

FRIENDS OF SACEI's

NEWSLETTER

SAIGON ARTS ,CULTURE, & EDUCATION INSTITUTE.

April 5th, 2010 (#18)

www.sacei07.org

To research, document, and promote Vietnamese culture.

A country stays alive when its culture is alive.

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SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the 5th 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.

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Saigon Arts Culture & Education Institute
www.sacei07.org

I. Second Annual SACEI Fall Conference

The FALL of SAIGON
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, traumatic, and dislocating 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.
- ❖ What was its significance?

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

Mail: Please send your abstract to 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.

Mail: Please send your abstract to www.sacei007@yahoo.com and trandq2001@yahoo.com

III. USS MIDWAY SEEKS VIETNAM REFUGEES FROM RESCUE

<http://www.oeregister.com/news/helicopters-236138-vietnamese-midway.html>

By JAIMEE LYNN FLETCHER

WESTMINSTER The USS Midway Museum is calling on the Little Saigon community to help celebrate the 35th anniversary of Operation Frequent Wind -- the largest helicopter evacuation in history that marked the end of the Vietnam War.

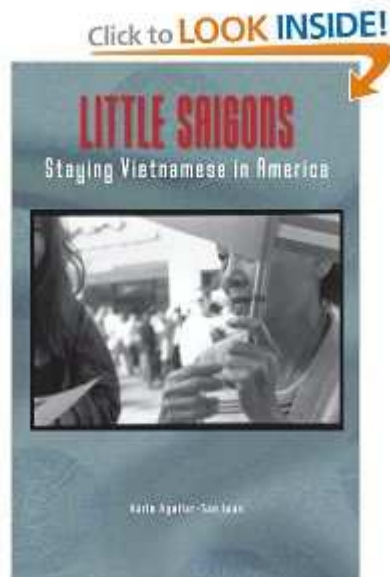
The museum held a press conference Wednesday at Royal Restaurant in Westminster to solicit members of the community to find refugees from the rescue and to help collect photos and artifacts.

The museum on April 30 will hold a 35th anniversary ceremony and open a permanent Operation Frequent Wind exhibit to honor the refugees and sailors involved in the mission.

In 19 hours, 81 helicopters lifted nearly 6,000 Vietnamese and more than 1,000 Americans from various locations in Saigon, including the U.S. Embassy and city parks, aboard U.S. aircraft carriers waiting offshore. More than half of the refugees were taken to the USS Midway, officials said. The final evacuation lifted off from the U.S. embassy at 7:53 a.m. on April 30, 1975.

A private reunion for the sailors and refugees will also be held aboard the aircraft carrier that night, museum spokesman Scott McGaugh said.

IV. BOOKS: LITTLE SAIGONS by KARIN AGUILAR-SAN JUAN



Karin Aguilar-San Juan examines the contradictions of Vietnamese American community and identity in two emblematic yet different locales: Little Saigon in suburban Orange County, California (widely described as the capital of Vietnamese America) and the urban "Vietnamese town" of Fields Corner in Boston, Massachusetts. Their distinctive qualities challenge assumptions about identity and space, growth amid globalization, and processes of Americanization.

V. PAINTING: LE BA DANG

Le Ba Dang was born in Vietnam and emigrated to France in 1939 to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Toulouse.

He had his first one-man show in Paris in 1950 and over the next thirty years gained prominence throughout France and Germany. He came to the attention of Americans in 1966 when the Cincinnati Art Museum hosted the first one-man exhibition of his paintings in the United States.

In his work Le Ba Dang fuses the cultural interests of the Orient and Europe, creating graceful imagery in infinite variations of line, shape, and color. He is recognized as an accomplished printmaker, having worked extensively in the media of etching, lithography, and serigraphy.

<http://www.picassomio.com/lebadang.html>



VI. MOVIE: A VILLAGE CALLED VERSAILLES

Producer: Leo Chiang, MFA

Vietnamese refugees who arrived in Louisiana in 1975 settled in Versailles, close to the Mississippi River about 20 miles east of New Orleans, LA. When Katrina struck in August 2005, the village (8,000 people) was flooded. When evacuated villagers were allowed to return, they vowed to rebuild their community for they had moved twice during their lifetime: in 1954, from North to South Vietnam where they settled in Phước Tỉnh and Vũng Tàu and in 1975, from Vietnam to Versailles.

Under the direction of their priest and leader, Father Nguyễn Viễn, they began the rebuilding process. Six weeks later, the first mass was celebrated in front of 600 villagers; the week after 800, and two weeks later 1,200... By January 2006, while people in New Orleans were still in "shock," half of the population of Versailles had returned to their "normal" life.

When New Orleans Mayor Nagin decided to dump hurricane debris at Chef Menteur landfill, a few miles from Versailles, the villagers protested before the city, state, and federal government. When toxic materials were detected at the landfill, people protested by blocking its entrance. In the end, they won and the landfill was permanently closed.

On PBS channel on March 25, 2010 in Orange County, CA.



VII. PERSON OF THE MONTH: NAM DANG MD

Tue Mar 9, 2010 3:03 pm ET

MIAMI (AFP) – Researchers said Tuesday that papaya leaf extract and its tea have dramatic cancer-fighting properties against a broad range of tumors, backing a belief held in a number of folk traditions.

