

**AUGUST 10, 2008 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP
CHUANG YEN MONASTERY**

CHUANG YEN MONASTERY IS LOCATED ON A 125 ACRE LOT OF LAND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF KENT, PUTNAM COUNTY. GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE FIRST BUILDING, THE KUAN-YIN HALL, WAS HELD ON MAY 23, 1981. BUILDINGS SUCH AS WOO-JU LIBRARY, TAI-SHU HALL, KUANG-YIN HALL AND DINING HALL SOON FOLLOWED. CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT BUDDHA HALL DID NOT STARTED UNTIL OCT 15, 1989 AND TOOK FOUR YEARS TO COMPLETE. IT HOUSES THE BIGGEST BUDDHA STATUE IN U.S. EAST COAST. THERE ARE 10,000 SMALL BUDDHA STATUES ENCIRCLING THE BIG BUDDHA STATUE. THE ENTRANCE WAY LEADING TO THE GREAT BUDDHA HALL IS MAGNIFICENT. THE PATH IS LINED WITH 18 STATUES OF ARAHANTS - DISCIPLES OF BUDDHA AND A PAIR OF WHITE ELEPHANT STATUES GUARDING THE DOOR. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST INCLUDES THE SEVEN JEWEL LAKE AND THE THOUSAND LOTUS TERRACE.

**WE WILL MEET IN THE MAIN PARKING LOT
AT 9:30AM
CHUANG YEN MONASTERY
2020 ROUTE 301, CARMEL,
NY10512
PH : 845 225 1819**

DRIVING DIRECTION

FROM WESTCHESTER : TAKE SAW MILL PARKWAY NORTH, CONNECT TO TACONIC PARKWAY NORTH, SLOW DOWN WHEN YOU SEE CARMEL / COLD SPRING SIGN, EXIT TACONIC AT ROUTE 301, TURN RIGHT ON TO 301 AFTER RAMP TOWARDS CARMEL, YOU WILL PASS THE SIGN " TOWNSHIP OF KENT ", SLOW DOWN AFTER YOU WENT 1-3/4 MILES AFTER THE EXIT, LOOK TO YOUR LEFT, THE BOTTOM OF THE DRIVE WAY HAS A SMALL WHITE KUAN-YIN STATUE, DRIVE TOO FAST AND YOU WILL MISS THE DRIVE WAY ENTRANCE, CONTINUE UP HILL AND FOLLOW THE SIGNS UNTIL YOU REACHED THE MAIN PARKING LOT. DISTANCE FROM WCC TO THE MONASTERY IS APPROX 25 MILES AND DRIVING TIME IS ABOUT 40 MINUTES.

CARPOOLING

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO CARPOOL, PLEASE BE AT BED, BATH & BEYOND'S PARKING LOT, RT. 119 (WHITE PLAINS RD), GREENBURGH AT 8:30AM

SPECIAL EVENT OF THE DAY

CEREMONY FOR THE UNDERWORLD WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MORNING. THERE WILL BE A LOT OF WORSHIPPERS AND VISITORS AROUND. GOOD PHOTO OPPS OF PEOPLE AND INCENSE BURNING. BREAK OUT YOUR SUPER-WIDE TO TELEPHOTO LENSES. PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED IN MOST AREAS. TRIPOD IS NOT RECOMMENDED DUE TO THE CROWD. FLASH IS NOT PROHIBITED, BUT PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE AND NOT TO USE THE FLASH DURING THE CEREMONY INSIDE THE GREAT BUDDHA HALL.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

FREE LUNCH IS AVAILABLE FROM 12:00 NOON IN THE DINING HALL. YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DONATE A MINIMUM OF \$5.00 PER PERSON.

SPECIAL NOTE

NO SHOES ARE ALLOWED INSIDE ANY OF THE HALL EXCEPT DINING HALL. IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WALKING BARE FEET OR IN SOCKS ON HARD FLOOR, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SLIPPERS.

IT WILL BE A LOT OF FUN. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.