

20190920 Allan the Filipino and the Gazebos

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I saw Allan my Filipino neighbour with his acrobatic little pre-kindergarten grandson Jude at the new neighbourhood playground, this morning. Apologetically, I said that I sometimes mistake his name for Anthony. Allan was today wearing a NASA baseball cap. He enquired about my walking buddy, the ufologist Bratislav "Brian" Tepsa. I said that the interesting fellow had moved out of his Lulu Island townhouse to a big house in White Rock. I see him no longer.

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Allan's grandson calls Allan "Ang-Kong," a Hokkien honorific term for "Grandfather." Allan's wife is apparently Hokkien Chinese of both parents being Chinese. I thought that his wife was just *Filipina*. Most Chinese in the Philippines are Hokkien, as likely some of my own ancestors from both sides of my family. Allan does not speak Hokkien, but his wife does. At first, I misheard Hokkien "Ang-Kong" for English "Uncle."

Allan and I talked about "Jude" being like "Judas." Jesus had two disciples named Judas: There was the lesser known Judas, the son of James who was a son of Zebedee, and the other more famous Judas was Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

The name Jude is really an abbreviation of the Hebrew name Yhuda (Judah) which means "praised." Judah was the fourth son of the Bible's Jacob (Genesis 29:35) who gave his name to one of the twelve tribes of Israel and one of its two kingdoms. The word "Jew" arose therefrom. According to the New Testament, Saint Jude (Judas Thaddaeus) was one of the twelve apostles to Jesus and often identified as the brother of Jesus himself. One carefully distinguishes his name from Judas Iscariot, the malevolent disciple who betrayed Jesus. According to the Roman Catholic tradition, Saint Jude is the patron saint of desperate circumstances and lost causes. Incidentally, English-speaking nations did not adopt Jude as a male given name until quite recently. Is there confusion? I think that "Jude" confuses between "Judah" and "Judas."

Allan and I talked about the newly built neighbourhood Roman Catholic church, Saint Paul's, which replaced the old 1960's building. He said that there is a new Adoration Chapel there, open 24 hours. I used to go to the old one. The administrators had the old church torn down. Anyway, the new one looks great! Anyway, at the neighbourhood playground is a nice wooden gazebo, reminiscent of Thais or Native Indians. I often go there to sit meditating...

The playground's gazebo is beside the Rideau Park Learning Centre, here on Lulu Island. It reminds me of another gazebo in the garden of the Yanviriya Buddhist Temple in East Vancouver, BC. There, I remember that orange-robed Thai monks would meditate sitting.



