordered a four-foot seated Guan Yin statue from a factory in Hayward, and placed it on a small hill near her house as a memorial for her mother.

Besides practicing the Guan Yin Dharma-door, Diann also reads and studies *the Avatamsaka Sutra*. Whenever financially possible, she buys new books from CTTB's bookstore to read and take notes.

能燒。」(編註:太陽能系統及馬廐的所在位置,在黛安日常持咒經行的路徑外面。)

黛安有三座觀音菩薩聖像,其中一座塑像高三十英吋,矗立她家花園的入口。她一個星期多次繞行房舍周圍念佛,走一圈大約半哩。她邊走邊誦持觀世音菩薩、阿彌陀佛、釋迦牟尼佛聖號以及六字大明咒。黛安每繞行一圈便誦持一個聖號,每一尊聖號稱念一百到一百五十次。四年前,當黛安的母親往生後,她從海沃德市的工廠訂製了一尊四呎高的觀音像。黛安將這座觀音像放置在離家不遠的小山丘上,以此憶念已逝的母親。

除了修習觀音法門,黛安同時也閱讀及研究《華嚴經》。每當經濟情況許可,她便會到聖城的文物流通處購買新出版的書籍。黛安一邊讀經,一邊在筆記本上紀錄學習的心得;為了瞭解、領會《華嚴經》的文意,她還參閱佛學字典。她已經

Using *Buddhism A to Z*, she tries to grasp the meanings on her own. She has read through *the Preface to the Avatamsaka Sutra* once, and is currently reading it for the second time. Aside from the sutra study, she practices meditation with a local group as well.

Recently, during a rainy night in late November, a big tree fell on her house; the sound from the collision was so loud that it woke her up. She said it was unbelievable that the force from the impact did not smash the roof or break the windows. She thinks it must have been the protection of Shakyamuni Buddha and Amitabha Buddha, whose statues resided on the altar placed right underneath the spot where the tree had fallen.

When she bought her ranch in Clearlake Oaks in 2001, she had a vision of creating a place where people could find peace, a place surrounded by nature and away from technology and distractions. She rescues abandoned or unwanted animals such as cats, dogs, and horses, and finds homes for them. Three years ago, Diann became a vegetarian. She understands that she still has a lot of things to learn, and plans to take refuge with the Three Jewels and take five precepts in the future. ❀

將《華嚴經疏序》通讀過一遍，目前正在進行第二次的研讀。黛安同時也和她家附近的靈修團體共同修習禪坐。

在2012年11月下旬，一個下雨的夜晚，屋旁的一棵大樹斷了，樹木撞擊屋頂的聲響，驚醒睡夢中的她。「這簡直難以置信！」黛安自述。因為房子的屋頂不僅沒有損傷，倒塌樹木所引發的震動也沒有波及到窗戶。她堅信，這一定是來自釋迦牟尼佛以及阿彌陀佛的庇佑，因為樹木倒下的地方剛好是佛龕上的屋頂。

2001年，當黛安買下澄清湖橡樹市的牧場時，她心中懷抱著願景，她希望提供一個被大自然擁攬、遠離科技及繁囂、讓人們可以找到內心平靜的處所。黛安拯救被人遺棄的貓、狗和馬，還替牠們尋找認養家庭。三年前，黛安成為素食者，她知道還有很多心靈的功課要做，並計劃在不久的將來皈依三寶並受持五戒。 ❀



Diann and Buddha statue at her house
—Meg Solaegui Photography

黛安和家中的佛像
——照片由梅格·莎樂濟拍攝