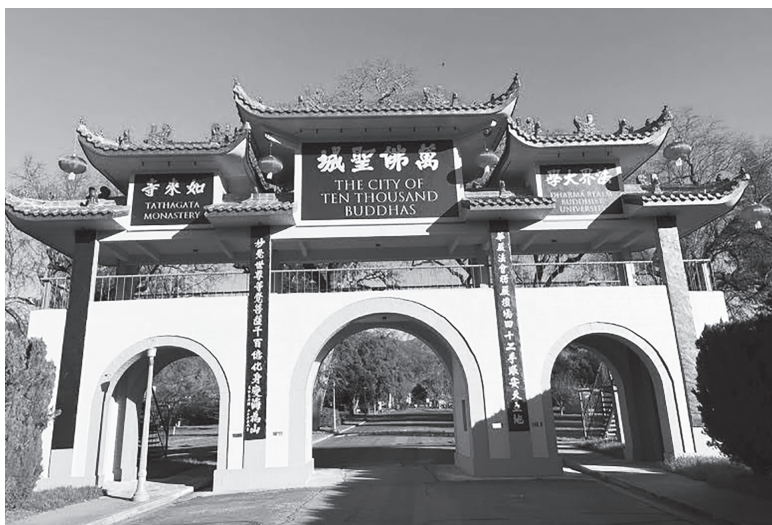


萬佛聖城慶農曆新年

The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) Lunar New Year Celebrations

梅燦佳 文/譯

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2023年農曆春節期間，法界佛教總會（法總）遍佈亞洲、北美和澳洲的多座分支道場，紛紛舉辦各項法會，包括梁皇寶懺、千佛懺、藥師法會、護國息災法會等，誠心禮佛拜懺、誦持經咒，迴向世界和平、國泰民安、風調雨順。

農曆春節對於亞洲許多國家而言，是國定假日。在歐美國家，近年熱烈舉辦慶祝農曆新春活動的民間機構也越來越多。美國白宮更於2023年1月26日大年初五舉行慶祝會，由拜登總統伉儷親自主持。這是美國立國兩百多年來，第一次在白宮舉行慶祝農曆新年的活動。

加州於2022年立法通過「AB 2596」法案，自2023年起正式生效。法案規定加州政府轄下的公務體系、

During the Lunar New Year in 2023, branch monasteries of Dharma Realm Buddhist Association (DRBA) held various Dharma sessions in Asia, North America and Australia. These Dharma sessions included the Jeweled Repentance of Emperor Liang, the One Thousand Buddhas Repentance, the Medicine Master Dharma Assembly, and Dharma Assembly for the Welfare of the Nation in which the participants sincerely bowed to the Buddhas and repented, recited sutras and mantras, and dedicated the merit to world peace, prosperity of the country and people, good weather and an appropriate amount of rain.

The Lunar New Year is a national holiday for many countries in Asia. In European and American countries, more and more non-governmental organizations have enthusiastically held activities to celebrate the Lunar New Year in recent years. The White House of the United States even held a celebration on January 26, 2023, on the fifth day of the Lunar New Year, which was hosted by President Joe Biden and his wife Jill. This is the first time since the founding of the United States more than two hundred years ago that the Lunar New Year has been celebrated in the White House.

In 2022, California passed a bill “AB 2596” which has come into



公立學校，可在農曆新年當天享有8小時的假期，使加州成為全美第一個宣佈農曆春節放假的州。

萬佛聖城於1月22日大年初一當天，舉行護國息災法會，上午虔誦消災吉祥神咒，下午禮拜大悲懺。萬佛聖城對外開放時間，暫時仍維持下午一時至五時。但中午十二時許，已有許多民眾在佛殿外的香爐前大排長龍，準備上香。他們當中有不少人來自舊金山灣區，遠道專程而來，正是希望在大年初一到廟裡上香，祈求全年吉祥如意、平安健康。這條長長的人龍一直排到下午三時左右才散去。

住在瑜伽市的余坤居士表示，好久沒看到這麼多人聚集在萬佛聖城，她的新年心願就是希望疫情早日結束，萬佛聖城能夠恢復從前的開放時間，讓大家能夠參加更多的法會共修；流通處和君康素菜館也能儘早重開。

萬佛聖城育良小學、培德中學學生，於2月15日（農曆正月十五）應邀到瑜伽市中心的艾力克斯·湯瑪士廣場舉行元宵慶典。疫情前，這項慶祝活動早已是學

effect in 2023. The bill stipulates that the public service system and public schools under the California government can have an 8-hour holiday on the Lunar New Year day, making California the first state in the United States to declare a holiday for the Lunar New Year.

