



# SACEI



## NEWSLETTER

### *Saigon Arts Culture & Education Institute*

To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

[www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 - No.14**

*A Country stays Alive when its Culture is Alive'*

SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the first week of the month.

It updates you on the latest news about SACEI.

It serves as a LINK between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

**Disclaimer.** Publication in this newsletter of a book title or a film does not mean endorsement or approval by SACEI.

## I. Second Annual SACEI Fall Conference

### *The FALL of SAIGON*

**September 25, 2010**

**Fairfax, VA.**

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Fall of Saigon, 35 years ago still resonates loud and clear in our hearts. It was the most significant and traumatic event in the lives of many people, Vietnamese-Americans as well as Americans. One could not think about it without tears in our eyes.

- ❖ What did exactly happen?
- ❖ How did it happen?
- ❖ How did it affect us, Vietnamese abroad as well as at home.

This Conference plans to explore these topics and to put the Fall of Saigon in its perspective.

## Deadlines

- Abstract: March 30, 2010.
- Notification: April 30, 2010.
- Manuscript: June 15, 2010.

**Presentation:** Power point, if possible, 15 min and 5 min Q & A.

**Publication:** Papers will be published in a special SACEI Forum, which will be available at the Conference.

**Registration and Hotel:** will be available later on [www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

**Mail:** Please send your abstract to [www.sacei007@yahoo.com](mailto:www.sacei007@yahoo.com)

## II. YOUTH CONFERENCE

*A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE*  
**JULY 17, 2010**  
Annandale, VA

### CALL FOR PAPERS

If the first generation of Vietnamese-Americans are the builders who migrated to and established themselves in the U.S., young Viet-Am (2nd and subsequent generations) need to define themselves and their place in the U.S. community and abroad. They are the bridge to the future through which future generations will travel.

This Forum attempts to give young Viet-Am (high school and college students) the opportunity to present and discuss their personal interest and vision of the future, to their peers and the community.

Topics: The following topics will be discussed:

1. Health issues from young Viet-Am's point of view
2. Academic, Societal, and Historical issues
3. Views and contributions to the world

Key Due Dates: Abstracts: February 15, 2010  
Full Manuscript: April 15, 2010

**Mail** - Please send your abstract to:  
[www.sacei007@yahoo.com](mailto:www.sacei007@yahoo.com) and [trandq2001@yahoo.com](mailto:trandq2001@yahoo.com)

### **III. BOOKS - Lâm Quang Thi: HELL in AN LỘC**

In 1972 a North Vietnamese offensive of more than 30,000 men and one hundred tanks smashed into South Vietnam and raced to capture Saigon. All that stood in their way was a small band of 6,800 South Vietnamese (ARVN) soldiers and militiamen, and a handful of American advisors with U.S. air support, guarding An Loc, a town sixty miles north of Saigon and on the main highway to it.

This depleted army, outnumbered and outgunned, stood its ground and fought to the end and succeeded. Against all expectations, the ARVN beat back furious assaults from three North Vietnamese divisions, supported by artillery and armored regiments, during three months of savage fighting.

### **IV. VINH MAI: MISSION IN DJIBOUTI**

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/nation-world/s\\_654458.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/nation-world/s_654458.html)

DJIBOUTI CITY, DJIBOUTI -- For many Americans on the U.S. base here, helping Djiboutians is not just official duty.

It's a personal mission.

Several sailors, airwomen and soldiers fill two SUVs with boxes before heading to a school in Hayabley, a nearby village.

Lt. Cmdr. Vinh Mai, a doctor from Falls Church, Va., collected the boxes of sweaters, children's clothes, English-language books, shoes and pens. The Vietnamese-American Medical Association of Northern Virginia donated the items, says Mai, 33, an endocrinologist with the 14th Expeditionary Medical Facility.

### **V. PHOTOGRAPHY *NGUYEN NGOC HANH***

<http://www.vietlist.us/Nhiepanh/nhiepanh.shtml>

Born in Ha Dong, North Vietnam in 1927, Nguyen Ngoc Hanh enrolled into the Vietnamese Air Force in 1950. After graduating from the French Toulouse School of Photography in 1956, he became a professional photographer. He has since won many top awards from worldwide photographic societies. In 1957, he founded the Vietnamese Military Photographic Society and in 1961 became the War Photographer for the RVNAF.





Photographer Nguyen Ngoc Hanh

Like other southern soldiers, he was sent to reeducation camps after 1975, and was released only in 1983 under the pressure of the Committee of German Advocates for Amnesty. After many failed escape attempts, he arrived to the U.S. in 1989.

