

# CHINESE COMMUNITY CELEBRATES



## Indiana Association of Chinese Americans (IACA)



Grandma Phoebe Jung post with the kids who received Hung Bao from her



Close to 140 IACA members and guests enjoyed a scrumptious 10 course banquet at Sichuan Garden

## Indiana Chinese Community Center (ICCCI)



ICCCI Choir serenades the audience



ICCCI's talented young dancers accompanied by soprano

## Columbus Chinese Association (CCA)



Group photo of CCA council and IAAT Staff



CCA Young showing their sword dance on stage

## First Free Chinese Methodist Church



First Free Chinese Methodist Church Pastor serving the Chinese congregation traditional goodies



Gu-Zheng and Erhu entertained the congregation

# PRESIDENTS' DAY

"Let him who looks for a monument to Washington look around the United States. Your freedom, your independence, your national power, your prosperity, and your prodigious growth are a monument to him." -Louis Kossuth



Presidents' (President's) Day is a holiday honoring George Washington. He was born on February 22, 1732. He valiantly commanded the American Continental Army in its drawn out and ultimately successful struggle in the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). In 1787, Washington, together with other leading legislators at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, created and ratified the United States Constitution. On April 30, 1789, he took office as the first president of the United States. He successfully guided the new nation through its first eight years, establishing a strong federal government.

As for foreign policy, Washington diplomatically kept the nation out of the conflict between France and England by staying in a neutral position in 1790s. He is called the "Father of Our Country," and is a symbol of honor, dignity and honesty. Washington once said, "In executing the duties of my present important station, I can promise nothing but purity of intentions, and, in carrying these into effect, fidelity and diligence." The U.S. Congress declared Washington's Birthday a federal holiday on January 31, 1879 to honor the first president. In 1885, President Chester Arthur signed a legislation officially making Washington's Birthday a federal holiday.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. He was sworn in as the sixteenth president of the United States on March 4, 1861. He took an overwhelming role as commander-in-chief in the Civil War (1861-1865), fought between the North (Union states) and the South (Confederate states). On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation, considered as his most significant action as president, which paved the way for the Thirteenth Amendment (Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction). He achieved the remarkable success of preserving the Union and abolishing slavery. Abraham Lincoln wrote, "I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosoms until there shall no longer be a doubt that all men are created free and equal."

On April 14, 1865, while Lincoln was attending at Ford's Theater in Washington, John Wilkes Booth shot him in the back of his head. The president passed away the next day. Lincoln's birthday was celebrated after his assassination; however, it was not honored as a federal holiday.

In 1968, the congress passed the legislation, "Monday Holidays Act", placing existing federal holidays to be observed on Mondays to create a number of three-day weekends for the federal employees. This act was meant to simplify the yearly calendar of holidays



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and promote American's spiritual and economic life. Consequently, enactment of the Monday Holiday Act moved the commemoration of Washington's Birthday from February 22 to the third Monday in February. The name of the federal holiday, Washington's Birthday, however, has never been changed by a Congressional stipulation. And George Washington is the only president whose birthday is legally observed.

Many states have been celebrating Lincoln's birthday as a public holiday; however, it was never proclaimed a federal holiday. After the "Monday Holidays Act" became effective in 1971, it has been gradually and mistakenly believed that the day had been legally changed from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day for the observance of the two presidents' birthdays together. Oftentimes, people consider Presidents' Day as a day honoring the legacies of all the presidents. There have been 44 presidents of the United States. The five living presidents are: George H.W. Bush, Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

Presidents' Day is traditionally regarded as a time of patriotic celebration and remembrance. Around Presidents' Day, schools, particularly grade and middle schools, time and again teach students about the presidents of the United States. For the observance of Presidents' Day, many communities stage pageants, patriotic parades and reenactments of significant events in the life of George Washington. For instance, Alexandria hosts a weekend of celebration each year during Presidents' Day Weekend, which includes history tours, open house at several historic sites and a banquet and ball, as well as the largest Washington Birthday Parade in the United States. At Mount Vernon, the cherished home of George Washington, celebration includes breakfast with George Washington and America's Smallest Hometown Parade. At Colonial Williamsburg, festivity includes special interactive activities and performances, a Sunday afternoon Salute to the Presidents at Market Square featuring the popular Fifes and Drums. Many of the birthday observance activities and events are also held at The National Park Service.

