

# INDEPENDENCE DAY



Community spirit was in full swing during this year's July 4th parade in Carmel. Two Chinese-American organizations teamed up this year to celebrate our nation's birthday. The two teams, Indiana Association of Chinese Americans Inc. (IACA) and Indianapolis Chinese Performance Art Inc. (ICPAI) showed off their colors and spirits marching together over 2 miles of parade route. Although the weather forecast threatened rain, but Mother-nature showed her kindness providing clear blue sky during the parade.

The teams gathered around 9am at the northside parking lot of Merchant Square in Carmel under the coordination of Dr. Kwan Hui, councilor and past president of IACA. His leadership pulled the teams together and delivered a seamless parade performance.

The joint team led the group with their banners following the decorated motor vehicle driven by IACA youth. IACA flag bearers proudly wave the nation's Old Glory walking with the cheering team members as the energetic IACA Lion Dance team. The team danced with four lions this year winning applause from the parade viewers especially the youngsters who had a chance to interact with the "Lion". ICPAI dance troupe dressed in their bright and cheery costumes entertained the audience with their well-rehearsed Drum Dance routine.

The community spirit demonstrated by the joint team was FIREWORKS under the sun!

Photos courtesy of Quyen Hoang, IACA Report by IACA member



IACA and ICPAI group photo before parade



Banner leading the way



ICPAI Drum Dancers



LACA Drummer & cheering team proudly waving the Old Glory



Lion dancers engaging the young audience

# GUAN GONG

五夜何人能秉燭，九州無處不焚香。  
志在春秋功在漢，心同日月義同天。



Guan Yu 關羽 was posthumously bestowed the honorable title, Guan Gong 關公 (Lord Guan). He was born on the 24th day of the 7th lunar month in the year 162 CE. The celebration of Guan Gong's birthday falls on July 17, this year. He was a powerful warrior, named the top of the Five Tiger Generals 五虎將. He was the sworn brother of Liu Bei 劉備 and Zhang Fei 張飛.

At the late Han (East Han) dynasty, the Emperor had lost his control of the country. There were several strong feudal lords and court officials' power struggling to gain control of the throne. The peasants suffered from an economy downturn, power abuse and government corruption; consequently, they organized to rebel against the government. The most prominent one was dubbed the 'Yellow Turbans Rebellion' 黃巾起義. Eventually, warlord Cao Cao 曹操 declared that he ruled the Kingdom of Wei 魏; and Sun Quan 孫權, the Kingdom of Wu 吳. Liu Bei proclaimed himself the emperor of Shu 蜀; being a distant relative to the Han Emperor's family, Liu attempted to restore the Han Dynasty. His kingdom was also referred as Shu-Han 蜀漢. This occurrence was consequently labeled as the Three Kingdoms period 三國時代 (220-280 CE).

Guan Yu served as Liu Bei's top general. Together with Zhang Fei, they defeated the rebellions and vowed to reestablish the Han Dynasty. As a general, Guan Yu was recognized for his exceptional bravery and integrity. As an individual, he was esteemed for his loyalty and righteousness. Battles were fought among the three kingdoms, sharing victories and defeats. Once, Guan Yu was captured by Cao Cao's force. Cao Cao highly respected him and made him a general after his concession of defeat. Loyal to Liu Bei, Guan Yu later resigned and rejoined his sworn brother, albeit Cao Cao offered him rich reward. During a battle with Wu's warriors in 219, Guan Yu was captured. After he refused to surrender and renounce his loyalty to Liu Bei, Sun Quan beheaded him.

Guan Gong is often portrayed as a tall, robust warrior in green armor (sometimes in a robe) with a red face



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.

and a long black beard. He carries his invented weapon which is a large broad blade mounted on a long handle, called guan dao 關刀. Red face symbolizes loyalty, devotion and faithfulness.

Gradually Guan Gong evolved to become a deity in Chinese folklore. Police and military forces and even gangsters worship him; because loyalty is his most valued character. Many Chinese shopkeepers and restaurateurs set up a shrine in their premises with Guan Gong's picture, worshipping him, hopefully, in return, they would acquire blessings, prosperity and protection from him. Traditionally, it is common in Chinese societies to associate him with the code of righteousness 義, which also encompasses uprightness and justice.

