



www.sacei07.org

A COUNTRY STAYS ALIVE WHEN ITS CULTURE IS ALIVE.

- SACEI Newsletter updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

NEWSLETTER # 5

MARCH 2009



2009 SACEI CONFERENCE WAR & REMEMBRANCE

September 26, 2009 – Dulles, VA



Call for Papers

Thirty-four years have passed since the Vietnam War has ended. Memories are starting to fade away. And unless we write down all these events, the past will forever be gone. SACEI (Saigon Arts, Culture, & Education Institute)—a non-profit organization—invites you to share your experiences with your peers and future generations.

The goals of this meeting are:

- 1) to revisit the war and its consequences: injuries, separations, death, diaspora, and reeducation: traumas that have long haunted us and are still haunting many of us today,
- 2) to foster a meeting and cultural exchange between former allies.

This reunion will bring together former Allies who have sacrificed themselves to preserve democracy in Vietnam. It also allows us to acknowledge their valiant efforts and to thank them and their families for their past assistance. It is hoped it will serve as a step toward healing the ghosts of past traumas.

You may submit your proposals to: sacei007@yahoo.com
The deadline is **May 2, 2009**.

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MOVIE: PARIS, des Vietnamiens by BÙI XUÂN QUANG

It is not a film about Paris, nor a documentary about the Vietnamese community living there. It deals with the apparent or non apparent relationships between a cosmopolitan city and the community that has sunken its roots into a dreamed city but has awoken in a real and modern city. Three phases are emphasized:

1. The Paris of the 30s, 40s, and 50s or of the poets (Pham Van Ky, grand prix du roman de l'Academie in 1961). That Paris was gone.
2. From 1954 to 1975, the Paris where Vietnamese engineers, teachers, researchers, doctors, artists found no problems integrating themselves,
3. The post-1975 Paris that oversaw the massive immigration of the refugees who have more or less difficulty integrating into the French society.

Whatever their experience, the Vietnamese of Paris protect their memories of the old Vietnam like cherished treasure. In the background, DeBussy and the Vong Co, cai luong mix together to give a melancholic tone to the film.

<http://video.ketnooi.com/video/bJl8i12u1cw/paris-des-vietnamiens-bach-yen-la-vie-en-rose.html>

Photo Project

A MONTH, A YEAR IN THE LIVES OF VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS

Although Vietnamese-Americans came to the U.S. more three decades ago, they are still newcomers in this three-century-old country. Their children born in this land, however, do not know much about their parents' native country. The old and new generations therefore are trying to define themselves within this new society.

The purpose of this project is to feature Vietnamese Americans within their own environment and the society that supports them. Who are they? If they have problems with their identity, the Americans also seem to be puzzled by these new immigrants.

The best way to solve this dilemma is to take photographic pictures of Vietnamese Americans

- of both generations
- within their own environment: work, schools, offices, businesses, churches, pagodas...
- throughout the year,
- in various places: VA, CA, TX, and so on,
- among themselves or others (Americans, foreigners),
- in the middle of festivities (weddings, Tet, holidays...) or in times of sadness (funerals...).

The variety of activities and functions performed by the Vietnamese-Americans would give readers a glimpse of their busy lives within the American community.

A MONTH, A YEAR IN THE LIVES OF VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS will allow everyone to truthfully see them as active citizens of the U.S.

Please send us your photos for this project. Your help is APPRECIATED.

Dr Tran Quoc Dung will be the project manager.



AN ODE TO PROFESSOR NGUYEN HỮU (classical Vietnamese Music)

<http://www.sacei07.org/music.jsp>

MOVIE: DECEITFULLY FUNNY by TIFFANY DANG

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHaPyksH7hU>

Playing in Europe March 2009

MOVIE: ALL ABOUT DAD by MARK TRAN

Mr. Do has raised his kids to be good Catholics and to live up to his unrealistic expectations. His son, Ty, is a college student who refuses to be the "model minority" his father always wanted him to be. Daughter Linh is keeping her fiancé's Buddhist beliefs a secret. However, they aren't the only kids with secrets in the Do family, and with the need to take their own paths, it's time Dad faces the truth that they have grown up.

