



Buddha's Light Newsletter Philippines

佛光寺紀

Mabuhay Temple
656 Pablo Ocampo
St., Malate, Manila
Tel: +63-2-523-4909

Chu Un Temple
246 V. Rama Ave.,
Cebu City
Tel: +63-32-2538144

Yuan Thong Temple
2876 Burgos St.,
Bacolod City
Tel: +63-34-4322733

Iloilo Fo Guang Yuen
13-A Fuentes St.,
Iloilo City
Tel: +63-33-3372002

Email:
fgsphilippines@gmail.com
Website:
www.fgsphilippines.org

FGS Philippines Offers Summertime Programs

by Beau Florenosos

Summertime is a buzz of activities in FGS Mabuhay Temple for children and adults alike. A lineup of fun and enriching camps and programs has been prepared in line with Venerable Master Hsing Yun's emphasis on education, culture, charity, and cultivation.

March kicked off the camp series with the "I've Grown Up" teenagers' camp held last March 22 to 25, 2011. The objective was to help teenagers further develop independence and self-management skills as well as learn the values of respect and teamwork. The participants joined in prayer, meditation, Chinese arts and crafts classes, and monastic-style eating during their four days and three nights' stay at the temple.

April ushers in various camps for children, starting with the "Skillful Way of Learning Buddhism" Children's Summer Camp, followed by the "One World, One Mind" barangay children's camp. Children engage in various activities prepared and facilitated by Mabuhay Temple teacher-volunteers: stories, games, arts and crafts, singing, meditation, and practical lessons on Buddhism.

A lineup of classes has been prepared for music and



Camp participants with the Venerables, BLIA, and volunteers

performing arts enthusiasts as well. The "Good Sound, Good Affinity" program includes a theater arts camp by the Dulaang Laksambayan theater group; one-on-one musical instrument classes on piano, violin, and rondalla; individual voice lessons; and choir group coached by music teachers Maria Judith Llorin Oliva and Carell Ethilca Blandres. Culmination activities of some of the programs are scheduled in time for the VESAK Day (Buddha's Birthday) on May 14-15, 2011.

Young adults will find challenge and inspiration in this year's "Everything Begins With You" Young Adults Summer Camp. A four-day event in Mabuhay Temple and Camp Allen Training and Development Center, the camp aims to educate people in being proactive in spiritual and environmental preservation.

Similar programs are being offered at Fo Guang Shan Temples in Cebu, Bacolod, and Iloilo. Cebu Chu Un Temple has the Musical Theatre Skills Summer Workshop; Yuan Thong Bacolod has Summer Dance Classes, Filipino Traditional Instruments and Movement Exploration Courses, and Chinese Mandarin Lessons. Iloilo Fo Guang Yuan offers Chinese Mandarin Lessons as well.



Fo Guang Teenager's Summer Camp

Venerable Yi Pei Talks on the Practice of Maitreya Buddha Leading a Happy Life

by Joyce Kao



Ven. Yi Pei sharing on the practice of Maitreya Buddha

Venerable Yi Pei, often called “The Golden Voice of Fo Guang Shan”, graced Fo Guang Shan Philippines with a visit last February 23-28, 2011. The visit commenced with a Dharma talk in Mabuhay Temple on February 23, organized by the BLIA Manila 1st and Makati chapters. Sharing on the “The Practice of Maitreya Buddha”, Ven. Yi Pei encouraged devotees to follow the examples of Maitreya in order to live a carefree, happy life. Perseverance, detachment from the allures of fame, self control, forgiveness, and kindness were the attributes of Maitreya that Ven. Yi Pei reminded the audience about. Ven. Yi Pei also delighted devotees with chants and songs of the sayings of Maitreya. Close to two hundred devotees attended the talk.

Ven. Yi Pei’s chantings have been recorded in award-winning chant albums which include The Great Compassion Repentance, 2011; Medicine Buddha’s Repentance, 2010, and Emperor Liang’s Repentance, 2009.



