

India Association of Indianapolis Welcome Dinner



IAI Raju Chinthala & IAAT Agnes Wolverton and Jane Gehlhausen

Temple of Central Indiana, Gurudwaras, BAPS, Malayalee Association, Mallige Kannada Kootami, Tamil Sangam, Bichitra, Maharashtra Sneha Mandal, Greater Indianapolis Telugu Association (GITA), Gujarati Samaj of Indiana, Indianapolis Hyderabad Sister City Committee (IHSCC), Art of Living, Muslim Alliance of Indiana, The Indian Christian Fellowship, Ekal Vidyalaya, Carnatic Music Association of Indianapolis, Indian Student Association-IUPUI, Eli Lilly LINK, North South Foundation (NSF), Sathya Sai Baba Center of Indianapolis, Yoga Mitra Mandal, Nationalities Council of Indiana, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh, Al Salam Foundation, International Marketplace Coalition, International Center of Indianapolis, Asian American Indiana PAC, Pakistan American

Friendship Association (PAFA).
Main purpose of the dinner introduce new leaders to community and network with other partnering organizations.
About IAI: www.myiai.org

Indianapolis Indian Community Leaders Welcome-Dinner 2016 was hosted by India Association of Indianapolis (IAI) on March 19th, 2016 at 6:30PM at Embassy Suites by Hilton. Many Special guests and several committee members attended from IAI, Hindu

Register now to vote in your state's Primary Election

One of the best ways to get involved in your community is to make your voice heard at the ballot box by voting for officials to represent you in both your state capital and in Washington, D.C.

IAAT encourages you to make a difference in your community this year by voting in your state's primary election. The primary will determine who appears on the ballot in the Nov. 8 general election. All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, one-third of the seats in the U.S. Senate, 12 governorships, and thousands of state and local seats are being contested in the fall election.

Registration deadlines for Indiana primary elections is 4/4/2016

State Primary Election is 5/3/2016

Registering to vote takes just a few minutes of your time. You can get information about your state's registration guidelines by visiting the Government Relations voter resource site.

Voting early

All states offer some form of voting by absentee ballot



for those voters who aren't able to make it to the polls on Election Day. Many states also allow registered voters to vote before Election Day for any reason. For more information about absentee and early voting, please visit the Government Relations voter resource

Manning: 'I'll Always Be A Colt'



Just over a week removed from Peyton Manning's retirement after an 18-year NFL career, the Indianapolis Colts are honoring their former quarterback. Owner Jim Irsay has announced a statue of Manning will be built at Lucas Oil Stadium and the team is retiring Manning's number 18 jersey.

Irsay choked up while reading the declaration of the jersey retirement. He said it was hard to put into words what Manning has meant to him and the team.

"The journey we went on with Peyton under center for the Colts was just incredibly special in every way, shape or form on the field (and) off the field," said Irsay. "I just can't say enough for what he has meant to this franchise, to this city and state."

Before reminiscing about his favorite memories in Indianapolis, Manning was seemingly speechless at Irsay's announcement. "It was my honor and privilege to play for this organization for 14 years. This was the team that I wanted to play for. I was glad that you all drafted me and I'll always be a Colt. I can't tell you how special this news is to me."

When asked what he would do next, Manning said outside of previously-made commitments through the spring and summer, he didn't know what he was going to do. He said he'd like to attend a New York Giants game to see his brother play and visit his alma mater to catch a University of Tennessee game.

Irsay called the announcement very special, especially considering former coach Tony Dungy will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame this summer.

State of Indiana Seeking Nominations Mr. and Miss Math and Science Awards

Governor Mike Pence today announced the State of Indiana is accepting nominations for the 2016 Mr. and Miss Math and Mr. and Miss Science awards. These honors recognize up to four outstanding high school seniors for their exemplary performance in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Winning students receive \$1,000 college scholarships through Indiana's CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan.

"Once again, we are pleased to recognize Hoosier students excelling in science, technology, engineering, and math with college scholarships through our annual Mr. and Miss Math and Science awards," said Governor Pence. "Indiana's tremendous growth in the STEM field underscores the importance of fostering home-grown talent in the field and scholarship programs such as this serve to further that end."

