

天福宮

Thian Hock Keng

e-newsletter



Taiwan Dajia Jenn Lann Temple Mazu Cultural Festival 2017 台湾大甲镇澜宫 妈祖文化节 2017

Thian Hock Keng participated in the Commencement Ceremony of the *Mazu* Cultural Festival 2017



organized by Dajia Jenn Lann Temple, Taichung, Taiwan (台中大甲镇澜宫) on 24 March 2017. The delegation of 15 devotees was there at the invitation of Taichung temple and joined the more than 800 other foreign delegations to witness the start of a 9-day-8-night pilgrimage. The 15 devotees also visited 6 other temples in Taiwan over 4 days including the 330-year old Tainan Grand Matsu temple (台南祀典大天后宫) and Taipei Baoan Temple (台北保安宫) to network and share practices.



Celebrating the Birthday of Heavenly Sage Bao Sheng 保生大帝诞



Heavenly Sage Bao Sheng was a highly skilled physician. He dedicated his entire life to healing the sick and saving people's lives. He was believed to have fallen to his death when searching for herbs in the mountains.

Devotees worship Him for good health and to keep ailments away.

Thian Hock Keng celebrates the birthday of the Heavenly Sage Bao Sheng on 11 April 2017 (丁酉年农历三月十五) with Buddhist prayers. Interested devotees can register to participate in the rituals to seek blessings and good health for their loved ones.

The Sun God 太阳公 and The Moon Goddess 月宫娘娘

Tai Yang Gong (The Sun God) patrols the Heaven and the Earth, divides the Day and Night, and provides Light to brighten the world to destroy Darkness, Diseases and Enemies. The Sun God is one of the Protector Deities of the world.



Yue Gong Niang Niang (The Moon Goddess) brings brightness, and it is also the brightest in the night sky. According to legend, the Moon Goddess would disguise as a fair maiden and descend from heaven to earth. She fulfills wishes and answers requests for those who meet her. Thus she is regarded as a commoners' Goddess. Nowadays, young girls regard her as a matchmaker and pray to her to find good husbands, while married women pray for happy marriages as well as personal beauty and youthfulness.

Traditional Hokkien String Puppets 传统福建提线木偶



Traditional Puppet Show (传统提线木偶戏) is a form of performance or theatre that involves the manipulation of puppets to tell a story. Chinese puppet shows have a long history that goes all the way back to The Three Kingdoms and has become an art. Today, not many troupes performing this art are left.

Thian Hock Keng continues to preserve this traditional art and puts up Hokkien String Puppet shows during important festivals such as Chinese New Year (eve and 1st day of CNY) and the Birthday of Mazu. Catch the shows at Thian Hock Keng on 19 April 2017 at 10.30am and 12.30pm.

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