

Falun Gong in California

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California Falun Dafa Month Celebration

Throughout the month of October, Falun Dafa practitioners held introductory seminars, Exhibits of the Journey of Falun Dafa, free instruction classes of the Falun Gong exercises, and many other activities to celebrate the first "California Falun Dafa Month."

Many government officials and community leaders

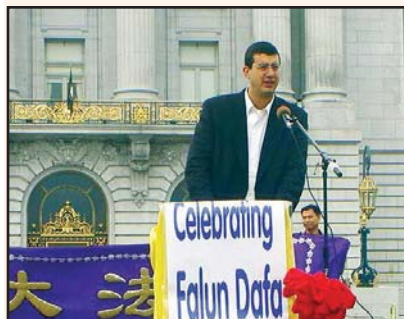


Practitioners performing a Chinese dance in the State Capitol at Sacramento

across the state have participated Falun Dafa month activities. Four official ceremonies were held in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego on October 16 and 17. (Please go to page 3 for the list of the recognitions)

and commendations have been issued by California congress members, state senators, state assembly members, county boards of supervisors, city mayors and council members throughout the state to honor "Falun Dafa Month". During the ceremonies, Falun Dafa practitioners expressed deep gratitude to California government leaders for their consistent and sincere support of Falun Dafa and Falun Dafa practitioners. In addition to the speeches given at the ceremonies, practitioners demonstrated the Falun

More than 30 proclamations, resolutions, certificates, and performed traditional dancing and Falun Dafa music.



San Francisco Supervisor Chris Daily gave a speech in front of the San Francisco City Hall.

News Digest

● 24 Falun Gong Practitioners Tortured to Death in September and October

● Police Leave 63-Year-Old Woman to Die on the Street – Found by a local egg seller, she was still alive when police arrived

In the early morning on September 23rd, a local egg seller found Ms. Xiumei Guo kneeling on the pavement of a street in Huaiyang County. Doubled over from pain, her face black and blue with one eye punctured, she clutched her stomach. The egg seller called for the police. Ms. Guo was still alive when police arrived. Instead of offering her help, however, the police spread Falun Gong literature all around her, photographed and videotaped the scene for evidence. After that they walked away. They later reported that "she died from illness while distributing literature about Falun Gong."

● California Joins Nationwide "Rescue Drive"

Family Members Appeal to President Bush Ahead of Jiang Zemin's Visit

Determined to rescue his wife from a Chinese jail, Mr. Fu of San Jose is one of several California residents driving to Texas, where (Continue on page 3)

In the Community

Introducing Falun Dafa to the Citizens of Orange County

Local Falun Gong practitioners have been holding free workshops open to the public on a monthly basis in the city of San Clemente.

The first one took place in the scenic Ole Hanson Beach Club overlooking the ocean at the north end of town. The second was at the Senior Center in the library building on Avenida Del Mar. The city recreation staff has been very helpful in getting this program started.

Interested local residents had a chance to learn ancient cultivation system. (Continue on page 2)



San Clemente Introductory Workshop

Falun Dafa in Orange County

(Continue from page 1)

The effects of moving through the exercises even once were surprising to some people, bringing relaxation after a hectic day, and restoring energy for some people who had felt tired. Practitioners are able to talk with workshop attendees about their own experiences with Falun Gong. Anyone who is interest-



A practitioner teaching Falun Gong exercise at the Orange County Volunteer Center

ed in following through with the practice is welcome to come to any of the regular exercise groups. There is one at Dana Point, one in Irvine, and others in various parks throughout the county. Please contact: **Diana Mathias, 949-300-3753**

Whole Being Weekend in Idyllwild

A dozen Falun Gong practitioners from Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties joined the 32nd Annual Whole Being Weekend at Camp Buckhorn in Idyllwild on September 13-15, 2002. More than 600 people attended the annual weekend event..



