



By Staff Our Taiwan writer Luke Yeh

During the outbreak of COVID-19, many aspects of life have been impacted. In spite of this, the Gay Pride Parade was still held in Taipei on October 31, 2020. As many as 130,000 people gathered in the square of Taipei City Government to celebrate. This represents progress for gender equality in Taiwan, which reached a height when the country legalized gay marriage last year. Gender equality has flourished in Taiwan, but did you know a god is known to have taken “preemptive action” to protect the rights of homosexual 200 years ago?



The sanctuary of the rabbit

Legend has it that a man named Hu Tianbao (胡天保) lived in Fujian, China during the Qing dynasty. He fell in love with an imperial censor in his town, but his same-sex love offended and irritated the censor. Therefore, he was executed. After his tragic death, the judge of the underworld granted him a new identity, as a rabbit god, in order to protect

others like him.

“Rabbit” was a name with a negative implication used by Chinese people in the Ming dynasty for sex workers. Calling Hu the rabbit god was a taunt of heterosexuals. But today, the rabbit has transformed into a positive image.

The existence of a god of homosexual love may be hard to fathom in this conservative era, but a temple devoted to this is located in Taipei. The temple is located in Zhonghe District (中和區), New Taipei City, near the Yongan Market (永安市場;) station. This temple originated in 2006. The founder was Lu Weiming (盧威明). Lu had been a Taoist priest since the age of 17. After he became a priest, he contemplated which group he should serve in, and he found that there was no god protecting homosexuals, and some even considered them guilty of violating common morals. Thus, Lu established the temple after gaining permission from the rabbit god. Christians have visited the temple and denounced its approach, but Lu has defended his stance. “It was just pure communication between two religions that serve different people,” says Lu. Lu established the rabbit god temple not only to provide homosexuals spiritual support, but to let them know there was a god to afford them hope and care. This temple is the only one in

Taiwan devoted to this god. In the temple, if you want to make a wish, you need to bring products like facial cleanser as offerings. You