Award-winning Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Chanting Albums

Venerable Yi Pei Meets with Mabuhay Temple Volunteers and Devotees

by Joyce Kao

Volunteers from Mabuhay Temple and the BLIA gathered for a special talk by Ven. Yi Pei on volunteerism last March 1, 2011. Recognizing the different groups that make up Mabuhay Temple’s pool of volunteers, Ven. Yi Pei commended everyone for cultivating their merit fields. She cited each group’s importance and pointed out the responsibilities and work ethics that accompany it. Finally, she encouraged everyone to continue their dedication to sincere and excellent service.



Ven. Yi Pei with the BLIA

Maitreya Buddha, also known as the Laughing Buddha, is the Buddha of the future. According to the sutras (Buddhist scriptures), he waits in the Tusita heavens and will be a successor of the historic Sakyamuni Buddha. He will appear when the Dharma will be forgotten on earth.



An image of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future

It is said that Maitreya's appearance will be a great turning point in the fortunes of this world. As more and more beings follow his example, their store of merit, and consequently their lifespan, will increase. Eventually people will live in health for such a long time that the sufferings of old age and death will scarcely be known.

Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple Celebrates the Birthday of Guan Yin Pusa by Johanna Lavajo

February 19th of the Lunar Calendar (March 23 of this year) marks the birthday of Guan Yin Pusa (Sanskrit: Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva). Monastics and devotees of Mabuhay Temple observed the day with chanting of the vows of Guan Yin Pusa and making of fruit offerings. Included in the prayer was a prayer for the Japan earthquake and tsunami victims.

Guan Yin Pusa, also known as Kwan Yin or Guan Shi Yin, is a bodhisattva who is seen as the Great Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven, and the Embodiment of Compassion. Her name literally means "Observing (or hearing) the cries of the world." She holds a jar of pure water on her left hand (sometimes interpreted as a jar of milk that she pours into the world to help ease the pain of those who are hungry and oppressed), and on her right hand, a willow branch, signifying her divinity. Sometimes she is with two children, known to have come to her when she was meditating on a mountain. Other times, she is portrayed with two warriors on either side, symbolizing the protection



Guan Yin Pusa (Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva), the bodhisattva embodying compassion

of the temple and the faith.

"Guan Yin is the embodiment of compassion, and in this observance of her birthday we call on that spirit of compassion for the victims in Japan. We pray that they may find comfort in this time of great stress, and that they will find the courage to move on," explains Head Abbess Ven. Miao Jing.

A Prayer for the Earthquake Victims of Miyagi, Japan

by Venerable Master Hsing Yun

Great and Compassionate Buddha!

On March 11, a massive earthquake and tsunami
Shook the region in the Miyagi region of Japan
Have you heard the cries of suffering beings?
Have you seen the pains out of separation with
beloved ones?

Buddha! Oh! Buddha!

They are the cries from hell on earth.
They are the voices of catastrophe in the Saha world.
Over there,
Landslides and cracks in the earth, and tidal waves
were terrifying.
Over there,
The roaring water and raging fire have left
devastation everywhere.
Tens of thousands of people are trapped in the
disaster area,
Filled with fear.
They, like wandering people,
are looking for a place to live.
They, like panicked lambs, are looking for a refuge.
Great and compassionate Buddha!
I pray for your blessings.
Please let the living rid this disaster and become
healthy.

Please let the departed be born
and ranked in the Pure Land.

Please let them realize that
Home go through the process of formation, abiding,
deterioration, and destruction.
Only the Buddha nature can abide forever.
Please let them understand that
even family members have to suffer from separation with
loved ones.
Only realizing enlightenment is the ultimate reliance.
Great compassionate Buddha!
Please grant them confidence to start their lives again.
Please let them know there is hope when they survive.
Please grant them courage to strive forward.
Please let them understand survival is strength.
Furthermore, we pray
the disasters will not be aggravated
and similar catastrophes will not reoccur.
With the knowledge that we are closely interrelated
And we have to interact with others.
We have to be prepared in advance.
We have to cooperate and be prepared for possible
future perils.
Great and compassionate Buddha!
Please accept my sincere prayer.
Please accept my sincere prayer.

