

■ 要有創意有夢想,一步一個腳印,Gia Hoa ▶ Ryan, 她在美國快 50 年了, 她每走一步,每 做一個項目,都會被人指指點點,但她不在乎,無論 是人們對她的讚揚和批評,她都接受,她 創辦基金會,她幫助在越南的無家可歸人 創辦學校,給她們接受教育和培養獨立和

每一個善良正直的人,都希望自己能 給予和付出,因爲快樂就是從那里來的。

非常感謝洛克菲勒家族貢獻這么-個美麗的公園,讓在美國這個移民的國家 看到還有自己國家的公園文化,這是全世 界唯一的一個公園。

Gia Hoa Ryan 11 月就是她到美國 整整 50 年,一個把自己的文化留着美國, 讓越南共和國國旗飄颺在世界文化花園 上空(僅限社團人在場時),來紀念越南人 民的傳統 文化。感謝所有人的付出和貢



## The Resurrection of One World Day

by Attorney Joseph Meissner

We are resurrecting One World Day. en folding chairs." This is Sunday, August 29, 2021. For two years we have been conquered by Covid 19, the terrible pandemic which is laying waste whole nations and even the world. It is worse than the Spanish Flu of 1918 to 1921 which ravaged humanity and sent some fifty million innocent people to their graves. That was more than died in all the battles and terrible blood-shedding of World War I.

For the past two years, we have had no One World Day festivity in Greater Cleveland. For over one hundred years, this has been the annual celebration day among the forty ethnic and cultural gardens located on Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard (formerly Liberty Boulevard) which lead from the I-90 Lake Erie Freeway through the beautiful greenery, almost forested canyon, of Cleveland and up toward our great Cleveland Art Museum.

But today a beautiful Cleveland Sunday, the peoples of peace and friendship are reopening their gardens and inviting everyone to gather with them as we once again proclaim this joyous Cleveland Holiday. These almost forty older gardens in the next few years will be welcoming at least four new gardens including Egypt, Mexico, Uzbekistan, and Columbia. My fifty-year friend, the Chiricahua Apache Nation Native American leader, Robert Roche, after many conversations with Executive Director Gia Hoa Ryan of the Vietnamese Cultural Garden, has promised to

erect a Native American garden complete with traditional Tee-pee in the land set aside in the garden area for the American Indian nations, numbering some 650 strong, So ethnic life is thriving

Today, Director Ryan had roused all her staff and workers at five o'clock to rise up and get busy. It is already late for the Vietnamese people who in their homeland are awake by 4: 00 AM, getting ready for the day at the markets and city places of schools, factories, and businesses. Today Ms. Ryan has to instruct everyone on what has to be loaded in our are huge U-Haul

Truck. There is the colorful three-wheel taxi which takes four people to lift and insert into the truck. There are all the twenty chairs.

"Why the heavy metal and cushioned ones," she challenges her Assistant Director Joseph Meisner. "Because these are softer and stronger," he responds firmly. "The people will

So the chairs are popped on, and then all the flags and the new dark green street-wide banner made by Dee at Hot Signz on St Clair Avenue. She has added bamboo shoors to the heavy green cloth as well as the image of our Vietnamese Lady Statue which will one day grace our Garden's center. Vietnamese Com-



munity President Kha Duong, Cao, and Assistant Garden Director David Thi have arrived to escort the truck over to the Vietnamese Cleveland Headquarters building. There they will load on the new Wooden five-feet tall image of the Lady with her flowing ao dai robes and her red brick base. This is to be placed in the garden center as prelude to the eventual fourteen-foot white mar-

ble statue. The driver of the truck will be our ever faithful veteran chauffeur Joseph Volpe, a Cleveland attorney who protects the children and schools against rapacious property owners who seek to shrink their property taxes, thus depressing the moneys available to maintain our schools.

