

The Buddha Mind Grapevine

June & July 2012

Vol. 1 Issue 1



DEAR DHARMA FRIENDS,

Summer 2012 at Buddha Mind Monastery continues to be a season of cultivation.

We look forward to the Liang Huang Jeweled Repentance Ceremonies in June and July, and our July Veggie Festival. Many people are attending our classes currently under way. The classes will continue through the summer and we invite you to join them at any time.

Buddhism Calms Our Mind

“With a mind at peace, the thatched hut is safe. With a serene nature, the vegetable roots are fragrant.” If you can harness your ever-clinging mind, abide in the original mind, the original nature, and then your mind will naturally be peaceful and serene.

~Grand Master Wei Chueh

Buddha Mind News

This past month we bid a fond farewell to Master Jian Jian Shifu who returned to Chung Tai Chan Monastery, and we welcomed our newest Shifu, Master Jian Ying. Please introduce yourself if you haven't yet had the opportunity to meet her!

Also, it's not too late to be included in this summer's pilgrimage to Chung Tai Chan Monastery from August 17 to August 30. If interested, please see one of the Shifus for information on booking your trip & pilgrimage details.



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Classes & Events

- Zen Meditation & Buddhism Class
Level 1, Fridays 7 - 9 pm
- Zen Meditation & Buddhism Class
Level II, Tuesdays 7 - 9 pm
- Sutra Study Class, Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm
(Level II Class required)
- Medicine Buddha Blessing Ceremony,
Non-Ceremonial Sundays, 10:30 – 11:30 am
- Saturday Meditation Session
Saturdays, 3:30 – 4:30 pm
- Meditation Class in Chinese
Sundays, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Mandarin Learning
Level I, Mondays, 7 - 8:30 pm
- Martial Arts Class
2nd & 4th Saturdays, 2 – 3:30 pm
- Kids Meditation Class,
Saturday, June 23 & July 14, 11 am – 12:30 pm
- Vegetarian Cooking Class
Saturday, June 23, 1 – 2:30 pm
- Yoga Class
Non-Ceremonial Sundays, 9 – 10:15 am
- The Beauty of Chinese Calligraphy Workshop
Saturday, June 9, 2 – 3:30 pm
- Half-Day Zen Retreat
Sundays, June 24 and July 29, 2 pm – 5:30 pm

DHARMA EVENTS

Liang Huang Repentance Ceremony

Sunday, June 17 **Scroll Two**
Sunday, July 15 **Scroll Three**

9:30 am	Offerings to the Buddha
10:00 am	Ceremony/Dharma Talk
11:30 am	Grand Meal Offering/Blessing
12 noon	Vegetarian Lunch
1:30 pm	Repentance Ceremony
2:30 pm	Mengshan Food Offering Rite



● July Veggie Festival

Saturday & Sunday, July 21 & 22

**Going Veggie is
Easy, Eco-friendly, Economical, Educational,
Efficient, Energizing and Enlightening**

Buddha Mind Monastery will hold a two-day vegetarian festival to promote vegetarianism by demonstrating the benefits of a vegetarian diet and discovering a variety of methods to prepare and present nutritious satisfying vegetarian meals.

On the first day, a variety of presenters will demonstrate how to make delicious vegetarian dishes, successfully order vegetarian food in restaurants, and economically shop for vegetarian substitutes in local markets. On the second day of the festival, we will host a "Veggie-Joy" cook-off followed by a delicious international vegetarian buffet! Presenters will include the owner of Grand House Restaurant and a well-known local vegetarian chef from Houston. We enthusiastically welcome you to join us!

June Vegetarian Cooking Class

Be sure to attend the June Vegetarian Cooking Class. Michael will be demonstrating how to make scrumptious vegetarian Korean Sushi!! If you have never attended one of our cooking classes, TRY IT! They are fun! You have the opportunity to learn to prepare something new, and get to try out the dish after class!!