FGS Mabuhay Temple Holds One-Day Meditation Retreat

by Beau Florenosos



Silent meal during the One-Day Meditation Retreat

Close to fifty participants joined the One-Day Meditation Retreat held at the Prajna Lecture Hall of Mabuhay Temple last March 27, 2011. One of the five one-day retreats scheduled for the year, the event is designed to help participants cultivate mindfulness or Chan, as well as develop inner potentials.

The morning session opened with an orientation to the day's schedule by Ven. Ru Liang, who also lead the group in doing some relaxation exercises to condition the body for the meditation posture briefing that followed. A break in the exercises and sitting posture came in the form of a forum on the application and

benefits of Chan. Speakers in this section include Head Abbess Venerable Miao Jing and BLIA members Dr. Michael Lao, Mr. Sonny Lee, and Ms. Louisa So. Lunchtime was devoted to silent, contemplative eating at the Five Contemplations Dining Hall on the ground floor. Venerable Yong Yi guided the participants while Venerable Yung Ling lead the meal prayers. A short walking meditation session followed, lead by Venerable Ru Liang.

The afternoon session consisted of two sitting meditation sessions and a question-and-answer portion with Head Abbess Venerable Miao Jing and Venerable Yung Ling. Several of the participants raised questions not only on Chan but on particular concepts in Buddhism. Participants enjoyed some hot tea at the soon-to-open Mabuhay Temple Waterdrop Teahouse afterwards.



Speakers discuss the benefits and application of Chan.

Newsletter Publishing Team

- Adviser:**
Venerable Miao Jing
- Editor-in-Chief:**
Dr. Leni Garcia
- Layout Artist:**
Issa Sarza
- Contributors:**
Joyce Kao
Marlene Lao
Beau Florenosos
Allen Quintos
Marjorie Purino
Mellicent Bautista
Johanna Lavajo
Guoying Xue

Merit Donors List

- Mary Tan**
Jack Liew
Si Yee Liew

Other Mabuhay Temple one-day retreats scheduled in 2011

- June 26, 2011
One-Day Meditation Retreat
- July 1, 2011
One-Day Monastic Life
- September 25, 2011
One-Day Meditation Retreat
- December 12, 2011
One-Day Chanting

Meditation Classes at Fully Booked, Fort Bonifacio

- May 27, 2011
June 10, 2011
7:30 pm onwards

Editorial

Skillful Wisdom and Enlightened Mind

FGS-Philippines thrives in the Year of the Rabbit

Slowly, but surely, the Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple, a 10-storey building that stands along the busy avenue of Pablo Ocampo (formerly Vito Cruz) ceases to be “that tall building across Century Park Sheraton” to “that tall building with the red lanterns hanging outside.” Some people and cab drivers even immediately say, “Ah, that nice building along Vito Cruz?” This is a good sign. A sign that means Mabuhay Temple is gaining its proper identity amidst the communities here in the Philippines.

Perhaps, it was the Chinese New Year celebration last February. Perhaps, the red lanterns. Or perhaps, it's the various activities that are held at the temple which attract people from all walks of life, and even from different countries, that give the Temple its unique identity and start to mark it in the cartography of Manila City.

Two months after the Chinese New Year's Eve, the temple has continued the regular activities started the previous year, like the Dharma Talks, prayer services, meditation classes, language, craft and music classes. In addition to these, it has beefed up its summer program with a lot of activities for the children, including a theatre workshop that will feature the Qiao Project of the Dulaang Laksambayanan, Inc. theatre group. It is a 20-day workshop that culminates in the mounting of the play, “Panahon ng Sampung Libong mga Ilong,” an adaptation of the short story A Season of Ten Thousand Noses by Charlson Ong. This play is a kind of recollection of the times that have gone by, when the Philippines was under the Spanish government. But its focus is on the relationship between the Filipinos and the Chinese who were already residents of the Philippine islands then. A fitting story for an institution whose mission it is to forge cultural bridges between these two communities.

