

KEEPING INDIANA BEAUTIFUL

By Dr. Benny Ko

Each year, KIB supports an average of 500 community improvement projects with more than 30,000 volunteers. For the past three decades, KIB partnered with neighborhoods, the public sector, and Indianapolis community groups and businesses to achieve KIB's vision for a beautiful city.

The young volunteers hailed from a number of different schools and churches and there was a large contingent from Butler University. Some were doing jumping jack to stay warm while others were chatting among themselves; all were eager for action. Adult volunteers came from every corner of the city, a couple of young ladies whom I spoke with had come clear across town from Castleton. I picked out a couple that seemed to be about my own age and suggested that we should work together and it turned out they were from my neighborhood. I told them there were only seventy some trees and close to a hundred volunteers and if each of us is to have a planted tree that we can name, we would better work as a team. At that instant, a team of three was formed that some later thought we have always worked together.

An excellent tree planting demonstration was given by a young lady named Molly, one of several tree experts provided by KIB. After that, everybody became an expert, or at least thought they were one. At the end of two hours, all trees were in the ground, the three of us had planted four trees. Each was secretly named and adopted for the purpose of follow-up care; for example, we will occasionally come by to re-check the protective fence, erected to protect the sapling

against hungry deer. I was able to name one after my wife who couldn't be there because of a severe cold. After the planting, there were protective fence to be put up around each tree. Since my teammates had to leave, a gentleman from Zionsville asked if I would like to join him in driving fence posts. Initially it seemed fun to lift up the manual post-driver, a metallic gadget that weighs about twenty pounds, and dropping it to pound the post into the ground. After ten or twelve posts, the fun dissipated and the arms could hardly raise anymore. A young black man with an easy smile tapped on my shoulder and said, "Would you let me help?"

Finally, entire project came to a resoundingly successful conclusion. Everyone was high-fiving everyone else, teammates were hugging each other, passing out water bottles to one another. I came back in the afternoon after everybody has long gone. The seventy some trees just stood there silently bearing witness to a community that has come together and empowered to make things happen.

I showed up as a lone individual that morning and went home at noon with a hundred new friends. Comes hell or high water, I shall not fear for I know there is always the Lord and a community behind my back. Then this eureka moment came to me and allow me to share: If a young person knows he belongs to the community he lives in, you cannot radicalize him to do it harm. To inoculate one's child against an evil ideology, parents should encourage them to interact with and be a participant in their own community. And there is no simpler way of doing it than to lead by parental example.



Benny Ko mulching



What a beautiful tree



KIB volunteers at the job site

GOVERNOR PENCE SUSPENDS RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN INDIANA

Following reports that a Syrian refugee was among the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks that took place in Paris on Friday, Governor Mike Pence issued the following statement:

"In the wake of the horrific attacks in Paris, effective immediately, I am directing all state agencies to suspend the resettlement of additional Syrian refugees in the state of Indiana pending assurances from the federal government that proper security measures have been achieved. Indiana has a long tradition of opening our arms and homes to refugees from around the world

but, as governor, my first responsibility is to ensure the safety and security of all Hoosiers. Unless and until the state of Indiana receives assurances that proper security measures are in place, this policy will remain in full force and effect."

The Refugee Resettlement Office in the Division of Family Resources in the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) administers the Syrian resettlement program.

Source: Governor Pence's Office

2015: MUNICIPAL ELECTION YEAR CENTRAL INDIANA WRAP-UP

By Jim Perron

Now that the municipal elections are over here is a look at the winners and losers on races we focused on in this space since May primaries:

- Indianapolis:** it was a landslide for Democrat Joe Hogsett over Republican Chuck Brewer.
- Columbus:** Republican Jim Lienhoop was unopposed after his Primary victory over incumbent Mayor Kristen Brown.
- Bloomington:** Democrat John Hamilton was an overwhelming victor over his Republican opponent John Turnbull to become the new Mayor.
- Evansville:** Incumbent Mayor Lloyd Winnecke scored a large win over State Representative Gail Riecken earning him a second term.
- Terre Haute:** Mayor Duke Bennett narrowly won a third term over Democrat Mark Bird, a Vigo County Councilman.
- West Lafayette:** Mayor John Dennis, a Republican, was virtually unopposed in both the Primary and General elections moving him to a third consecutive term.
- Muncie:** the same was true for Democrat Mayor Dennis Tyler as he goes on to his second term.
- Anderson:** considered one of the biggest surprise upsets in the entire State that no one really saw coming was Democrat Tom Broderick's win over Republican Kevin Smith the incumbent Mayor. The new Mayors take office at the beginning of January 2016 and serve a term of four years. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who ran and participated in the process!

GODDESSES OF CHINA

"If with kindly generosity one merely has the wish to soothe the aching hearts of other beings, such merit has no bounds." -Guan Yin



The origin of Guan Yin 觀音 can be traced to the male Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara (the lord who looks upon the world with compassion) in India, introduced into China during the first century, and eventually transformed into a goddess. The Chinese literary translation of Avalokitesvara is Guan Shi Yin 觀世音. Guan Yin is the most revered goddess in China and throughout Asia. She is an extremely compassionate Buddhist deity, who had achieved enlightenment worthy of nirvana (the beatitude that transcends the cycle of reincarnation; characterized by the extinction of desire and suffering and individual consciousness). After hearing the cries from the sufferings, she chose to remain in this world to help mankind. She is merciful, rescuing people from dangers, alleviating sufferings, eliminating fear and hardship, protecting humans from harm, supporting the distressed and hungry, comforting the troubled and the lost, healing the sick and advocating for the unfortunate, the disabled and the poor. She is the patron deity of sailors, fishermen, farmers and travelers. She also has the power of granting children to childless women. Guan Yin is generally portrayed as a graceful, celestial lady dressed in a white flowing robe. She is holding a Buddhist rosary in one hand. In the other hand, she is either holding a book (The Lotus Sutra) or a vase containing holy water, the divine nectar of life, which is a symbol of her pouring compassion onto the humans on earth.