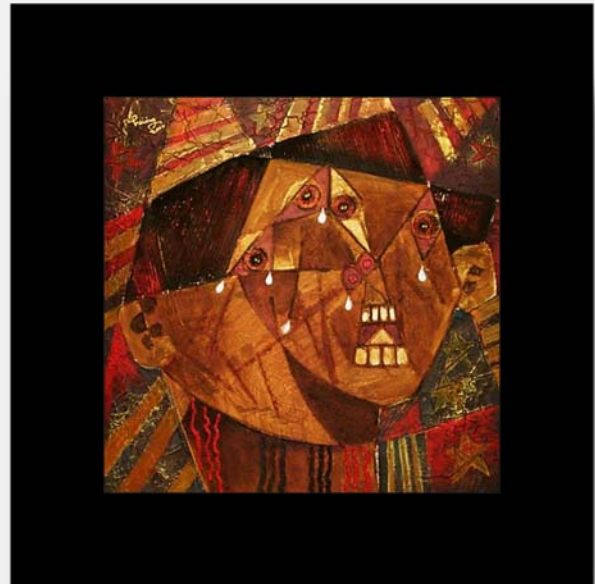
In San Jose in 1990, he founded the Vietnamese Photographic Society, which later became the Vietnamese Photographic Society of northern California. Since relocating to the U.S., he has trained hundreds of professional photographers and has won 92 Gold medals, 112 Silver Medals, and numerous other awards during his long and outstanding career.

## VI. ARTIST:

*Nguyễn Thị Thu Hương*  
*or Hương ALASKA*

[http://www.huong.org/war\\_feature.htm](http://www.huong.org/war_feature.htm)

The Art, War and Peace Museum is the story of two journeys. The first journey began in Saigon in 1975 and culminated here in Jensen Beach, Florida in November of 2003. The second journey begins now, in May of 2004 with A Stand for Peace on the steps of the Museum. When Huong, a young 25 year old mother and Vietnamese journalist, escaped her war-torn country she was wearing one shoe. This woman of "chronic hope" and tenacity carried her infant son on that journey from Saigon to Guam, to the California coast finally settling in Alaska....



**Faces of War**



*Artist Huong Alaska*

## VII. FILM: DUST OF LIFE

A Film by Le-Van Kiet

**Premiering Friday, November 6, 2009**

**STAR Performing Arts Center, Fountain Valley**

Premiere benefiting the **Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation** and **Project MotiVATe**

*" poignant...tough and touching..." - LA Times*

*" the film is strikingly familiar to our community " – Vien Dong Daily News*

**Dust Of Life** throws us straight in the gritty reality of displaced teens living in Westminster, California during the early 1990's as they struggle to find a home in suburbia America and accept the love they are given.



The film is premiering Friday, November 6, 2009, 6PM at the STAR Performing Arts Center in Fountain Valley, CA. All proceeds from the premiere will be donated to the [Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation \(VACF\)](http://www.vacf.org) and [Project MotiVATe \(Mentoring Vietnamese American Teens\)](http://www.projectmotivate.org). Its regular engagement starts November 7 in Fountain Valley and November 13 in San Jose.

*"Personally, I think **Dust of Life** illustrates a piece of our history. I'm glad that the story is being told so that hopefully we can learn from the experience,"* said **Dr. Bich-Lien Nguyen**, VACF Board of Directors. *"We're very thankful to be a benefiting charity of the premiere night, along with Project MotiVATe."*

*"**Dust of Life** not only speaks to the issues affecting Vietnamese youth in years past, but serves as a bridge to facilitate dialogue and discussion among the Vietnamese youth of today,"* said **Julie Vo**, External Program Director of Project MotiVATe. *"When I first saw this film at a screening, I recall being struck by how relevant **Dust of Life** is to our community and the younger generation. For some youth, the film boldly reflects their own stories and experiences and for others, it provides an opportunity to talk to them about the underlying issues they are facing today."*



**SYNOPSIS:**



**Dust of Life** is a coming of age story set in the urban backdrop of Orange County in the early 1990's. "Dust of Life" is a term labeled for kids who have been left abandoned on the streets. The film follows a displaced juvenile named Johnny, who, as an infant, lost both of his parents to the treacherous ordeal of the Boat People Exodus. Growing up in America, Johnny quickly finds the harsh reality of assimilation when his choices are limited. His situation becomes more desperate when his relationship with the street kids around his neighborhood becomes more perilous. As hope seems more distant than ever for Johnny, a compassionate Catholic priest, helps him come to terms with his past in order to do the right thing in the present.

**CAST:**

**Devon Duy Nguyen** Johnny  
**Thu-Mai Tran** Mai  
**England DuVan** Rascal  
**Mai Khanh** Mai's Mother  
**Linh Le** Quynh  
**Liem Michael Doan** Father Michael

**CREW:**

**Le-Van Kiet** Writer / Director  
**Kim Viet Ngo** Producer  
**William Eubank** Co-Producer  
**Eric Groff** Assistant Dir. / Co-Producer  
**Jason Inouye** Cinematographer  
**Jason Solowsky** Composer

Official Website: [www.dustoflifemovie.com](http://www.dustoflifemovie.com)

**H O P E = J O Y & P E A C E**

