



Dear Readers,

Here our minds meet again!

Wishing you a happy Holiday Season & a prosperous New Year!

Venerable Haiyun Jimeng (HeShang) was in North America to give Dharma lectures in Vancouver from October 24 to 28, and in Chicago from October 31 to November 4. Here's the link (<http://innerlifegarden.com/pumenpin.html>) to the lecture given by HeShang in Chicago. Enjoy! The Vancouver lecture will be posted on the website <http://www.huayen.org> soon. Both lectures were conducted in Mandarin.

Since September 2007, Grace has been conducting an Introductory Buddhism course in Toronto – “*Gateway to Inner Peace & Joy*” in English, one Monday night each month. The class is being held at Dixie Park, Mississauga.

The third annual Chanting retreat of Toronto was held on October 8, 2007. This was a 10-hour non-stop chanting. Eleven of us participated for the full course. Everyone is looking forward to the next chanting retreat.

The Huayen Buddhist Community of Ontario, HYBCO, is now incorporated as a non-profit organization, headed by Grace Ng Listkowski as president, Simon Fong as vice-president, Gerald Chan as Secretary, Betty Wong as Treasurer and Olivia Tsang as Director of Dharma Studies. We are now in the process of applying for the charitable status.

Grace is also the Chairperson of Huayen Buddhist Community of North America (HYBC-NA) with Sue Tsao of Ohio as Secretary. Other members of HYBC-NA are: Chicago with Jenny Huang, Ann Arbor with Harton Leu and Vancouver with Cheryl Lin as Chairpersons. We extend a wholehearted welcome and pledge our support to them all.

The second Group Circumscribed Practice (Jie Jie 共同結界) to be held by HYBCO will commence on January 3 and end on February 20, 2008 for 49 days. The merits of the Circumscribed Practice are dedicated to the well being and speedy recovery of Kristen (Erin's daughter) Capawan's health. May you all join us in the Circumscribed Practice, and may Kristen has blessings from you all. Your spiritual and moral support would be greatly appreciated!

HYBCO will have our fifth annual Lunar New Year's Eve Huayen Sutra recitation at midnight on February 7, 2008. The HYBCO Annual New Year Potluck party will be held on Sunday, February 17, with karaoke, games and prizes; Anthony has suggested that the karaoke begin with Rebecca's solo. Please join in on the fun.

The Great Huayen Monastery of Taiwan is holding a 7-10 day Chan Training Retreat in mid- March. This intensive retreat is aimed at training participants for their role as monitors and voluntary collaborators for the 2009 and 2010 Chan retreats in Niagara Falls, Canada. Members from all Chapters are invited to participate. Please contact your local chapter or Sue (suelee89@gmail.com) for more details.

So much for now...winter is recuperation time. Let's enjoy the beauty of the snow and the chilly temperatures, and let's prepare for the flourishing spring that is just around the corner...

Olivia Tsang of Toronto