“The Buddha Way,” FGS's online radio program, also commenced on Chinese New Year's Eve and continues to spread the way of the Buddha, by discussing the mission of the Temple and recalling the life of Siddhartha Gautama and various other stories of the well-known bodhisattvas. Various contests in different art forms that promote Buddhist teachings have also revealed the talents latent in the community and have helped in propagating the Three Acts of Goodness, which is at the core of the Temple's educational programs.

More and more, through these activities, Venerable Master Hsing Yun's motto for the Year of the Rabbit, “Skillful Wisdom and Enlightened Mind,” is being realized. With the encouragement and help of the monastics, led by the Head Abbess, Ven. Miao Jing, we can only expect the blossoming of talents and wisdom among our friends, volunteers, guests, devotees and beneficiaries as the year goes by.

The Buddha Memorial Center Attracts Devotees from All Over the World

by Marlene Lao



Buddha Memorial Center

The Buddha Memorial Center, now in its final stage of completion, starts to draw devotees and visitors from all over the world to Dashi, Kaoshiung, Taiwan. Sitting on over 100 hectares of land, the complex features a main stupa, eight pagodas, a huge bronze Buddha, a teahouse, and gardens. The stupa will enshrine a tooth relic of the historical Buddha, and the bronze-made Buddha statue will store a million Heart Sutra transcriptions by devotees around the world participating in the One Million Heart Sutras in the Buddha Program.

After the inheritance of the Buddha's tooth relic from Kunga Dorje Rinpoche of the Namgyal Monastery in Tibet in February 1998, Venerable Master Hsing Yun started to make plans of building the Buddha Memorial Center. This obtained great support from the Kaoshiung Country Magistrate and devotees from all over the world.

FGS Mabuhay Temple monastics, staff, and devotees were among the people visiting the site last March 4-11, 2011. This April 22-26, 2011, a group of professors and deans from different universities in the Philippines shall be visiting as well.

For more information on the One Million Heart Sutras in the Buddha Program, log on to <http://www.fgs.org.tw/events>

Spreading the Dharma through the Power of Cinema

by Allen Quintos

Every third Sunday of the month, a room at the Fo Guan Shan Mabuhay Temple is transformed into a makeshift movie house as a small group of individuals gather for an afternoon of free film viewing and discussion. Complete with popcorn and drinks on hand, participants laugh, cry and share their thoughts and feelings about the films and how it relates to their lives and experiences. Such is the usual scene at the monthly gathering that only started last February.

Initiated by FGS volunteers and devotees, the free film showing and discussion aims to spread the teachings of the Buddha through the power of cinema. The film selections are not all directly about Buddhism. Organizers have

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Head Abbess Delivers a Talk on Karma and the Three Acts of Goodness

by Mellicent Bautista



Ven. Miao Jing talks to a mixed group at Dharma Talk

“Karma and the Three Acts of Goodness” was Venerable Miao Jing’s topic for the English Dharma Lecture held on February 27th. The Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple Prajna Lecture Hall was filled with professors, devotees, volunteers, and university students including those from De La Salle University Manila and Arellano University, just to mention a few. They came and listen to the addressing of how karma, actions, speech, and thoughts are interrelated, and how this truth can be applied in daily life. “Plant seeds of good thoughts, words, and deeds,” was one of the many inspirational truths Ven. Miao Jing shared that day just in time for the new year. It’s to proactively work towards reaping positive results from what we sow in life.

