

萬佛聖城慶新春

Lunar New Year Celebrations at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas

編輯部彙整 • 黃燕英譯

Compiled by the Editorial Staff • English translation by Wendy Huang

戊戌狗年來臨前，萬佛城裡掛上了喜氣洋洋的紅燈籠、成串的裝飾鞭炮，飄送出濃厚的年味。

大年初一清晨六時，喜捨院比丘尼在誦戒後，帶領沙彌尼和部份女居士來到福居樓向資深比丘尼拜年賀歲。近百高齡的恒謹法師，當場大聲吟誦自己作的春聯對子，祝福並勉勵後進：「新年幸福真快樂，健康智慧向前進。」恒謹法師吟來中氣十足，滿面笑容。九十餘歲的恒裕法師也祝福大家：「新年快樂，道業精進，早成佛道。」

將近九十高齡的恒月法師，則引用台灣諺語「骨頭硬鏘鏘，老皮不過風」，形容住在福居樓的法師們深具不服老的骨氣。恒月法師笑說：「我們現在行步艱難，也不知道怎麼就老了？妳們年輕的要趕快精進，師父是『一口吞盡剎海源』的佛菩薩境界，今生能遇到師父真是很幸運，要好好珍惜妳們的寶貴時光。」曾任廚房典座多年的恒然法師，看到數十人來拜年，開心地說：「大家新年快樂！」

恒音法師代表喜捨院尼眾致辭說：「老人家都很精進，我們都很佩服，希望將來也能像你們這樣精進修行。」

萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師率領如來寺的比丘代表，於當天上午新年法會前專程到福居樓拜年，並關懷老人家的起居作息。方丈於去年拜年時，特別指示要對老法師加強照顧。一年來，福居樓增添了照明、暖氣、自動門與健身器材，並安排專人24小時輪班照

This cyclical year of Wuxu is also the year of dog. Before the lunar new year approaches, jubilant red lanterns and strings of decorative firecrackers were hung in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. The atmosphere was filled with the taste of the Spring Festival.

At 6:00am on the day of Lunar New Year, once the Bhikshunis from the Joyous Giving House completed their precepts recitation, they led the Shramanerikas and lay women to the Tower of Blessings to visit senior nuns and to bring them new year greetings. Dharma Master Heng Jin is close to 100 years old. She blessed the younger practitioners and encouraged them to cultivate diligently by reciting out loud the Spring Couplet that she composed, “May this new year be filled with joy and true happiness; May health and wisdom be with you as you move forward.” Dharma Master Heng Jin recited the couplet powerfully with a smile on her face. Dharma Master Heng Yu is over 90 years old. She also gave everyone a new year blessing, “Happy New Year, be diligent in cultivation and quickly attain Buddhahood.”

Dharma Master Heng Yue is almost 90 years old. She quoted a Taiwanese proverb, “The bones are still tough. The skin, although aged, the wind cannot penetrate through.” She used this proverb to portray the tough spirit of the elderly nuns living at the Tower of Blessings and to describe how they do not succumb to old age. Dharma Master Heng Yue said with a smile, “We now have difficulty walking, how did we age so quickly? All you young ones must hurry to cultivate diligently. Venerable Master Hua was at the state of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas which can be described as ‘In one mouthful swallow the source of seas of Buddhaholds.’ It is a blessing to have met the Venerable Master in this lifetime and you must treasure your precious time.” Dharma Master Heng Ran who previously served as the kitchen manager for many years, was delighted to see so many people that came to pay the new year greetings. She said happily, “Happy new year to you all!”

Dharma Master Heng Yin on behalf of nuns from the Joyous Giving House expressed, “Elders are still very diligent in which we greatly admire, we hope we can be just as diligent in our cultivation.”

Abbot Heng Lyu of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas and a few Bhikshus from Tathagata Monastery, paid a special visit to the Tower of Blessing prior to the start of the new year ceremony, to check on the elderly Dharma Masters’ living condition. When the Abbot was paying his new year greetings last year, he specifically instructed to provide better care and support for the elderly Dharma Masters. This past year, new lighting fixtures, heating system, automatic doors,

顧年邁體衰的僧眾。看到福居樓南端新換了地板，空間更為寬敞明亮，方丈指出長期照護制度建立起來之後，或許可以像學校一樣，派組織內的人員出去培訓，讓更多人擁有照護老人的知識和技能。