Indiana's Mr. and Miss Math and Science awards honor the top high school seniors in STEM classes, as well as extracurricular activities, work/research projects, leadership roles, and community service. The nominations will be reviewed by a panel of STEM experts, including teachers, college and university instructors, and staff from the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Education Roundtable.

Governor Pence will announce Indiana's Mr. and Miss Math and Mr. and Miss Science in May. Nominations for the awards can be submitted at <https://secure.in.gov/apps/mathscienceawards/>. The deadline for nominations is 11:59 p.m. EST on April 10, 2016. Source: Governor's office

New Area Code Transition Period Begins

Source: Inside Indiana Business Andy Ober, Assistant Managing Editor

The six-month transition period for those in the 317 area code to begin using 10-digit dialing is underway. The state is asking consumers to begin using 10 digits for 317 calls to prepare for the addition of a new area code this fall.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor says local calls made with either seven or 10 digits will work through September 16 to give people the opportunity to adjust to the change. Beginning September 17, 10-digit dialing will be mandatory for local calls.

The new 463 area code will be added to the region

this fall. Starting in October, new numbers in the region may be assigned the new area code. The "overlay" method, involves the 463 area code overlaying the entire 317 region, has been used for all new area code additions throughout the United States since 2008. It was used last year in southern Indiana with the new 930 area code overlaying the 812 area code region.

The OUCC says the change does not require



Easter 复活节



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.

BY DR. PATRICK LAU

"'Twas Easter-Sunday. The full-blossomed trees filled all the air with fragrance and with joy." ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Easter is a holiday to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death by crucifixion. It is the most important holy day of Christianity. Christian churches celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox on March 21. Thus Easter is observed between March 22 and April 25 annually. It falls on March 27th this year.

Jesus traveled to Jerusalem with his disciples to celebrate Passover. Most people in the city cheerfully greeted him, calling Him "Jesus is King". Some individuals were outraged that an ordinary person was praised as the king; they conspired to kill Him. Condemning Jesus of blasphemy, guilty of offending God, the Jewish high priests and elders of the Sanhedrin handed down a death sentence. Jesus was then taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor in Judea, who did not find Jesus guilty. However, fearing the crowds, he let them decide the verdict. Emotionally provoked by the chief priests, the crowds shouted "Crucify him". Jesus was crucified and died on the cross on Friday. Good Friday is observed in remembrance of Jesus's execution.

Jesus's disciples laid His body in a cave tomb; they also placed a large boulder to block the entrance. When Mary Magdalene returned on Sunday, the boulder had been moved, and Jesus's body disappeared. He had resurrected. Later, He revealed Himself to His disciples and friends that He had been with His father in heaven, and He would return to earth.

Some sources state that the word Easter derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. This Pagan festival of Eostre had been celebrated as a spring festival with bountiful feast and other rituals

on the day of the vernal equinox. Later, the Christian church transformed the Pagan festival to a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Protestant settlers brought the customs of Easter to the United States.

Easter egg is the notable symbol of Easter. Egg was regarded sacred during the pagan celebrations of Eostre, because life was sustained within the egg. In the philosophy of various cultures in the world, egg signifies rebirth and new life. Early Christians colored eggs red to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ. One of the most popular Easter customs is the egg hunt. Parents hide dyed eggs in the house or the yard for the children to find. Churches also hold Easter egg hunts to entertain children; the colorful eggs, however, are made of plastic with candies usually chocolate inside. Furthermore, children roll hard-boiled Easter eggs down hills or down a slope to watch if they reach the bottommost area without breaking the egg shells. Annually, the most well-known egg roll event is held on the White House lawn.

Some scholars claim that the legend of the Easter Bunny originated in pre-Christian Germany around the 13th century. The rabbit was the earthly symbol of Eostre, due to the fact that a rabbit's high reproduction rate is at springtime. In 1700s, German immigrants brought this legend to the United States. They started making nests and placed dyed eggs in them; this had evolved into the tradition of Easter baskets with colorful eggs. They also baked rabbit-shaped cakes for the celebration of Easter; they might have initiated the custom of chocolate Easter bunnies.