In Buddhism, Guan Gong is honored as Sangharama Bodhisattva 伽藍菩薩, the guardian spirit of Buddha Dharma. The Taoists revere Guan Gong as the God of Literature, God of War, and Martial God of Wealth. They address him, 關聖帝君 (Saintly Emperor Guan). Many Guan Gong temples were built. His legacy is carried on through literature, opera, movies and plays via the narratives of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms 三國演義.

Guan Gong has become the quintessence of loyalty, righteousness, faith, wisdom, benevolence, and courage 忠、義、信、智、仁、勇 that can have a positive impact on us in today's society. Many Chinese communities in large cities around the world worship Guan Gong, building temples and setting up altars or shrines at home.

古人有言：「山東文聖人，山西武聖人。」  
文聖人指孔子，武聖人指關公。

## HISTORIC ARTIFACT EMERGES FROM ROUNDABOUT CONSTRUCTION SITE



A historic artifact, likely dating back to native American settlements in Hamilton County, has been found at the site of a Carmel roundabout project. A City employee found the object – identified as a banner stone – late in the day Thursday, June 29, near the project site at 136th Street and Gray Road. City officials immediately notified the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which investigated the incident and deemed it an isolated find that should not hinder the project unless more artifacts are found.

"It is important to preserve our history as we continue to make progress and grow as a community. That is especially true when it comes to respecting the history of our first settlers in Clay Township," said Mayor Jim Brainard. "That is why we took quick action to assess the incident and contact the proper authorities before proceeding with this project."

The banner stone was found by Josh Kirsh, an engineering administrator for the City, at the edge of construction, sitting on top of dirt near a silt fence. It appeared to be on top of spoil piles left over when a utility company did preliminary work, which included

digging a trench about five-feet deep. Indiana law requires that no work take place within 100 feet of the location of the find until a proper notification is made to DNR and the incident is investigated for evidence of further historically significant finds. In this case, that meant work could continue, but only in the center of the new roundabout. In addition to DNR, the City Engineer's office also contacted Conner Prairie for assistance.

This banner stone could be more than 4,000 years old and is identified as being from the archaic period. Banner stones are thought to have been used for a variety of purposes. They are commonly found in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Noted for their centered hole in the middle, the stones are the subject of debate among archaeologists over their purpose. Some suggest they were used as atlatl weights (for throwing spears) or for certain ceremonies. Others have suggested they were used as tools for drilling or fire-making.

The roundabout project at 136th and Gray should be completed by early August.

## PURDUE TO LAUNCH DATA SCIENCE MAJOR

WEST LAFAYETTE - The head of Purdue University's Department of Computer Science says a new degree offering will place students "at the forefront of an emerging field." Sunil Prabhakar says the major in data science, which will begin in the fall, is a cross between computer science and statistics.

Courses will involve learning key computational methods and statistical techniques. Hao Zhang, head of the Purdue Department of Statistics says "the data science major will open pathways to careers in virtually every area of society, from healthcare, security and sustainability to education, business and economics."

The university says graduates will develop deep analytical thinking skills needed for reliable, intelligent and creative data reasoning.



Lawson Computer Science Building

## SCIENCE AT PLAY COMING TO THE INDIANA STATE MUSEUM

The Indiana State Museum lifts the lid on children's chemistry sets in Science at Play. The exhibition, which draws from the Chemical Heritage Foundation's collection of more than 250 science kits and toys, opens to the public on Saturday, July 22.

Science at Play is the first major museum exhibition to explore the many facets of these miniature laboratories for children. Many of the early chemistry sets were marketed to Depression-era parents as more than the sum of their parts. "One of the interesting things about this exhibit is the way it explores how adult issues, like the politics of the Cold War, influenced children's toys," said Katherine Gould, associate curator of cultural history. "Science toys were developed with

the intention of encouraging kids, especially boys, to pursue careers in chemistry and engineering and contribute to national defense."

The exhibition looks at how the kits evolved over the years, from early sets that focused on the science of magic, to those full of chemicals later deemed too dangerous for child's play. Despite the perceived danger, the sets often played up their educational value and the discipline it took to tinker with the toys safely.

Science at Play is part of the Year of Science, presented by Lilly. The exhibition is organized by the Chemical Heritage Foundation and is presented by the White Oak Foundation along with Sarah and John Lechleiter.