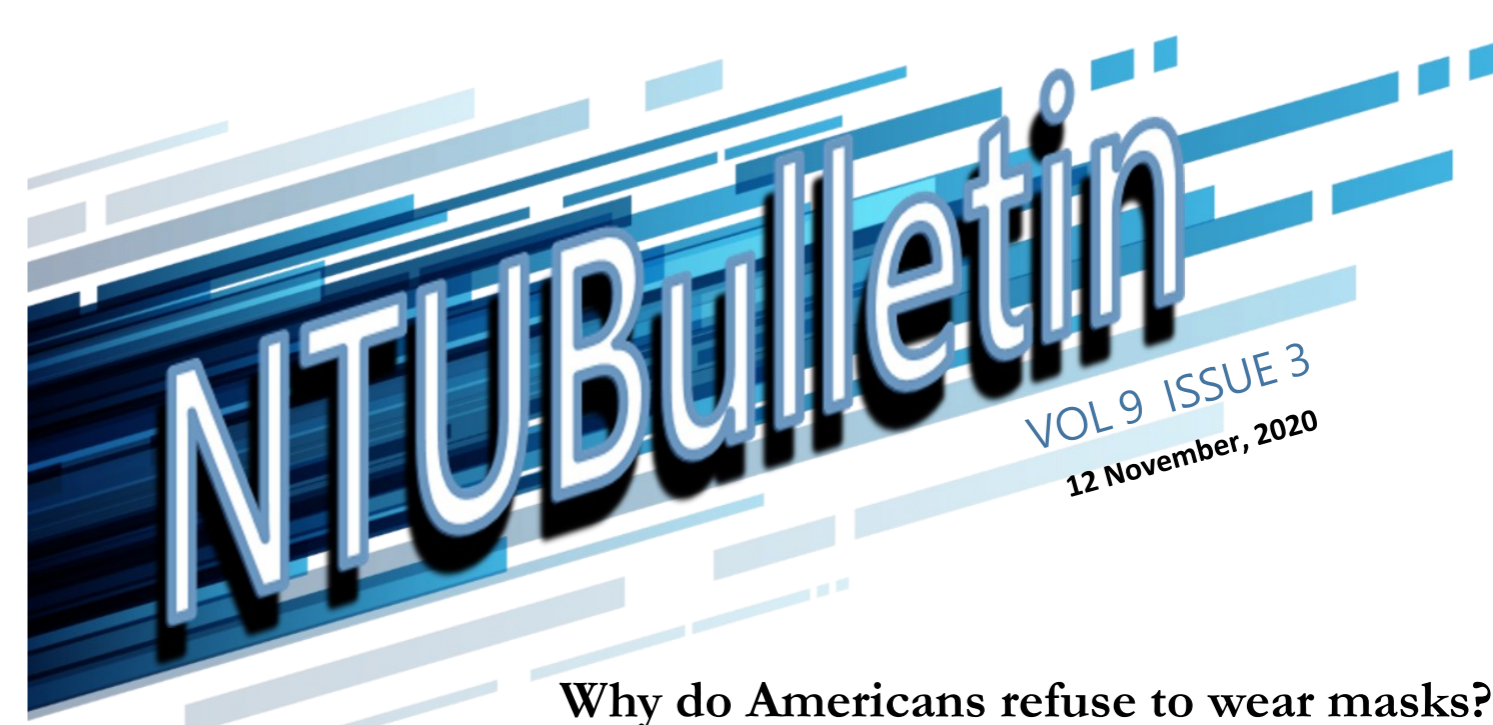


A marriage charm

can use divination blocks, and walk around on the incense burner three times. Then, you introduce yourself and ask whether the rabbit god can give you a marriage charm. If you throw the blocks three “saint throws” (聖焚) in nine chances, it means you receive his blessing. There are taboos with the rabbit god. The one you need to pay attention to is to explicitly call him, “the rabbit god, my lord, ...” when you make a wish.

In the end, no matter your sexual orientation, let’s hope that everyone has the right to love and be loved. Taiwan has strived to ensure that this is true, and has received worldwide recognition for its efforts.

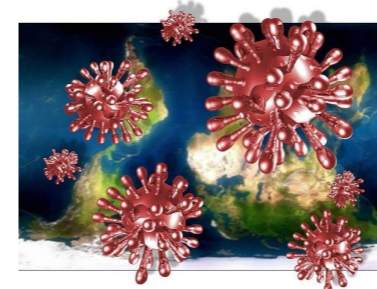
Art by <https://bobee.nownews.com>, <https://augustyo888.pixnet>



Why do Americans refuse to wear masks?

By staff writer Yoyo Guo

COVID-19...



...stay safe!

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing, washing one’s hands frequently and wearing masks become required. However, in the United State, there were many people who have objected to these strictures, insisting on their freedom to do as they want. We hardly see this in Taiwan. What is different?

The necessity of wearing masks when entering many stores has led to quarrels. In a pizza restaurant located in Michigan, a woman was asked to wear a mask. She not only rejected but kicked the worker. When the police came to the restaurant she fled. Other such events have occurred elsewhere.

Through research and surveys, we find common thoughts connecting those who refuse to wear masks. These include:

God's will

Some people think if god unleashes a plague or disease, it is a kind of punishment. As humans, we should not question god’s will. So, if I believe in god sincerely, why should I worry about getting an infection?

Fake news

Some citizens think that needing to wear masks is fake news made up to sway elections. It is just a small virus, they say, and it is not a big deal. So, the thinking goes, wearing masks is an overreaction.

Violating liberty

The most common belief for not wearing a mask is that it is an infringement on a person’s freedom. In America, freedom is vital. People here have rights to decide what to do. Thus, when the government requires people to wear a mask, they think

their rights are being violated.