The traditional Easter food is ham. Another customary food during Easter is hot cross buns which are traditionally consumed on Good Friday by Christians. A hot cross bun is a sweet, yeast-leavened bun made of raisins with a cross decorated on the top as a symbol of the crucifix.

In Catholic and Protestant churches, the Easter celebrations include baptism, the Eucharist, feasting, and greetings of "Christ is risen!" and "He is risen indeed!" Churches often adorn the altars with Easter lilies to venerate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter lily symbolizes purity, joy, hope and life. It also emulates rebirth. These flowers are also bestowed to families and friends as gifts for the occasion. Millions of Easter cards are being sent annually. Easter parades are traditionally held in many cities.

The resurrection of Christ is a significant part of Christian belief; it is associated with salvation. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Easter is also a symbol of hope, renewal and new life. Someone said, "The spirit of Easter is all about hope, love, and joyful living."

Happy Easter!

Why holiday is important



Hannah Martin is currently a senior at Butler University. Hannah was adopted from Jiangxi, China when she was a baby and grew up in Winfield, Illinois. Hannah has a double major in Arts Administration and Chinese Language and Culture. She studied abroad twice while at Butler. Her dream job is to create and be the director of her own American Culture Center in China.

apartment complexes to see family members. It was great! I ate so much good food and too much food. The experience made me feel like I was a part of their family.

While being in China gave me the chance to experience holidays not celebrated in the U.S., studying abroad simultaneously prevented me from celebrating my family's traditional holidays. For example, I completely forgot to give up something for Lent. I was eating a meat dish in my cafeteria one Friday and suddenly remembered that it was March and I should be eating fish. While my mom said being abroad was a reasonable excuse to forget, I still felt terrible about forgetting my Catholic culture.

Lent is not an enjoyable holiday but I liked having that time to better myself and bond with my family on our 40-day challenge. Noticing that I forgot about Lent, brought to light how I would not attend Easter mass that year and eat brunch with my family members. Not celebrating these holidays will never be a deal breaker to not go abroad again but they are things that make me realize why holidays are important.

This year, my holidays were more important than they have ever been in the past. As a senior, I spent my year counting of the last of many things: Last First Day of School, Last Three week Christmas vacation... Each last made me reflect on how these holidays will shorten in the next year and also be the only chance for me to see my family. Instead of going to Chinatown with my parents for Chinese New Year, I will probably be making misshaped dumplings alone at home. It is sad but also forces me to value the short time I get to spend with my family.

As Easter weekend arrives, I reflect more on how holidays become a time for me to reconnect. In my family, December to April is a busy holiday season. We celebrate Christmas, American New Years, Chinese New Year, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter within five months. Each holiday requires different decorations, travel requirements, guests, and eating traditions.

As a child these holidays, except for Chinese New Year and St. Patrick's Day, were opportunities to not go to school, spend the day with friends and receive presents. However, after traveling abroad in China and preparing for my post-graduation life, the significance of my family's holiday season has changed.

When I was doing my Fulbright in China, it was my first time celebrating a non-Western holiday. On Chinese New Year's Eve, it was amazing to make dumpling with my host-grandma and travel between

Retreat for Asian Youth 2016

Asian American Alliance, Inc. invites high school students of Asian heritage in the Indianapolis area to participate in the Retreat for Asian Youth (RAY) on Saturday, March 5th. RAY is an opportunity for Asian youth to network, make new friends, and discover how they can make a difference in our community. There is no cost to attend this event. Call 317-258-0468 for more information.

When: Saturday April 23rd, 2016 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Where: Crossroads Bible College
601 N. Shortridge Road, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Register: <http://www.aaalliance.org/RETREAT-FOR-ASIAN-YOUTH>
Visit us on Facebook to find out more about the event:
Retreat for Asian Youth



Asian American Leadership Scholarship

Asian American Alliance has donated over \$ 75,000 in various scholarships in Central Indiana. The scholarship is awarded to High School students of Asian Heritage from Central Indiana who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and community service leadership.

Deadline May 20th 2016. For application check out <https://asianamericanalliance.wufoo.com/forms/asian-leadership-scholarship-2016/>