

萬佛城首度的嘉年華會

The First Chinese New Year Celebration in CTTB

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萬佛城是一個多文化、多種族、多國籍的道場。開山祖師宣公上人早期在美所收的弟子雖然多為西方人，但往後來自臺灣、香港、新加坡、馬來西亞、越南及中國的弟子越來越多。城內的育良小學、培德中學以儒家之忠孝為教育方針，仿效孟母之現代孟父孟母相繼在此常住修行，因此傳統的中國文化已植根在城內，逢年過節的氛圍非常濃厚。

歲逢癸巳大年初一，城內到處張掛著精緻的燈籠，洋溢著新春歡愉的氣息。一早趕來燒香、禮佛、持咒、祈福的信眾，陸陸續續湧入聖城。中午十二點，陽光普照，天氣好得出奇，育良小學、培德中學男校的舞獅隊、舞龍隊、二十四節令鼓隊，和女校新成立的鼓隊，穿著鮮艷奪目的表演服裝，由山門口一路遊行到佛殿前的廣場，而扶老攜幼前來拈香祈福的信眾，也興高采烈地一路跟隨著，使得遊行隊伍愈加龐大壯觀。十二點二十分，正式的表演開始，男女校學生充滿青春活力的演出，大人們看得眉開眼笑，小朋友更是看得津津有味，大家不斷地報以熱情的掌聲，使得整個活動進入高潮。

為了讓他的孩子看到表演，一位父親手裡抱著一個小女兒，肩膀上又騎著一個大女兒。而當兩位女校鼓隊的學生看到一位小女孩，被擋在人牆外，兩位女生二話不說，很有默契地各用左右臂，把小女孩抬上來，讓她坐在她們

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas is a multicultural and multiethnic place that attracts people from all over the world. Although the Venerable Master Hua, who founded the monastery, had many Western disciples during the early years, as time passed, the number of disciples from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, and China has drastically increased. In addition, the goal of education at Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School is to impart the Confucian concepts of loyalty and filiality. Many parents are the “modern parents of Mencius,” cultivating and residing in the City with their children. Therefore, traditional Chinese culture is deeply rooted within the City. As a result, celebrating Chinese New Year is always a big event.

As the first day of the *Kui-Si* Year approaches, intricately made Chinese lanterns hang everywhere in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The City brims with joy of the New Year. On the morning of the Lunar New Year, many people came to the temple to offer incense, bow to the Buddhas, recite mantras, and pray for blessings. At noon, in the brilliant sunshine, the Lion Dance, Dragon Dance, and Drumming teams of the Boys' School, as well as the newly formed Girls' School Drumming team, wore their dazzling costumes and paraded from the Front Gate to the square in front of the Buddha Hall. The audience delightedly followed the procession and the scene was spectacular. At twelve-twenty, the performances began: the students of the Boys' and Girls' Schools performed with energy and enthusiasm as both adults and children watched with relish. Throughout each performance, the audience continuously responded with warm applause.

In order to let his daughters get a clear view, a father holds his little daughter in his arms while his older daughter sits atop his shoulders as they eagerly watch the Dragon Dance, with two Girls' School drummers



的手臂椅上，使她能居高臨下，雖然辛苦了兩位女生，但從表情中，彼此間關切與歡喜的神情自然流露，形成了溫馨有趣的畫面。

這是男女校三十餘年來的創舉，不但展現了學子們多方面的才藝，熱絡了聖城新春的喜氣，也讓乘興而來的佛友們欣喜而歸，整個活動在十二點五十分圓滿結束。❀



standing beside them. A little girl nearby was unable to see over the shoulders of the people standing in front of her. Without even saying a word, the two students lifted the little girl onto their arms so that she could sit on their “armchair” and watch the performance from a height. It was quite exhausting for the two students, but from their expressions, one could see that they were happy to do so. It was a truly heartwarming moment.

This was the first time the Boys’ and Girls’ Schools held a Chinese New Year celebration. Not only did it bring joy and happiness to the occasion, it also displayed the various talents of the students. The visitors happily departed and the event was brought to a successful close at 12:50 P.M. ❀