

瑜伽市的農曆新春

Lunar New Year Celebration in Ukiah

束曉娟、文瀚義 文/譯

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從2013年起，每年農曆新春，萬佛聖城培德中學和育良小學學生都應邀到瑜伽市中心的亞歷山大·湯瑪斯廣場表演節目。聖城義工烹調的新春美食，也和學生的表演節目一樣大受歡迎。

2021年這項熱鬧高人氣的農曆新春慶典，因疫情而中斷，改到線上舉行。培德育良學生在2月19日（正月初八）推出的線上牛年新春慶典，有中國舞蹈、國樂、剪紙、說故事等節目，並特別介紹古箏、二胡、笙這些中國傳統樂器。雖然學生們藉著這項線上活動感受到年味，但他們仍然期盼明年能回到瑜伽市中心，和更多民衆歡慶農曆新春。

法界佛教大學（法大）雖然尚未開放校園，但留在善財參學中心的住宿生們一同慶祝了農曆新年。校舍四處貼上對聯、胖胖牛圖案

Since 2013, students of Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School (IGDVS) have been invited to perform at the Alex Thomas Plaza every year to celebrate the Lunar New Year. Delicious Lunar New Year food items prepared by volunteers from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) have been highly popular, as were the performances of IGDVS students.

However, in 2021, this lively and popular lunar new year celebration in Ukiah was discontinued due to the pandemic. Instead, IGDVS students put together a virtual celebration of the year of Ox on February 19 (the eighth day of the first lunar month). There were Chinese dances, Chinese orchestra, paper-cutting, story-telling, and introduction of traditional Chinese musical instruments such as guzheng, erhu and sheng in the program. Even though students felt the taste of the Lunar New Year by holding this virtual celebration, they still wished to go back to downtown Ukiah to celebrate the Lunar New Year with many more people.

Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) due to the pandemic, held a celebration only for its Sudhana Center residents, which was not open to members of the general public, but students residing at the Sudhana Center in Ukiah celebrated the Lunar New Year together. In the spirit of celebration, door couplets, images of a chubby ox, red paper-cut window decorations and red lanterns were put up at the

和紅色窗花，還掛上喜慶的紅燈籠；學生和教職員們一起做春捲和新年糕點，歡樂之餘也倍感幸運。

猶記去年（2020）2月7日，法大在瑜伽市公立圖書館舉辦的農曆新春慶祝活動，有鼠年趣味短劇、中國書法、國樂表演、中國民俗舞蹈等節目，當然伴有可口的素食中式小吃，為法大在圖書館舉辦的「道德與社區圖片展」掀開了序幕。這項活動由瑜伽谷圖書館之友以及曼都西諾縣立圖書館贊助，當晚吸引了三百餘人，活動十分成功，現場洋溢著歡樂的新春氣氛。轉眼間，一年飛逝，全球新冠疫情死亡人數已超過200萬。

今年新春慶祝氣氛雖然不及去年熱鬧，卻是善財中心致力體現不同的文化傳統。上學期末，法大碩士班二年級學生娜西莉亞介紹墨西哥的「亡靈祭祀日」。這項傳統節日持續兩天，人們用逝去親友的照片和多彩的裝飾，來表達對他們的愛與尊重。除了傳統的紀念方式，善財中心的學員們在祭台邊圍成半圓，一起念誦〈大悲咒〉迴向，並分享已故親友們的故事。☸

Sudhana Center. Fresh spring rolls, vegan cookies, and cakes made by students and staff nourished our well-being and we felt very lucky.

We still remember the Lunar New Year celebration put together by DRBU at the Ukiah Public Library through the Art Walk Ukiah program on February 7, 2020. The celebration included a skit about the Year of the Rat, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese orchestra and Chinese dances along with tasty Chinese vegetarian refreshments. The celebration was the prelude to a photography and calligraphy exhibit on virtue and community. The celebration was sponsored by the Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library and the Mendocino County Library. It was a very successful event with more than 300 attendees and the atmosphere was festive and joyful. Now, in a blink of the eye, one year has already passed. The pandemic has claimed more than two million deaths globally so far.

Even though the Lunar New Year celebration this year was not as vibrant as that of last year, it was our living expression of different cultures and traditions at the Sudhana Center. Near the end of last semester, Nahelia (MA2) introduced us to a Mexican tradition, Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. It's a tradition that unfolds over two days, demonstrating love and respect for deceased loved ones with photos and colorful decorations. Participating Sudhana Center residents put up photos, chanted the Great Compassion Mantra, and shared stories of loved ones in a half circle around the altar.

As Venerable Master Hsuan Hua said, "Time flies. We must not chase after time. We must pursue what's within, searching for our own original self-nature." May we continue to renew our life on the path of self-cultivation in 2021. May all beings be healthy, safe and well. May kindness and peace prevail on Earth. ☸



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