Delightfully droll, yet mixed with great tenderness and humanism, All About Dad is the first (and probably the funniest) story to address in depth the universal lives of an ignored community—Vietnamese-Americans.

www.cinequest.org/detail.php?m=1542

www.allaboutdadmovie.com



All About Dad

Book: The Twenty-Five Year Century

by General Lam Quang Thi

If I could borrow from the great French poet, I would say that for a great number of young men of my generation, the 20th Century had only 25 years. Why? From 1950 to 1975, which covered my entire military career, I participated in the birth of the Vietnamese National Army. I grew up and participated with this army that achieved some of the greatest feats in contemporary history, during the Viet Cong Tet offensive in 1968 and during North Vietnam's multi-division Great Offensive in 1972. My career and the careers of my comrades-in-arms abruptly ended in 1975 with the army's tragic demise.

The literature in the U.S. regarding the Vietnam War is one-sided. Books written by American soldiers, journalists, historians, and public officials only view the war from the American perspectives while the perspectives the South Vietnamese army, their former ally, was often ignored or worse, portrayed as cowardly and weak, despite the fact that more than a million South Vietnamese soldiers died during the course of the war as compared to 58,000 American soldiers -- our toll and suffering was far greater than what Americans cared to imagine or know.

Only a handful of books had been written in English by journalists, public officials and soldiers from the former Republic of Vietnam, despite the fact that the largest Vietnamese population outside of Vietnam is here in the U.S.

I believe that it was time to set the record straight. That was when I wrote my memoir, "The Twenty-Five Year Century: A South Vietnamese General Remembers the Indochina War," published in 2000. It was my take on what happened and how Saigon fell.

Now, seven years later, I'm finished with another. It's called, "Hell in a Small Plantation." It's a less-known battle in 1972 when the communist army attacked from the east, from Cambodia, via the Ho Chi Minh Trail. An Loc, a small town, was defended by 6,900 South Vietnamese soldiers who fought against 30,000 North Vietnamese and 100 tanks. Against heavy odds they withstood 94 days of horror and prevailed at a tremendous cost.

I bear the loss of my homeland. So many of my comrades-in-arms died, some committed suicide and many were sent to concentration camps. I feel both anger and sadness. Anger because we were a democracy abandoned by our allies -- the U.S. -- at the darkest hour of our history. But I tell myself that the Indochina and the Vietnam War bought time for the Free World to re-group, marshal its energy and to finally win the Cold War.

Available on Amazon

POETRY by Thạch Ngọc Truong

THỂ DỤC HOÀNG HẠC

Khí Công Hoàng Hạc bạn ơi,
Võ sư Gia Cồn một thời lập nên.
Bác sĩ Truyền với Đức Huyền
Ra tay tiếp sức giúp thêm đồng bào.
Hoàng Hạc Thể Dục Thể Thao
Kết hợp võ thuật thêm vào y khoa.
Hoàng Hạc tình tứ bao la:
Có co, có đẩy, có ra, có vào,
Có xoa, có bóp, nặn nhào,
Có lên, có xuống, nhấn vào huyết sâu.
Tập xong trái thận khỏe lâu,
Bạn ơi ta hãy bắt đầu, nên không?

HP-TNT 2/16/2009



HOÀNG HẠC THẬP LỤC ĐOẠN CẨM

Thể Dục Hoàng Hạc Khí Công
Cùng nhau luyện tập để mong sống già.
Tập cho thân thể khỏe ra
Cho hồn thanh thản, tâm ta an bình.
Múa Hạc tựa cặp nhân tình
Bấm, Vòng, Vươn duỗi, Buông mình là lối.
Múa mười sáu bước mình ơi:
Ta mình đứng giữa "Khung Trời Bao La"
"Hoàng Hạc Tung Cánh" bay xa
Yêu nhau "Trao Tặng Cành Hoa" tuyệt vời
"Tình Yêu" chớm nở "Lúa Đồi"
"Khai Song Vọng Nguyệt" hẹn nơi gặp mình
Yêu nhau "Nhấn Mạnh Nghĩa Tình"
"Vòng Tay Thân Ái" tình mình thiết tha
"Song Đôi Sánh Bước" hai ta
"Cuộc Đời Trao Tặng" tình ta cho mình
"Thiên Địa Chứng Giám" anh minh
"Xoa Tai Vuốt Tóc" thương mình quá thôi
"Dắt Tay Du Ngoạn" mình ơi
Đầy tràn "Hạnh Phúc Lúa Đồi" chúng mình
"Trọn Đời Khăng Khít" ân tình
Nhờ tập Hoàng Hạc duyên mình bền lâu
Đời mình mãi mãi còn nhau.