臨去前，方丈祝福大家狗年萬事興旺，有任何需要就告訴他。最年長的恒謹法師大聲道：「感謝方丈和比丘來看我們，祝你們健康智慧又快樂。」方丈笑笑說：「有智慧就快樂。」

• 培德男校過新年

葛親孝文 / 張敏 中譯

2月16日，大年初一一早，男校入口就響起一串的鞭炮聲。上午學生舉行了祭祖儀式，敬奉自己的祖先、父母、師長和朋友。之後師生、家長共聚一堂，以新春餐會和簡短的舞獅表演慶祝過年。

17日，男校在亞歷克斯·托馬斯廣場主辦第七屆的瑜伽市元宵節，與市民一同慶祝狗年。今年氣候格外溫暖，活動得以在陽光普照的氣氛中舉行，不同於前兩年的陰雨和泥濘，只能擠在涼亭內表演。男校在戶外廣場依次表演舞獅、舞龍和24節氣鼓，國樂隊也在涼亭內演奏了多首曲目。來自瑜伽市的一百多名觀眾，欣賞表演之餘，也品嚐了各類素食小吃如春捲、炒飯、炒麵和波霸奶茶等。男校小學部也擺攤用小紅包製作中國新年燈籠。

19日，男校學生前來給聖城福居樓的老法師們拜年。獻唱「恭喜恭喜」和「盡虛空」之後，由畢業班同學向法師們奉茶，接著就是熱鬧的舞獅、舞龍和鼓樂。學生的精彩表演，贏得老人家開心的笑容。

25日，屋崙博物館舉行農曆新年慶祝活動，男校的龍獅會和鼓樂隊受邀參加。主辦單位安排男校的舞獅做為

and fitness equipment have been installed at the Tower of Blessings. Additionally, personnel have been arranged to care for the elderly Dharma Masters 24 hours a day. New flooring was also installed in the south wing of the Tower of Blessing which makes the space look bigger and brighter. The Abbot pointed out that once we have established a long term care system for elders, just like what was done for the schools, the organization will send people for training. This way, more people will be equipped with knowledge and skills on how to take care of elders.

Before departing, the Abbot wished everyone a smooth and prosperous year of the dog and instructed to let him know if anything is needed. The most elderly Dharma Master Heng Jin loudly proclaimed, “We appreciate the Abbot and Bhikshus coming to visit us, we wish you all health, wisdom, and happiness.” The Abbot joyfully responded, “With wisdom comes happiness.”

• Boys School Celebrating the New Year

By Miguel Gracia-Zhang / Chinese translation by Min Zhang

On February 16—the Boys School kicked off the first day of Chinese New Year by lighting several thousand firecrackers strung in a massive chain around the entrance to the school. Later that morning, the students held a ceremony to venerate their ancestors, elders, parents, teachers, and friends. Students, teachers, and parents then celebrated with a New Year’s banquet and a short lion dance performance.

The very next day—the 17th—at the Alex Thomas Plaza, the Boys’ School hosted the 7th annual Ukiah Lantern Festival to commemorate the year of the dog. This year’s performances were held in warm and sunny weather—a relief, as during the previous two years, the performances were cramped in the pavilion due to the rain and mud. The Boys School’s Lion, Dragon, and 24 Seasons Drumming clubs each performed in the plaza, while the Chinese Orchestra played multiple pieces in the Pavilion. Over a hundred local residents from the Ukiah area watched the performances, enjoyed spring rolls, fried rice, fried noodles, and Boba Milk Tea. The Boys School elementary students also organized booths to make Chinese New Year lanterns out of red envelopes.

On February 19, the Boys School celebrated the New Years with the elder Dharma Masters at the Tower of Blessings. This event began with the entire Boys School singing 恭喜恭喜 (GongXiGongXi) and 盡虛空 (JinXuKong) for the elders, which was followed by an offering of tea by the senior class. The event ended with a slightly abbreviated lion, dragon, and drumming performances. Both the elders and other audience enjoyed the wonderful event by the boys.

On the 25th of February, the Dragon, Lion, and Drumming clubs were invited to perform at the Oakland Asian Museum as part of its Lunar New Year celebration. It was a testament to the quality of the Boys School performances that the entire event opened with the Lion Dance and closed with the Dragon Dance of the school.

