

萬佛聖城慶祝第廿七屆敬老節暨開光四十週年 以及法總成立六十週年

Celebrating Tradition: DRBA's 60th and CTTB's 40th Anniversary Commemorated at the 27th Honoring Elders Day

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北加州瑜伽市達摩鎮萬佛聖城於2019年10月26日舉行一年一度的「敬老節」，今年最特別的是，同時慶祝法界佛教總會創辦60週年、萬佛聖城開光40週年、以及法界佛教大學慶祝成立40週年。

這是萬佛聖城第27年舉辦敬老節，每年都邀請附近社區的老人家（絕大多數為西方人）同樂。由宣公上人創辦的育良小學和培德中學學生通力合作，為老人家賣力表演節目，並一一送上可口營養的素食午餐，招待老人家。每年節目都有不同的主題，現場氣氛總是溫馨又開心。

今年萬佛聖城敬老節約有近八百人參加，節目主題是「紀念過去、創新未

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) celebrated its annual Honoring Elders Day on October 26, 2019. This year's celebration coincided with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA), the 40th anniversary of the CTTB's opening the ceremony light, as well as the 40th anniversary of the founding of Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU).

This year also marks the 27th anniversary of CTTB hosting Honoring Elders Day. Every year CTTB invites elders, many locals from the Mendocino community to celebrate this festival together. This year, the attendees enjoyed performances given by the students from Instilling Goodness and Developing Virtue School (IGDVS), which was founded by Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. The students worked hard together to stage these performances, and also to prepare and serve a most delicious and nutritious vegetarian lunch to the



來」，表演中回顧了宣公上人1959年指示弟子在美成立「三藩市佛教講堂」，上人赴美後，兩度易名，先改為「中美佛教總會」，其後再改為「法界佛教總會」，沿用至今。

萬佛聖城1976年購置後，於1979年11月4日舉行開光大典。當天同時慶祝法界佛教大學正式成立；上人講解《華嚴經》九年圓滿；以及美籍恒實法師和恒朝法師自洛杉磯三步一拜，祈求世界和平，歷經兩年十個月，抵達北加州萬佛聖城，艱辛的朝聖之旅終於1979年圓滿。

40年後，在敬老節這天，學生們的表演十分豐富，古琴、古箏、琵琶、國樂團、小提琴合奏、合唱、中國水袖舞、舞龍、24節氣鼓等精采節目相繼上陣。瑜伽市老人組成的「尤克樂團」在地方上享有盛名，特地前來助陣



elders in attendance. The atmosphere on the site of the performance felt warm and welcoming.

Over 800 people participated in this year's Honoring Elders Day. The theme was "Commemorating the Past and Innovating the Future." Among the shows was a series of reflections on how Venerable Master Hua instructed his disciples in 1959 to establish the "San Francisco Buddhist Lecture Hall," and how the name changed twice since the Master came to America: first to "Sino-American Buddhist Association" and finally to "Dharma Realm Buddhist Association."

After the purchase of the property in 1976, CTTB celebrated its grand opening light ceremony on November 4, 1979, as well as the formal founding of DRBU on the very same day. That year also marked the completion of Venerable Master Hua's nine-year-long Avatamsaka Sutra lecture series and the three-steps-one-bow pilgrimage made by two American monks for the sake of world peace. It took Dharma Masters Heng Sure and Heng Chau two years and ten months to complete their arduous bowing pilgrimage from Los Angeles to northern California, where they finally arrived at CTTB.

On this Honoring Elders Day, forty years after the founding of CTTB, the students staged rich and wonderful performances including guqin, guzheng, pipa, a violin duet, chorus, Chinese orchestra, Chinese Water Sleeve Dance, Dragon Dance, and 24-Season Drums, one after another. A very popular local band called "Uketones" comprised of local Ukiah elders, also came to play. They also stayed to support the student performances. A Ukiah resident, Mr. Spencer, also played jazz piano. His music was lively, quick, and full of rhythm. During the show, the students also said that "innovating the future" means that "we must continuously improve to have a positive impact on the future."

Dharma Master Heng Lyu, the abbot of CTTB, celebrated together with everyone the Honoring Elders Day as well as the three anniversary activities. One of the founding presidents of DRBU, Dr. Ron Epstein, introduced Carmel Angelo, the chief executive officer of the County of

Mendocino. Then Ms. Angelo shared a short history to the assembled guests of DRBA, CTTB, and DRBU.