Awarding of Essay Writing Contest Winners

by Mellicent Bautista



Essay writing participants

February 27, 2011 was the awarding ceremony for the essay contest on Venerable Master Hsing Yun’s book *Modern Thoughts, Wise Mentality*, that started last

September 2010. Contestants received tokens and certificates of participation. The top three were awarded as follows: “Thoughts on Equality and Peace” by Edwin Concepcion - 1st place, “Humanistic Buddhism – A Source of Comfort in Today’s Chaotic World” by Issa Sarza - 2nd place, and “One” by Rod Sollesta - 3rd place. The winners received monetary awards in the amounts of Php 5,000, Php 4,000, and Php 3,000 respectively, along with certificates of recognition. Judges of the contest were Mabuhay Temple Reading Group facilitator Marlene Lao, De La Salle University Philosophy professor Dr. Leni Garcia, and FGS Philippines Head Abbess Ven. Miao Jing. Awarding the participants were Mabuhay Temple Deputy Abbess Ven. Yung Ling, Iloilo Fo Guang Yuan Abbess Ven. Cheu Chen, BLIA-Pasig Chapter President Lina Lim, and BLIA-Pasig Chapter Advisor Junko Takakuwa.

Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple Holds Chinese Penmanship Contest

by Joyce Kao

About 100 students from different Chinese schools and colleges in Manila participated in the Chinese Penmanship Contest held at Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple



Ven. Yong Ling with contestants

last February 27, 2011. This was in view of the effect of handwriting in the development of the right brain that enhances creativity and thinking skills. Chinese characters are also in accord with their forms and meanings that could give a glimpse into the Chinese culture.

The contest was divided into three categories: A for adults, B for 3rd and 4th year high school students, and C for 1st and 2nd year high school students. The criteria for grading were based on the traditional Chinese characters, balance, uniformity, and neatness. Three winners plus one special mention were awarded from each group. Judges of the contest include Venerable Ru Liang and BLIA Quezon Sub-Chapter President Mary Yap.

The Chinese Penmanship Contest was organized by Fo Guang Shan Mabuhay Temple in coordination the BLIA Manila 1st, Makati, and Greenhills sub-chapters.

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actually lined up an eclectic mix of films for the year.

The activity opened last February with *Travellers and Magicians* from Bhutan, a film written and directed by Buddhist monk and author Khyentse Norbu. Recently, it featured the tearjerker *Departures*, a Japanese film directed by Yojiro Takita that won the best foreign language film award at the 2009 Oscars. For the month of April, the activity will feature the comedy *Three Idiots* from India by Raj Kumar Hirani.

The monthly activity is also meant to create a venue for individuals from different backgrounds to enjoy films that are not usually shown in regular movie houses and to discuss and share their thoughts with fellow movie lovers. In the recent film viewing of the movie *Departures*, the discussion revolved around the topic of death, a subject that triggered a rather emotional exchange among participants. Venerable Miao Jing, Head Abbess of Fo Guang Shan Philippines, shed some light on the topic of death by reminding participants that death should not be viewed as an end but rather as a new beginning.

Screenings are scheduled every third Sunday of the month, from 2pm to 5pm. To know more about the upcoming films, you can check www.fgsphilippines.org or call 523-4909 and look for Beau.

BLIA Youth from Taiwan Holds a Volunteer-Work Mission

by Beau Florenosos

A group of BLIA youth from Taiwan came to the Philippines last February 2011 for a volunteer-work mission. The group, composed of Pharmacy students from the Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science, was lead by longtime BLIA Young Adults' Division leader Jennifer Chua. Armed with values-filled stories, skits, and songs, the group taught and entertained both the young and old from Hospicio de San Jose, Pangarap Foundation, and Mabuhay Temple neighborhood kids. They also participated in the house-building project of Habitat for Humanity in a Laguna site.



Volunteers at a house-building project

Head Abbess Ven. Miao Jing Speaks at Inter-religious Forums

by Joyce Kao



Ven. Miao Jing with forum participants

Head Abbess Ven. Miao Jing was one of the speakers in last March 11, 2011's "Developing a Multi-religious Approach on Peace Building Activities" forum held at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) St. Aquinas Center. Organized by Religions for Peace, the forum was attended by a representative of the United Nations, diplomats from the Middle East and Malaysia, the vice recto of UST, faculty members, students, and representatives from different religious sectors and organizations such as the Hindu Temple, National Council of Churches in the

Philippines, Tuklas Katutubo, Pilgrims for Peace, Peace Maker Circle Foundation, and National Commission on Filipino Muslim.