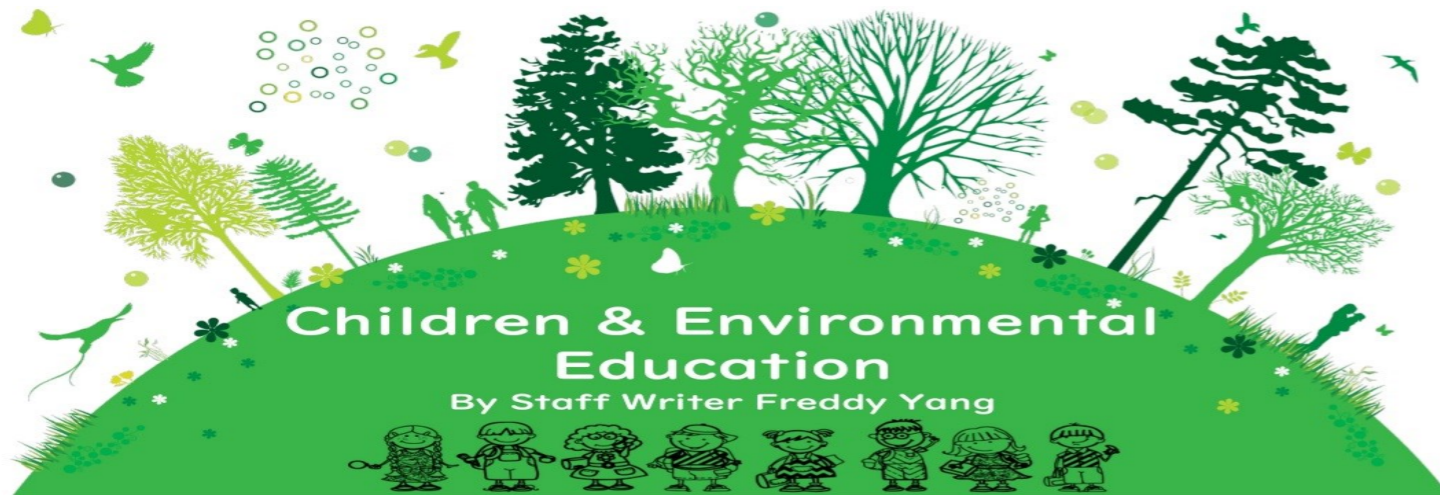
Men are more unwilling to wear masks than women?

Some research points out that men are more unwilling to wear masks than women. Why is this true? It may be a function of male chauvinism, or a macho ethic in the U.S. As well, many men think that they are stronger and healthier than women. Because of this, they consider wearing a mask a weak.

Nothing should stop us from saving lives and protecting the health of people around us. During this pandemic, everyone should pay more attention social necessities. Wearing masks is not awkward. This is not only for ourselves, but for the people we care about, and those who care about us.



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Because Taiwan is facing a global crisis of serious environmental issues, the country must attach great importance to ecological protection. The country must teach children of different ages about environmental protection, instilling the correct concepts in them.

Through family education and parent-child communication, children's awareness of environmental protection concepts and habits can be developed, allowing children to think more about the surrounding environment, and generating more interest in this issue.

Children should focus on the cultivation of discipline and empathy. These qualities can encourage environmental protection concepts by developing simple habits, such as reducing waste, and avoiding littering.

Following are some points to pay attention to when teaching your child about environmental education.

Look at the outside world: Take your children to see the outside world. Whether it is the beach or the park, nature can bring positive energy to a child.

Children love to listen to stories: Introduce environmental protection concepts through storytelling. Children love stories about nature, seas and animals! Use bedside story-time to develop good environmental awareness.

Use pictures books: Every child loves these.

Cultivate the ability to think and express: Use the images and stories in picture books to guide children to think about what is occurring in the earth and its oceans? Why do animals do this? What can be done to help them? Guide the child to find the root of the problem and provide



answers.

Opportunity education must be grasped: Every mistake is an opportunity, guiding children to think about how to start from themselves and make the environment better.

Be a good role model for children: In addition to reviewing and supplementing children's environmental protection concepts, a school's environmental education curriculum can re-examine whether the concepts and habits learned at home are correct.