Before the purchase of CTTB, Dharma Master Heng Lai, a senior American bhikshu, told of how he came to investigate the site. He recalled that there were three other disciples of the Venerable Master with him when they

演出。瑜伽市民斯本賽先生演奏的爵士鋼琴更是輕快活潑，節奏感十足。學生們並在節目中表示，「創新未來」就是要不斷進步，對未來才能產生正面的影響。

萬佛聖城方丈恒律法師也在現場和大家一同慶祝「敬老節」和三項週年紀念。法界佛教大學創校校長易果容，

向大眾介紹應邀而來的曼都仙諾縣政府執行長卡美爾·安吉洛。她為現場近八百位人士簡介法界佛教總會、萬佛聖城、法界佛教大學的歷史。

美籍比丘恒來法師在萬佛聖城購置之前，就曾前來勘察現址。他回憶當初共有四位上人的弟子一起前來現在的萬佛聖城時，都覺得這個地方實在太大了。經過數年的議價，終於得以購置這座全美最大型的漢傳佛教道場。多年後，上人開始提倡「敬老節」與「懷少節」。來法師引述宣公上人的話說：「我們應該敬老，因為這就是我們尊敬自己的方法。你能敬老，尊敬國家，尊敬師長，到頭來你就是尊敬你自己，尊敬你的佛性。」來法師並代表僧團，向在場來賓致意，歡迎大家來參加敬老節。

法界佛教大學校長蘇珊·朗茲博士致詞指出，她環顧現場，看到老人家代表智慧，現場的年輕人代表希望與承諾。她說：「在法界佛教大學，我們相信這個世界需要更少的人工智慧，更多真正的智慧。無論我們在表面上有任何差異，我們的自性——所有眾生的自性——都是一樣清淨、慈悲、光明。我們該做的就是讓（自性）光明遍照。」

接著由恒來法師與蘇珊·朗茲博士為紀念海報揭幕。這是為慶祝法界佛教總會創辦60週年、萬佛聖城開光40週年、以及法界佛教大學慶祝成立40週年而發行的美國郵政紀念卡海報。這項特別的敬老節並有居士精心烘培紀念三項週年以及慶祝敬老節的美味素糕。節目最後在切素糕，和所有來賓分享慶祝的喜悅中，畫下圓滿句點。❀

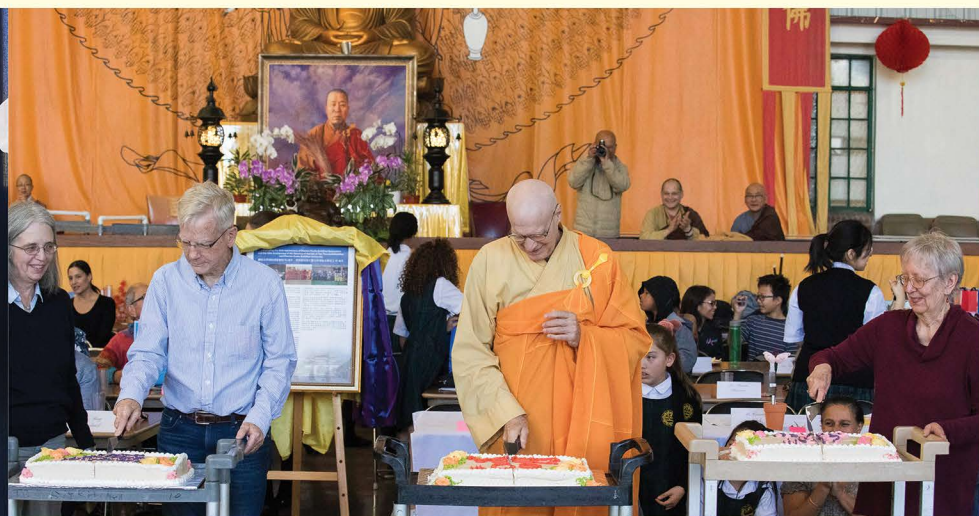


made the first trip to CTTB. They were overwhelmed and felt that this place was too big. After several years of negotiations, the acquisition was finally sealed and this place became the largest Buddhist monastery in North America. Several years later, the Master initiated and advocated celebrating Honoring Elders Day and

Cherishing Youth Day. Dharma Master Lai quoted the Venerable Master, “We should always respect the elders, because this is the way we respect ourselves. When you respect elders, you respect the country, you respect teachers, and ultimately, you respect yourself, your true self.” Dharma Master Lai represented the Sangha greeting all of the guests and welcoming them to our celebration of Honoring Elders Day.

In her speech, Dr. Susan Rounds, the President of DRBU, pointed out that as she looked around the audience, she saw that the crowd of elders represented wisdom, while the youth represented hope and promise. She said, “At DRBU, we believe that the world needs less artificial intelligence, and more true wisdom. Whatever our superficial differences may be, our fundamental nature—the nature intrinsic to living beings — is the same: pure, compassionate, and full of light. All we need to do is let that light shine.”

This was followed by Dharma Master Lai and Dr. Susan Rounds unveiling the US Postal Commemorative Poster, which celebrates the 60th anniversary of the founding of DRBA, the 40th anniversary of the Opening Light ceremony at CTTB, and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of DRBU. This year's special Honoring Elders Day also included delicious vegetarian cakes baked carefully by the laypeople to commemorate all three anniversaries. As everyone ate cake and shared in the joy of celebration, the event was brought to a perfect conclusion. ❀



2019 萬佛聖城敬老節



2019 Celebration of Honoring Elders Day at CTTB