The caravan journeys up the freeway to the garden entrance where they are greeted and approved for entrance by Garden Executive Director Lori Ashyk, her crew, and stalwart members of the Cleveland Police Department whose protective services we need. After

passing through this checkpoint, we steer slowly to the Vietnamese garden and unload all the gear and sort out our four large tents, tables and chairs. We must hurry because we need to timely complete our early morning flag and anthem ceremony, fit in twelve speeches, and start the food preparation. Overseeing all this hustle and labor are Director Ryan, the Garden First Assis-

tant David Thi, Dung Luong, and Joseph Meissner. Tan and Phuong assisted by Tam supervise the arrangements for our Vietnamese and Asian foods and beverages including the famous richbrown Vietnamese coffee which is the most special coffee in the world and produced by Vietnam that is the second largest producer of coffee after Brazil. Our three Vice-Presidents Doan Luong, Cao, and David Thi helped with overall activi-

We had planned to begin our traditional opening ceremony at 10:30, but because we must transport all of our people over two miles to the Irish garden where the parade will commence, we begin earlier at just after 10:00. We line up with a row of beautiful Vietnamese women in their flowing ao dai's (the Vietnamese women's dress with its tight-fitting blouse, and then streaming double front and back panels covering white pants. So many colors, so that their dresses and the ladies outdazzle the warm sun and high blue skies filled with clouds. Behind this front line is a second line for the men all dressed in their suits. These form the audience for the beginning ceremony, prayers, and speeches.

President Kha has set up the loudspeaker and music equipment. We begin with all standing at attention. We raise her hands, and acknowledge and salute our two flags, On the left is the historic Vietnamese flag of gold crossed at the center by three red stripes. The top red stripe symbolizes northern Viet Nam and the capitol of Ha Noi. The center red stripe is for the middle region of Viet Nam boasting its two major cities of Da nang and Hue. This Da Nang is where the American Marine soldiers landed in April 1965. Of course, this was the Marines second Vietnam landing because they had first landed at Da Nang in 1846 when eighty of their number were called from their Ship of the Constitution to rescue people who were about to be massacred. They accomplished that mission, saved the threatened Vietnamese, and fulfilled their mission without any loss of human life on all sides.

We play the South Vietnamese National anthem and sing the powerful opening lyrics:

Oh citizens! Our country has reached the day of liberation.

Of one heart we go forth, sacrificing ourselves with no regrets.

For the future of the people, advance into

Let us make this land eternally strong.

I nen comes this pleage:

We the People remain resolute in our hearts and minds.

Courageously we will fight such that ev-

The anthem concludes with this sacred commitment:

Oh citizens! Hasten to offer yourselves under the flag!

Oh citizens! Hasten to defend this land, Escape from destruction, and bask our race in glory,

Make its name shine, forever worthy of our forebears!

We include the entire anthem about the Vietnamese flag which the Garden Federation has so far refused to allow our community to freely fly this flag of freedom. Instead the Federation has insisted that the Community can only fly the Communist flag with its gold star on a red background. This latter flag against which 275,000 soldiers of Viet Nam gave their lives, adding to the 58,000 US soldiers who fought and died, and thousands of other Allied soldiers sacrificed their lives. In other words, the Garden leadership would add to the sorrow of our people and would allow America and Vietnam's enemies to strut in triumph over a garden which does not belong to them and they do not support. "We shall never do that," swears Mr. Toan Huynh a brave naval officer from our Ally. His words are echoed by other ARVN heroes who live in Cleveland and who will never bow in submission to their Communist enemies nor to the current Federation leadership.

After the Vietnamese national anthem, the American flag is saluted and we sing the Star-Spangled banner. While some in America mock their flag and our anthem, these words are still appreciated and greeted by the Vietnamese community who love their new Second Motherland. It is not necessary to quote the entire American anthem, but we should always hope to respect the last four lines of our first stanza

And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air.

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,

O say does that star-spangled banner yet

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



The beginning ceremony finishes with a The Glory of the Vietnamese forever re- moment of silence. During this time, we remember all the heroes who made the supreme sacrifice including Vietnamese and allies. We remember all who perished during the war, and that even includes those on the other side. While they erred in what they did, still we must not forget their Vietnamese courage.

Next we welcomed our speakers and their remembrances,

First was our longtime Cleveland veteran Leader Sean Ennis. "My speech was very brief, which I had promised so we could all get to the Parade on time. I introduced myself as the representative of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 15. I noted that we have had the privilege of actively supporting the Vietnamese Community in Cleveland for more than thirty years. I thanked them for their gracious hospitality during that period and that we look forward to working with them in the future."

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