



美中佛教會

Mid-America Buddhist Association

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2012 New Year's Greetings

All of us at MABA want to thank you for your generous support this past year. As we look back at 2011, we see great progress. In addition to the yearly 3-month annual Monastic Retreat, we offered seven one-day retreats and several three-day retreats, in all attended by over 250 people. This year's Sunday Dharma talks focused on the [Paramitas](#). All these talks can be accessed through our [website](#). Our Buddhist Study Class focused on *In the Buddha's Words* by Bhikkhu Bodhi. This class benefitted greatly from one of MABA's monastics, Ven. Kongmu in Taiwan, who sent us weekly readings and links. Much appreciation to the loyal members who come on Sunday mornings. We also began a new Chinese Study Group led by Master Jiru, using the writings of Master Yin-shun. This class will continue into next year.

In May we hosted a beautiful [Vesak Day](#) with talks by visiting teachers Guo Xing Fashi and Guo Gu. In another coordinated effort with the [Buddhist Council of Greater St. Louis](#), we helped open the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts' exhibit "[Reflections of the Buddha](#)" in September, which will continue through March. Also in September, MABA sponsored a trip to China to visit various Buddhist centers and temples, as well as a special meditation retreat with Dharma Drum Master Ji Chern organized by Tai-ling and Mark Chin, were just two additional opportunities for our community.

As we look forward to 2012, we are encouraged by the completion of the [Cao Tang](#) 草堂, the Humble Cottage/Monk House, which is now open to serve as a men's dormitory for retreats. With this new building, we plan to offer new events, including a number of three-day retreats in the coming year. We hope this will allow those interested in Buddhism and meditation to deepen their practice. We welcome all of you to come and experience our facilities and teachings.

We wish to express our gratitude to those who have volunteered their time to help with our many projects, especially to the hard workers who assisted Master with the building of the Monk House, as well as those who care for the 60 acres of grounds, with all the planting, watering, grass cutting, pruning, gardening, and creating new paths and fountains. We want to thank those who helped with preparation and serving of the vegetarian meals each Sunday. Our dedicated [monastics](#) at MABA, set an example for us all. We are inspired by their selflessness and diligence. It is in that spirit that we look forward to 2012 with renewed energy to help in any way we can, in tending the gardens and cooking the Sunday meals, so that we can free our monastics of some of these responsibilities toward which they have been dedicated for 15 years.

We also are thankful for [Master Jiru's](#) guidance and energy. His compassion and wisdom serves as a humble bright light, a radiance that shines equally for us all. Although involved in the major building project, Master found time to guide and teach us, both here at MABA and also around the country from New York to San Francisco, from Chicago to Houston. We are truly fortunate to have such a wonderful teacher close at hand.

All of us at MABA send our blessings to all of you. May you have a healthy and prosperous New Year. May your practice deepen and may you be of great benefit to others.

With Much Metta From MABA's [lay Dharma Teachers](#),

Xianzhi Katty, Xiankuan Don, Xianyi Sharon, and Xianwan Tracy