Kids' Meditation Class & Kids' Mandarin Class

Saturday, June 30 and July 28, 11 am ~ 12:30 pm

Being harmonious and true are important virtues when dealing with people or doing things in daily life. During the Kids' Meditation Classes, we will explore the ways Buddha had shown great virtues in His past life during our Story Time. Besides learning how to do sitting and walking meditation, kids will also learn to do "working meditation" by practicing yoga and recycling. Vegetarian lunch will be provided to all, where the kids learn to appreciate others and cherish food.

Medicine Buddha Blessing Ceremony

Every Sunday, 10:30 – 11:30 am

The Sutra of the Medicine Buddha emphasizes faith in the assistance of the Medicine Buddha, providing protection against disease and misfortune, and bringing peace and joy to the sick and suffering. The sutra describes the Twelve Great Vows of the Medicine Buddha, his merits and the way he assists those that have great suffering. It contains the 12 vows of the Medicine Buddha to benefit sentient beings. By chanting the Sutra, we will dedicate the blessings and merits to our families, all sentient beings, and world peace.



Bodhisattva Practice—

Cultivating Our Walking Trail and Zen Garden!

Every Wednesday and Saturday, 9 am ~ 12 noon,

Work continues on our **walking trail and organic garden** which provides a good opportunity for the Bodhisattva practice.

By giving time and energy, we practice charity and patience while working. Through our pure efforts and action, we volunteer diligently and focused. With no attachment about what we have done, we are walking on the wisdom path. Therefore the Six Paramitas will be accomplished by the practice itself.

Currently we are paving walking trails with wood chips, cleaning dry woods with chainsaw and trying to make benches for some quiet spots. With the warm season and rains this year, extra help is needed!!

We also need a lot of attention and experience on the organic garden. If you want to join this practice, our regular gathering time is every Wednesday and Saturday, 9 am ~ 12 noon, followed by a delicious vegetarian lunch. We also welcome you to join us whenever you have time.



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Half Day Retreat

Sunday, June 24 & July 29, 2 ~ 5:30 pm

Zen is a state of mind, a mind of calmness, stability, and clarity; a mind free of delusions and confusions; a mind in accord with true Reality. It is not a dull mind, but one full of infinite potential. Such a mind is the source of wisdom; it is a state of true liberation and joy.

How do we achieve this Zen state of mind? Meditation practice is an important and easy step that helps us to focus, calm down, be aware, and to see things as they are. A properly trained mind is one ready for Awakening. Please do not hesitate to sign up for this awakening training!



LIANG HUANG REPENTANCE CEREMONY

Sunday, June 17 & July 15, 9:30am~3:00pm

*Karmic burdens are like the morning dew.
Repentance is the morning sun.*

~Buddha

This repentance liturgy was compiled by Emperor Wu of the Liang Dynasty for his deceased wife, the Empress Chi, who harmed many people due to her jealousy and anger. Because of her karma, she was reborn as a giant snake. She appeared to the emperor and begged him to relieve her suffering.

Master Bao Zhi advised the Emperor to make repentance and pay homage to the Buddha to cleanse the Empress's lifetime offences. The Master researched the Buddhist sutras, and compiled the 10 scrolls of Liang Huang Jeweled Repentance. Due to the Emperor's virtues and dedication of merits, the Empress was reborn from a python to Tranyastrimsas heaven.

This ceremony provides us an opportunity for repentance, reflection, forgiveness, and enables us to cleanse the improper karma from the past. A chapter will be presented each month until all 10 have been presented, with the final chapter scheduled for February 3, 2013.



BUDDHA MIND NEW CONSTRUCTION REPORT

With everyone's efforts, the dormitory is progressing along quickly. We have finished building the walls and most parts of the roof. The windows have been installed. In June, we will begin construction of the meditation hall. We urge everyone to continue to support the New Construction Building Fund. You may make a pledge to support this meaningful project. Please contact us for details.