Every year, there are 3 celebrations dedicated to Guan Yin: her birthday, her enlightenment day and her day of reaching nirvana (renunciation) on the 19th day of the second, sixth and ninth lunar month respectively. Worshippers attend ceremonies at temples, where they make offerings including donations, joss sticks, incense, flowers, fruits, rice and pink peach cakes. They pray to Guan Yin for good health, longevity, safety and being free from suffering. By commemorating Guan Yin, we should try our best to follow her attitude of performing acts of kindness to our fellow human beings, particularly for those who are in peril and suffering without discrimination.

Mazu 媽祖 is a popular Chinese deity worshipped by people since the Song dynasty. She was born in Meizhou in Fujian Province on the 23rd day of the third lunar month 960 CE. At birth, she did not cry albeit healthy; thus her parents named her Lin Mo 林



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer, he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

默. "Mo 默" means silent. Mazu is regarded as the patron deity of the sea. She would rescue fishermen and sailors from storms, typhoons and other tragedies at sea.

The legend goes that Lin Mo had the superpower to forecast the weather and the sea conditions. Many a time she rescued seafarers in peril. She also possessed a broad medical knowledge, curing people of their diseases. Unfortunately, she passed away at the young age of twenty-eight. She ascended to heaven and became a divinity or immortal. Since then, she has been seen travelling around the country, rescuing fishermen and sailors in distress. Countless fishermen and sailors testified that their lives were saved by Mazu. She dressed in a red robe or made the appearance as a bright light to calm storms and prevent disasters. In sculpture, she is dressed in a bejeweled robe, wearing an imperial cap with hanging beads, and holding either a ceremonial tablet or a staff adorned with jewels.

Mazu was highly recognized for her compassion and purity as well as her supernatural powers and miracles. Emperors of various dynasties bestowed her honorary titles, including "Queen of Heaven 天后". Mazu is also worshiped in cities and nations with a large Chinese population. Many Mazu temples have been built. Every year, on Mazu's birthday and the anniversary of her death, devotees attend worship at Mazu temples to pay tribute to her.

The worship of Mazu has evolved from a folklore belief into a folklore culture, the Mazu culture that encompasses many disciplines in politics, diplomacy, economic and cultural exchanges with foreign nations. It also covers the areas of history, religion, folklore, mythologies, legend, navigation, sea voyage, science, architecture, arts and literature. The customs of Mazu worshipping, such as Mazu bun, Mazu figures on boats and sacrifices prior to sailing are also the significant parts of the culture. In 2009, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Mazu belief and customs as "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

SALUTE TO IAAT VOLUNTEERS

Over forty IAAT volunteers and board members gathered on Sunday Nov 8 and enjoyed an evening of friendship and celebrated each other's devotion, talents, commitment of time and effort to serve our community at the home of a board member. IAAT has been serving the community since 2004, it isoperated under the direction of a board of directors of a non-profit organization and is totally supported by sponsors and volunteers. IAAT volunteers consist of reporters/writers, columnists, photographers, graphic designs, page layout, website design and maintenance, editors, public relations and distribution.

The evening is filled with laughters and appreciation of each other and enjoyed many favorite dishes prepared by our volunteers. Several student volunteers and interns brought their cheers from IU Bloomington. Mandarin House Restaurant in Carmel also show their appreciation by donating couple of their signature dishes when the owner Lily was told about the appreciation dinner.

During this Thanksgiving season, IAAT sincerely thanks all who supported us through the years!

于十一月八日这个周日，四十餘位印州華報的志願者與董事會成員在位董事的家里度過了一個共享友誼的夜晚，互相了解志願者的天賦才情，共同慶祝了同人與會者對服務我們的社區持之以恆的努力。自從2004年以來印州華報就為服務社區默默付出，處於非營利性的董事機構的領導下，華報的運行與全部支持都來自贊助與志願者。華報的志願者們多才多藝，由記者與作家，專欄作家與攝影師，圖片編輯與版面編輯，還有網頁的設計與維護者，編輯們與公共關係公關人員等諸多成員組成。

晚宴間充斥着歡快的气氛和相互之間的欣賞，由我們的志願者們準備的各種食物得到了一致的歡迎。布魯明頓印第安納大學的學生志願者和實習生的到來令人愉快。卡梅爾的京園餐廳在老闆娘莉莉聽到了酬謝晚宴時，也貢獻了他們的一些招牌菜作為他們對華報的支持。

值此感恩節之際，印州華報誠摯的感謝所有一如既往支持我們華報的人士及讀者！



Digging into our scrumptious dinner

Thank you IAAT Volunteers!

From:

The Mandarin House Restaurant
1368 South Rangeline Road
Carmel, IN 36032

317- 846-6405



IAAT volunteers



IUB student volunteers and interns