On January 22, the first day of the lunar new year in 2023, the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas held a Dharma Assembly for the Welfare of the Nation. In the morning, the Disaster Eradicating Auspicious Spirit Mantra was recited and Great Compassion Repentance was

held in the afternoon. The opening hours of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas remained from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the time being. But around noon, many people had already lined up in front of the big incense burner outside the Buddha Hall, preparing to offer incense. Many of them were from the San Francisco Bay Area and came all the way to CTTB, hoping to offer incense at the monastery on the first day of the Lunar New Year, praying for auspiciousness, good luck, safety and health throughout the year. This long line of people did not dissipate until about three o'clock in the afternoon.

Lisa Yu, who lives in Ukiah, said that it has been a long time since she saw so many people gathered in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Her New Year's wish was to hope that the pandemic will end soon and the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas will resume its previous opening hours so that everyone can participate in more Dharma activities. She also hoped the book store and the Junkang Vegetarian Restaurant will



生們農曆新春的年度表演，因疫情取消三年，直到今年才恢復。

男校的舞獅表演是開場節目，指導老師恒聰法師在接受地方廣播電台KZYX訪問時，特別為當地的美國聽眾講述了農曆新年傳說，並表示：「我很為這些孩子們高興，因為他們有事可忙。過去三年很不容易，但看到新生在舞獅舞龍時，也能順利就位表演，我就覺得現在可以讓學生回流了。你看到他們逐漸向上發展，我希望明後年我們會越來越好。」

中小學中文教師丁志春在現場教小朋友寫毛筆字，她認為中國書法是「在紙上跳舞」。指出書法要多練，這個過程很吸引她。「這是另一種修行，是訓練專心的好辦法。」

當天還有中國國樂團演奏，以及女校優雅的民族舞蹈；香噴噴的中式素食小吃，更是滿足觀眾的健康需求和味蕾要求。這項元宵節慶祝活動，由育良小學和培德中學師生共同擔任文化大使，和地方民眾分享農曆新春的節慶氣氛，增進多元文化之間的互相了解。❀

also be able to reopen as soon as possible.

Students from Instilling Goodness Elementary School and Developing Virtue Secondary School (IGDVS) at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas were invited to hold the Lantern Festival celebration at the Alex Thomas Square in downtown Ukiah on February 15th (the fifteenth day of the first lunar month). Before the epidemic, this celebration had already been the annual Lunar New Year performance by students. It was canceled for three years due to the pandemic, and it was not resumed until this year.

The boys' school's lion dance was the opening performance. In an interview with the local radio station KZYX, Dharma Master Heng Tsung, the instructor, told the local American audience the legend of the Chinese New Year, and said, "I am excited for the kids, because they have got something to do. The last three years have been hard, but seeing the first-year students take their places for their performance, I think we will be able to get them back. You see how they are working slowly up. And I'm hoping next year and the following year, we will get better and better."

Dale Ding, who teaches Chinese at the elementary and secondary schools, was guiding children through what she calls "a dance on the paper." She pointed out that Chinese calligraphy needs a lot of practice. But the process is very attractive to her. "It's a different kind of cultivation... It's good training, to train your focus."

On the same day, there was also a performance by the Chinese Orchestra and an elegant folk dance by the girls' school; the delicious Chinese vegetarian snacks met the health needs and taste buds of the audience. In this Lantern Festival celebration, the teachers and students of IGDVS acted as cultural ambassadors, sharing the festive atmosphere of the Lunar New Year with local people and enhancing mutual understanding among diverse cultures. ❀



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