• Girls School Celebrating the New Year

By Tammy Long / English translation by Siyan Chan and Sola Long

活動開幕，閉幕演出則是男校的舞龍，可視為對男校表演水平的肯定。

• 培德女校過新年

龍婧瑜 文 / 陳施恩、龍海琪 英譯

雖然沒有喧鬧的人羣，沒有家人的陪伴，也沒有噼裡啪啦的煙花爆竹，但無礙人們過年的熱情。整個聖城裡喜氣洋洋的，掛上了金黃色的燈籠，貼上了紅紅的春聯，忙忙碌碌的，春節的氣氛一點也沒有少。

除夕那天，十年級同學向全校介紹了許多新年的傳統食物，包括花生、紅棗、龍眼（桂圓）、瓜子象徵的意義，過年當然不能少了糖果啊，糖果的寄義是有一個甜甜蜜蜜的生活。按照中國習俗，過年之前要把屋內屋外打掃乾淨。因此除夕夜的時候，同學們齊心把學校打掃得一塵不染，同時把自己的個人區域收拾乾淨。每個人都掛着笑臉，準備迎接新年的到來。

新年伊始，住校同學早早地爬起來去做早課，為了新的一年能好運連連。過年怎麼能少了吃餃子呢？大年初一早上，女校全部同學都在廚房忙碌起來——包餃子。包餃子可不是一件簡單的事情，要有人和麵，有人擀皮，還有人專門負責包，大家分工合作，忙得不亦樂乎。

包完餃子後，我們去給福居樓的老法師們拜年。幼兒園的小朋友唱歡慶新年的歌曲，祝老法師福如東海，壽比南山。歌聲迴盪在福居樓內外，更添新年的喜氣。離開時，每個同學拿到兩顆糖果，這是老法師對我們的祝福。

中午吃完水餃大餐，七年級的同學和「關懷世界兒童」社團成員在女校小學旁的路口擺攤，分送餅乾和熱呼呼的草莓奶茶，也將溫暖和關懷帶給大家。

大年初二，十二年級的同學吃完火鍋後，去了在瑜伽市舉辦的新春慶祝活動。她們在出口處擺攤，發送糖果和奶茶，還有讓小朋友在龍和狗的造型上塗顏色，或者用氣球捏出狗的形象。她們甚至戴上舞獅的頭，供路人照相。對每個人而言，都是很有趣的經驗。

新年新氣象，也帶來新希望。我和同學們的新年願望是世界和平。在新的一年裡，祝大家吉祥如意，幸福安康。❀

In the absence of a traditional family gathering, and the sound of busy crowds, firecrackers, new year wasn't as exciting; but this didn't dim everyone's enthusiasm for the arrival of the Lunar New Year. The whole CTTB was filled with joy. In every corner hung festive decorations showcasing the new year spirit: yellow lanterns, red couplets...

On Lunar New Year's Eve, the sophomore class gave a brief introduction on many traditional New Year foods. For instance, peanuts resembled longevity and health, red dates symbolized prosperity, and we also learned that Longyan, Dragon Eye—a Chinese fruit, has many different names. According to the Chinese characters, it is translated as wealth and fullness. Melon seeds have the meaning of the continuity of many generations. During Lunar New Year, one surely cannot forget the essential festive snack: candies, which implies a sweet and happy new year. According to Chinese culture, one should start the year on a clean slate, therefore many people do a big clean-up the day before. On the eve of New Year, all the girl students cleaned the school together, to ensure that everything was spotless and ready to welcome the New Year.

On the morning of the Lunar New Year, boarding students woke up early to attend morning recitation, hoping for a good beginning to the New Year. Also, how can we forget the most essential New Year food: dumplings? On the morning of New Year's day, all the Girls school students went to the Big Dining Hall and started busying themselves with making dumplings. As easy as it sounds, it is actually not a simple task. There are many steps and procedures to it, like kneading the dough, cutting it, and finally combining the filling with the skin, completing the delicious dumpling. All of us separated into groups to do the different tasks, working together happily.

After that, we went to visit the elderly nuns to wish them a Happy New Year. The elementary students sang New Year songs and wished them health and happiness. Each student received two candies when leaving which were the wishes from the elderly nuns. With candies in our hands, hearts full, our voices echoed throughout the hallway.

After a delicious meal of dumplings, the 7th graders and members of the Children of the World club went to set up booths outside the elementary school, giving out cookies and strawberry milk tea, bringing warmth and kindness to everyone around.

The next day, the seniors went to Ukiah town to set up stalls to distribute sweets and milk tea, to celebrate the Lantern Festival. They allowed children to color pictures of dogs and dragons. Furthermore, many of the seniors also taught the kids how to make balloon animals and they even brought a lion's head from the lion dance to take pictures with people! All in all, it was a fun experience for everyone.

New Year brings new hope and new year's resolutions for us. My fellow students' and my new year's resolution is to wish for world peace. May everyone be in good health and happiness. ❀