Teaching Falun Gong exercise at Whole Being weekend

Of the 70 workshops give, Falun Gong practitioners gave seven Falun Gong Introductory Workshops and demonstrated the Falun Gong exercises in two locations at the camp. In addition, two video displays broadcast exercise demonstrations. Some attendees were very interested in the exercises. One of the visitors said "If the persecution against Falun Gong does not end soon, I would personally go to China." The visitors said their prayers were with us and the challenge we face in ending the persecution of Falun Gong in China and overseas.

Marin Unity Fair

On 18th and 19th September, two local practitioners participated the College of Marin's 9th Annual Unity Fair. Participants came from all parts of the community and from a broad rainbow of ethnicity and interests.

The two practitioners are also local college students. Practitioners displayed works of art and music created by other practitioners who are professionals in their fields. Specifically, they displayed watercolor prints and calligraphy by Ms. Zhang Cui Ying, the Chinese artist and Falun Gong practitioner. They also gave out free bookmarks and VCDs, and told passers by about her heroic story of imprisonment, courage and triumph in the face of the Chinese governments persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. People who stopped at the booth remarked about the beauty, tranquility and compassion



Brad Carson introducing Falun Gong to a local resident during the fair

of the artwork and Falun Gong music..

The practitioners were honored to be participating in a community of such closeness and friendship

Falun Dafa Month Photos



Assemblywoman Charlene Zettel presented a Resolution at the San Diego Civic Center



Falun Dafa Month Ceremony at Los Angeles

President Bush is scheduled to meet with Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin later this month.

Dozens of people have embarked on a nationwide effort to rescue their spouses, siblings, parents, and children from being tortured and killed in China by Jiang Zemin's regime. Falun Gong practitioners and supporters whose family members are being illegally held in Chinese prisons and forced labor camps have joined hands with human rights organizations, NGO's, and labor unions in an effort to rescue their loved ones.

One out of four routes, the western leg of the rescue drive, which started in Seattle, passes through California, Arizona, and New Mexico en route to Houston, Texas. Three other journeys have departed from Toronto, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta.

October's rescue efforts in Canada and the United States have already led to the early releases of two individuals from labor camps in China. Throughout the persecution, strong international voices have had a positive impact on curtailing human rights abuses in China.

Party Chairman Sued in US for Genocide

Individual plaintiffs are suing Jiang Zemin for accounts of genocide and torture of Falun Gong practitioners.

The Complaint was filed on October 18, 2002, and the

Communist Party leader was served by alternate service upon security agents on October 22, 2002.

"This suit is not against the government of China," reads the lawsuit statement. "The plaintiffs sue Jiang Zemin for exploiting his official position to commit atrocious human rights violations." The Office 6/10 is also a defendant in the lawsuit. Acting under Jiang's command, the office employs and supervises government officials and other public agencies to carry out a campaign of murder, torture, terrorism, rape, beatings, and genocide against practitioners of Falun Gong and their families in China.

At a press conference in Chicago, Australian citizen Ms. Zhizhen Dai tearfully spoke of her husband, a Falun Gong practitioner, who died last year in China after he was arrested, jailed and tortured. "I hope American people can help us to end the persecution," she said.



Ms. Zhizhen Dai, along with her two-year-old daughter, speaking about her husband's death at a press conference in Chicago

Recognitions of California Falun Dafa Month in October

Resolution issued by Lieutenant Governor Cruz M. Bustamante

Proclamation issued by Congresswoman Susan Davis
Special Recognition issued by Congresswoman Hilda Solis
Special Recognition issued by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
Congratulation letter issued by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey
Congratulation letter issued by Congressman Robert T. Matsui

Certificate of Honor issued by State Senator Bill Morrow
Certificate of Honor issued by State Senator Jack O'Connell
Certificate of Honor issued by State Senator Dede Alpert
Certificate of Honor issued by State Senator Jack Scott
Certificate issued by Assembly Member Jay La Suer
Certificate of Honor issued by Assembly Member Gloria Negrete McLeod
Resolution issued by Assembly Member Charlene Zettel
Certificate of Honor issued by Assembly Member Patricia C. Bates

Certificate of Honor issued by Supervisor Chris Daly & 6 other supervisors, County of San Francisco
Resolution issued by Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Proclamation issued by Merced County Board of Supervisors