Plan parent-child environmental protection activities: From recycling and sorting, to going outdoors, or participating in

activities such as beach cleaning, environmental protection summer camps and environmental protection lectures, let children understand that everyone and every little action in the world is very important. Everyone can become a person who makes the environment better.

Children at this stage have initial discrimination abilities. They will start to observe and imitate the behavior of adults, clearly expressing their thoughts and feelings, and becoming interested in the surrounding environment.

Children at young ages are receptive, and this critical stage will affect the establishment of values, emotions and personality development. Parents and school teachers must accompany them and play an important role.

In addition to establishing environmental protection concepts and habits through family education and parent-child communication, children can think more about the surrounding environment, have more interest, understand the importance of caring for the environment, and generate a mission of "My Earth, I will protect it." They can learn to integrate environmental protection concepts and habits into their daily lives. The establishment of environmental protection concepts from an early age as they grow up, they can get better results and habits.

Art by <https://www.lifeaholic.tw/>, <https://www.thekidsrightschangemakers.org>



The glass industry has played a significant role in Taiwan for decades. Viewers can admire the antique glass artworks exhibited in the National Palace Museum, or appreciate exquisite glass jewelry in boutiques. As well, there is a spectacular construction in Taiwan made of glass, which makes people mistakenly think they are in a wonderland — the Changhua Mazu Glass Temple.

Specializing in producing glass, Taiwan Mirror Glass Enterprise Ltd. (台明將企業股份有限公司) has built a glass factory and shopping center called the Taiwan Glass Gallery located in the Lukang Township, Changhua County (鹿港鎮, 彰化縣). The motto of this gallery is "Bright on all sides, surprise in all directions," and people visit-



The Shrine

ing here can appreciate the unique and stunning glass exhibits, and observe the processes of creating glass crafts. Among the amazing artworks, the Changhua Mazu Glass Temple has always stood out.

Constructed from 2007 to 2013, the Changhua Mazu Glass Temple cost roughly

NT\$120,000,000 to build, using approximately seventy thousand pieces of glass to complete. The entire temple, from floors to ceilings, from imperial tables to sedan chairs (神轎), was made of glass. This breathtak-



The Mazu Glass Temple

ing temple is the first glass Mazu (媽祖) temple in Taiwan, and the first glass temple in the world. The grand Changhua Mazu Glass Temple represents the virtuosity and artistry of the glass industry, and exhibits the geography, traditional festivals, and natural ecosystem of Taiwan.

The Mazu Glass Temple

The main structure of the glass temple is constructed of steel, and the walls are made of curtain glass, which are strong enough to withstand typhoons and earthquakes up to a magnitude of 8 on the Richter scale. The gate is made of two layers of strengthened bulletproof glass. The glass door gods are stereoscopic and colorful. Dragons on the two pillars in front of the temple are stacked with thousands of small shiny mirrors, and surpass the expert traditional methods of



carving on stone or painting on wood. When the sun shines through the glass into the temple during the day, the spaces become bright and transparent, while the whole glass temple turns into a dazzling fairyland with more than a hundred thousand of LED lights light up at night.

The Main Shrine(正殿神龕)

The main shrine worships the marine god Mazu, one of the most important traditional gods in Taiwan. Behind the god is artwork stacked with 1,400 pieces of ten-millimeter thick glass, forming an image of Jade Mountain. Mazu's seat is made of Taiwanese

camphor driftwood. The Main Shrine represents the beauty of a stereoscopic visual natural landscape, and the superior technology of Taiwan glass industries.

The Glass Vessel

There is an amazing twelve-meter glass vessel placed in the Taiwan Glass Gallery, near the Glass Temple. The hull is a repainted fiberglass fishing boat, with colors of blue and white showing imagined scenes of sailing in oceans, with splashing waves. Around the hull are paintings of sea fairies and Taiwanese white dolphins jumping with the vessel. Two dragons are painted on the bow, and centered is a painting of Taiwan, which symbolizes the meaning of Taiwan as protected by the two dragons.

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