Similarly, Ven. Miao Jing spoke at an inter-religious forum on ecology at the Women's Eco Farm in Indang, Cavite, last February 23. Organized by the Institute of Women's Studies of St. Scholastica's College, the forum drew around forty participants from Southeast Asia.

Head Abbess Ven. Miao Jing Conducts Sastra Study Series

by Beau Florenosos

A series of Sastra Study classes is being held at the Mabuhay Temple every Tuesday evening, 7:30pm – 9:00pm for a group of individuals interested to learn about the Greater Prajna-Paramita Sutra commentaries. Head Abbess Venerable Miao Jing conducts the classes. The classes started March 8 and will end in April, 2011.



Ven. Miao Jing lectures at the Sastra Class

BLIA Philippines Initiates Activities

by Guoying Xue



Head Abbess Ven. Miao Jing and BLIA Philippines officers at the Philippine General Hospital

In line with Venerable Master Hsing Yun's thrusts in education, culture, charity, and cultivation, the BLIA Philippines and its chapters initiated several activities in the recent months including: BLIA Philippines' donation of crutches to people with disability at the Philippine General Hospital; San Juan chapter's granting of scholarship to five students of the Philippine Normal University; Quezon City chapter's "Bonsai Class" for its members; and Manila 1st chapter's "Western Dining Etiquette" class also for its members.

Announcements

Chu Un Temple Musical Theater Skills Summer Workshop 2011

BLIA Cebu and BLIA-YAD Cebu invite all music and dance enthusiasts to enroll in the Musical Theatre Skills Summer Workshop happening on April 11 to May 14, 2011 at the Chu Un Temple, V. Rama Avenue, Cebu City. The Workshop includes the following courses for all ages: Children's Musical Theater, Basic and Advance Music Theater, Musical Theater Singing, Broadway Jazz, Poi Dancing, Violin and many more!

This workshop is closely associated with the Cebu Music Learning Center, Rhea May Sadaya, Zero Nunez of Fire Attraction, Edison Saynes, and Ms. Daisy Ba-ad. There will be rehearsals from May 16 to 20, 2011 in preparation for the Culminating Activity on May 21, 2011.

Yuan Thong Temple Summer Programs and Activities

Starting March 25 until May 5, 2011 Yuan Thong Temple on Burgos St., Bacolod City will be holding summer dance classes! Whether you're celebrating your achievements in school or work, or relieving the built up stress of months gone by, let it be released by movement. We have arranged for the following genres to be taught by experienced individuals in order for you to learn and experience the art of dance within your community: Aero Dances I and II, Hip Hop, Belly Dance, Contemporary Dance, and Jazz.

For more inquiries visit Yuan Thong Temple or call 034-4322733.

Everlasting Light

用語言讚歎大眾，
Praise others with your words.

用雙手大做好事，
Do good deeds with your hands.

用腳步走出善路，
Tread the right path with your feet.

用力行創造淨土。
Create a pureland with your energy.

More Summer Programs in Mabuhay Temple this May!

May 3 to 13, 2011

"World of Dances"

Children's dance classes with teachers from renowned Lan Yang Dance Troupe from Taiwan.

Open to children ages 7 to 12.

May 17 – 28, 2011

"Skillful Hands and Wonderful Mind"

Children's Art Discovery Camp.
Open to children ages 3 to 10.

For more details, visit or call
Mabuhay Temple at 523-4909.

Mabuhay Temple Dharma Services

<i>English Prayer</i>	Every 2nd Sunday of the month, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
<i>The Great Compassion Repentance Service (Chinese)</i>	Every 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
<i>Light Offering Dharma Service</i>	Every New Moon and Full Moon, 10:00 am to 11:30 am
<i>English Dharma Talk</i>	Every 4th Sunday of the month, 10 am to 11:30 am
<i>Chinese Chanting Service</i>	Every Saturday, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm