

In Memory of Stuart Lackey: A Life of Service and Spiritual Dedication

緬懷史都華·樂基： 奉獻服務，修行在人間

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Stuart Lackey and daughter.

史都華·樂基生前與女兒合影

We remember Stuart Lackey with gratitude and respect. On September 4th, 2024, during an auspicious Earth Treasury recitation session, Stuart passed away peacefully while he slept, having lived to the age of 69. He was a volunteer who gave the final years of his life in service to the community. His embodiment of selflessness and humility will be remembered by everyone who knew him.

Stuart's arrival at CTTB took place after fires destroyed Harbin Hot Springs, a spiritual retreat center in Middletown, CA, which had been his home for many years. At this point, Stuart was left searching for a new place to rebuild his life. During this challenging time for him, he found a new home in CTTB, which was a place of peace and refuge for him.

Stuart's relationship with CTTB began much earlier, though. His daughter Lacy Lackey graduated from the Girls' School. The care the community had for his daughter extended to Stuart, and we welcomed him in the spring of 2017. From that moment on, Stuart was an integral part of the daily life at the monastery.

我們懷著感恩與敬意，緬懷史都華·樂基居士。2024年9月4日，在一場殊勝的地藏法會中，史都華於睡夢中安詳辭世，享年69歲。他是一名志工，將人生最後幾年都奉獻給萬佛城。所有認識他的人，都將銘記他的無私與謙遜。

史都華是在哈濱溫泉的住所被燒毀後，來到萬佛城。他長年居住於加州米德爾敦的哈濱溫泉靈修中心。這場意外迫使史都華必須尋覓新的棲身處，以重建生活。在這段艱困時期中，他在萬佛城找到新的避風港，一個可以安身立命的歸依處。

不過，史都華早在多年前就和萬佛城結緣。他的女兒萊西·樂基畢業於培德女校。社區對萊西的關懷也延伸到史都華。2017年春天，我們展開雙臂歡迎史都華。從此，他變成為道場的得力助手。

His contributions were essential. When he first arrived, he assisted other volunteers with much needed repair work in the monastery. As a security guard, Stuart took seriously his responsibility of upholding the safety of CTTB's campus. In addition to his security duties, he contributed towards the smooth functioning of the community by collecting trash and sorting recyclables. During the pandemic, when the community was short-handed, Stuart agreed to help play Venerable Master Hua's talks at lunch each day. This revitalized the listeners' spirits, especially during the difficult time of the monastery's lockdown. His quiet dedication ensured that these important but often unnoticed tasks were completed as needed.

Stuart was dedicated to his spiritual life. Coming to CTTB at a later stage in his life, he sought the peace and refuge that CTTB provided, away from the fast-paced, materialistic world. He saw CTTB as a haven, a place where he could devote himself to his spiritual practice. Though new to Buddhism, he was eager to learn about the Buddha's teachings and to cultivate the Buddhist Path.

Stuart's spiritual practice was not limited to Buddhism. He was also a devoted follower of Prem Rawat, also known as Maharaji, whose teachings focus on breath awareness and inner peace. Maharaji's meditation techniques, which emphasize the importance of inner experience and personal reflection, had a deep impact on Stuart. His practice of inner spiritual cultivation was supported by CTTB's teachings, practices, and its conducive environment.

Although Stuart did not seek recognition for his contributions, his quiet dedication did not go unnoticed. The community saw him as a man of sincerity and devotion, someone who gave his time and effort freely. His wish was to spend the rest of his life in service to the monastery. That wish was fulfilled as he worked diligently and lived harmoniously within the community. Stuart Lackey's life at CTTB embodied service and spiritual commitment. Though his time with the community was relatively short, spanning just over seven years, his contributions were important. He found in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas not just a new home after the loss of Harbin Hot Springs, but a place of peace and purpose where he could continue his spiritual journey.

As we reflect on Stuart's life, we honor not only his work but also the quiet, humble way in which he lived his life. His dedication to CTTB and his own personal spiritual growth will continue to be remembered by our community. As he continues his journey after this life, may he continue to find the peace and refuge he so earnestly sought and, ultimately, found at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. ❀

他對道場有許多重要貢獻。初來乍到，史都華便和其他志工聯手完成寺院緊急維修工作。身為警衛，史都華對維護聖城的校內安全認真負責。除了保全職責，他也協助社區的日常運作，幫忙垃圾清理和回收分類。疫情期間，人手不足，史都華也支援播放午齋宣公上人開示。這些法音在封城期間，非常鼓舞大眾士氣。他默默付出，確保這些重要卻常被忽視的細節順利運作。

史都華全心投入修行。他晚年來到萬佛城，尋求一個能夠遠離塵囂、安定身心的歸依處。他將萬佛城視為聖地，一個可以潛心修行的處所。儘管初聞法音，但他好樂佛法，精進趨向菩提之道。

史都華的靈性修行並不限於佛教，他也是普仁羅華（也稱為瑪哈拉吉，其教義側重於呼吸的覺察與內心的平靜）的忠實信徒。馬哈拉吉的禪修強調自我觀照與自省，這對史都華影響深遠。而他的內在修持則有萬佛城的家風、修行法門及清淨道場為基石。

儘管史都華做事不求得到表揚，但他無私的奉獻從未被忽略。社區住眾認為他為人熱忱，行菩薩道。他的心願是將其餘生奉獻道場，他在勤奮做工、與住眾和合中滿願。史都華在萬佛城的生活實踐了服務即修行。儘管他在道場只有短短七年的時間，但貢獻深遠。在失去哈濱溫泉的住所後，他在萬佛城不僅找到新的避風港，也找到能夠繼續精進的心靈處所與目標。

我們緬懷史都華·樂基，不僅感謝他為道場的付出，也對他謙遜的生活態度致敬。他對萬佛城的奉獻與他的精進修持，我們將銘記於心。如今，他已步入下一個旅程，祈願他得遇如同最終在萬佛城所找到的安寧與歸宿。 ❀