Washington and Lincoln have still been the two most recognized presidents of the United States. Nevertheless, nowadays the holiday is popularly understood as a day to honor the lives and achievements of all the American presidents.

# 2015: Municipal Election Year



Jim Perron is a board member of China Journal Indiana Inc., the 501c3 organization which operates IAAT. Jim is currently the Director of Project Development at United Water in Indianapolis. Jim has also served as Mayor of Elkhart Indiana for 16 years.

### Candidate Roundup: Key Mayor's Races

Now that the February 7 filing deadline has come and gone, the next big date to look to is the May 5 Primary Election. IAAT takes a look at the key Mayor's races in the Indy Metro area:

#### Indianapolis Mayor

- Jocelyn Tandy-Adande (R)
- Terry Michael (R)
- Darrell Morris (R)
- Lawrence Shouse (R)
- Charles (Chuck) Brewer (R)
- Larry Vaughn (D)
- Joseph Hoggsett (D)

#### Carmel Mayor

- Mayor Jim Brainard (R)
- Rick Sharp (R)

#### Noblesville Mayor

- Mayor John Ditslear (R)
- Mike Corbett (R)

#### Westfield Mayor

- Mayor Andy Cook (R)
- Jeff Harpe (R)

#### Fishers Mayor

- Mayor Scott Fadness (R)

#### Beech Grove Mayor

- Mayor Dennis Buckley (D)
- Richard Byland (D)
- Edward McDonald (R)

#### Lawrence Mayor

- Mayor Dean Jessup (D)
- Linda Treat (D)
- Steven Collier (R)
- Lana Schneider (R)

#### Southport Mayor

- Mayor Jesse Testruth (R)
- Ronald Baumgart (R)

The Primary Election is where the party nominees are chosen to face off in the November 3 General Election. They are important and especially so in the Hamilton County cities of Carmel, Noblesville, Westfield, and Fishers that are predominantly Republican. The winner in those races often is, in effect the Mayor for the coming four-year term.

IAAT will continue to give update and details on these vital municipal elections in the weeks leading up to the Primary and General elections ahead.

# TEENS' PERSPECTIVE

## Dealing with Differences

by Steve Wang



Visiting student at Park Tudor High School. Steve is a sophomore from Beijing No. 4 High School International Campus. Thank you Steve for sharing his Indy experience with our readers.

Today's the 14th day since my arrival to America. Two weeks might not be enough to fit in a new environment, but it's definitely plenty of time to feel the differences between two countries.

Being a student, the first thing I noticed is the fact that, we have different education styles. Primarily, in America, students walk to their teacher's classrooms, but in China, we do it conversely, the teachers walk, and the student are always in their home room. Secondary, American students have more free periods for sports and activities while original Chinese student spent most of their time in studying and solving math problems. You might say, American students are developing more skills than Chinese students. Yes, but somehow while Chinese students mostly focuses on

their study, they generally receive better math skills and higher test scores for college. However, though the American learning style seems to work more comprehensive and is accepted by more people. We still can't say it's better than the Chinese style, and that the Chinese style is wrong. It's just different. Every element of a country influences each other, the most appropriate way is not always the best way. For a country with 1.3 billion people, comparing test scores might be the most appropriate and easy way to enroll students. Of course, there will absolutely be more reasons that caused this kind of education style. After all, this kind of education has existed for more than a thousand years, it's age have already proved it as the most appropriate style for a country like China. Therefore, America's education style must be formed according to the definition of country too. In general, many things aren't as simple as you think, especially things that has relationships with history and culture.

Indeed, judging is wrong, but learning good things is always right, learning what is good and appropriate, as a famous writer has said, "take what is useful and throw away what is not applicable" is what we should be really doing and experiencing during our visit.