Certificate of Honor issued by Councilmembers, City of Los Angeles
Proclamation issued by Mayor Ron Gonzales, Councilmember Forrest Williams & Chuck Reed, City of San Jose
Proclamation issued by Mayor Randy Voepel, City of Santee
Proclamation issued by Mayor Nick Streit, City of Saratoga
Proclamation issued by Mayor Judy Nadler, City of Santa Clara
Proclamation issued by Mayor Joseph Centeno, City of Santa Maria
Proclamation issued by Vice Mayor Maureen Kirk, City of Chico
Proclamation issued by Mayor Roberta MacGlashan, City of Citrus Heights
Proclamation issued by Mayor Bruce A. Broadwater, City of Garden Grove
Certificate of Honor issued by Councilmember Toni Yong, City of Port Hueneme
Proclamation issued by Mayor Juan De Lara, City of Coachella
Proclamation issued by Mayor Conrad Negron City of Indian Wells
Proclamation issued by Mayor Daryl Busch, City of Perris
Proclamation issued by Vice Mayor Michael Nott, City of Signal Hill
Proclamation issued by Mayor Richard Ostling, City of Murrieta

Searching for Peace: An Israeli Concerned About...China

Leeshai Lemish

I have always longed for peace. Born to a U.S. father and an Israeli mother, I spent most of my life in Israel. I was brought up with bedtime stories about Martin Luther King and Gandhi, school lectures about the horrors of the Holocaust, and a shared hope for a timely end to the violence that has plagued so many generations.

But things kept getting worse. From the shock of the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin at a peace vigil to seeing charred body-parts on TV; From serving in the Israeli army to hearing Scud missiles exploding in the night, I grew up with some of the worst that humankind has to offer.

Tired after a twenty-four hour shift, and tired of the day's dreadful news, I would meditate on my army cot, hoping to at least find inner peace. Years of Tai Chi, Yoga, and Zen, however, gave me only partial answers. As violence flamed outside, agitation burned inside.

I searched for another way and encountered Falun Dafa. Over the past two years, I have understood self-cultivation in Falun Dafa as a path of nurturing kindness while letting go of what is harmful to oneself or to others.

My first experience in applying the teachings of Falun Dafa in daily life came during a heated argument with my Dad. We were throwing accusations back and forth, which only led to pain and frustration. Finally, I asked that we

take a short break. I remember sitting in my room thinking: "I'm reading this book about the principle of Truthfulness-Compassion- Tolerance, but I'm not applying it now, am I? I'll go back with this new approach and see what happens." With this little shift in mind there was no more argument to have, and we were hugging in seconds. I was convinced.

"The World Needs Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance," read the Falun Dafa float in a recent parade near my southern California college. Realizing my individual responsibility in this statement is what Mr. Li Hongzhi's teachings of Falun Dafa have offered me.



Leeshai Lemish meditating in a park

I find it interesting that Falun Dafa practitioners being persecuted in China do not seek to claim a territory, they are not out to overthrow a government, promote a religion, or push an economic reform. Perfectly happy being left alone, they just wish to become less selfish and live in harmony. And for that, these peaceful people, my fellow practitioners, are being rounded up to be tortured and killed.

All over the world, I see people responding to violence with violence. But for practitioners in China, "Truthfulness-Compassion-Tolerance" is their response to shouts of "Give up your silly principles!" Silently looking a policeman in the eye is their answer to electric shock torture. "Punches and kicks do little to change people's hearts," reads one of Li Hongzhi's poems. Responding to violence with kindness - where else can we find such a thing? When determination in kindness does prevail, couldn't the lesson from such a historic event lead to true peace everywhere?

What is Falun Gong?

Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa, is an ancient mind-body self-improvement meditation practice. Along with five gentle exercises, Li Hongzhi's teachings of Falun Gong emphasize the cultivation of one's moral character through following the universe's benevolent characteristic of:



Truthfulness

Compassion

Forbearance

www.falundafa.org

Falun Gong Newsletter in California

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