University of Florida researcher Nam Dang and colleagues in Japan, in a report published in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology, documented papaya's anticancer effect against tumors of the cervix, breast, liver, lung and pancreas.

The researchers used an extract made from dried papaya leaves, and the effects were stronger when cells received larger doses of papaya leaf tea.

Dang and the other scientists showed that papaya leaf extract boosts the production of key signaling molecules called Th1-type cytokines, which help regulate the immune system.

This could lead to therapeutic treatments that use the immune system to fight cancers, they said in the February issue of the journal and released Tuesday by the university.

Papaya has been used as a folk remedy for a variety of ailments in many parts of the world, especially Asia.

Deng said the results are consistent with reports from indigenous populations in Australia and his native Vietnam.

The researchers said papaya extract did not have any toxic effects on normal cells, avoiding a common side effect of many cancer treatments.

Researchers exposed 10 different types of cancer cell cultures to four strengths of papaya leaf extract and measured the effect after 24 hours. Papaya slowed the growth of tumors in all the cultures.

Dang and a colleague have applied to patent the process to distill the papaya extract through the University of Tokyo.

Division of Hematology and Oncology



Nam H. Dang, MD, PhD

Division of Hematology/Oncology
Professor and Deputy Division Chief
University of Florida Shands Cancer Center
Director, UFSCC Clinical Trials Office

1600 SW Archer Road- Box 100278
Gainesville, FL 32610

Nam H. Dang, MD, PhD is a board certified medical oncologist with expertise in the study and treatment of lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). He is Professor and Deputy Chief of the Division of Hematology & Oncology as well as Director of the University of Florida Shands Cancer Center Clinical Trials Office.

Training:

Degree Program	Institution	Field/Specialty
A.B. (Magna Cum Laude)	Harvard University	Biochemical Sciences
PhD	Harvard University	Immunology
MD (Magna Cum Laude)	Harvard Medical School	Medicine
Residency	Massachusetts General Hospital	Internal Medicine
Fellowship	Dana-Farber Cancer Institute	Medical Oncology

Clinical Interests:

Diagnosis and Treatment of Lymphoma and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

Research Interests:

Dr Dang's primary research effort emphasizes the development of novel treatment strategies for patients with lymphoma/CLL through the identification of new targets and the utilization of novel targeted therapies. To achieve this aim, he has conducted multiple clinical trials and is active in laboratory research with the goal of translating laboratory findings to the clinical setting for the ultimate benefit of the patient.

VIII. POETRY: HOAI TUONG PHONG

Choked Moon

A long time ago, my mother gave birth to me on a rainy and windy night, in the middle of the lunar cycle,¹

Right on my first day of life I missed the full moon.

Our area was evacuated during the war, fields lay fallow, houses left empty,

Grand-mother had a really hard time bringing home a country midwife.

I grew up in the country like wild plants in a forlorn grove,

I rode a buffalo at seven, never sit on a bicycle.

I've never known how to use nice words to please people,

And stayed a loser all my life because I cannot not cheat nor lie.

At a loss when I moved to the city², in the rat race,

Even ten years later, I haven't washed myself into a city boy.

My feet lost their taints from the fields, but my country roots still stay;

¹ Phong says he was born in 1945, in a stormy night, which portended his eventful, less than happy life; therefore he cannot say he was born under the bright moonlight.

² Phong left his village to attend high school in the town of Vinh Long, where became a political activist in at the end of his high school years, was put in prison for one year and went to live in Saigon (in the early 60's)

*I make use of my summer months; I like to go back visit my native village.
Old friends, who used to chase after buffalos with me once, now look at me with envy,
They think I have shed skin as a worm and become a butterfly, carefree.
I look at my friends and envy so much their innocence,
One's soul doesn't get any greater just because of life in the city.
Each time I come back, fewer and fewer old friends are to be found,
Girls marry at seventeen; boys want to get wives at twenty.
My old girl friend, carrying her baby under her arm, walks by, on her way to buy wine on account,
Her once sultry eyes shyly cast down on her feet.
In the hamlet across the river, many girls who left,
Now come back with silk clothing and brand name items, ostentatious.
A few new houses built; lives changed by money sent home from dutiful daughters;
The countryside prospers, but still there is melancholy.
The plain where I come from holds many records to grieve about:
Rice production is up, catfish farming at a record,
But investment in culture is low, and poverty at its peak.
And at its peak too, the number of girls who marry afar³.
At dusk, saddened, I go to the desolate river wharf;
The moon, as it rises, is surrounded by rain and clouds.
I suddenly remember my first missed appointment, at the beginning of my life, with the old moon.
The moon is choked as always, still unable to light up my countryside.*

Translated by Hien V. Ho, March 19, 2010

³ "From the delta in Vietnam's south to small rural towns in the north, a growing number of young Vietnamese women are marrying foreigners, mostly from Taiwan and South Korea. They seek material comfort and, most important, a way to save their parents from destitution in old age, which many Vietnamese consider their greatest duty... More than 100,000 Vietnamese women have married Taiwanese men over the last 10 years and the numbers are rising, said Gow Wei Chiou of the Taiwan representative office in Hanoi. In the same period, roughly 28,000 Korean men married Vietnamese, according to the Vietnam Women's Union"(Vietnamese women wed foreigners to aid family. Many decide that a foreign husband is the best way out of poverty. MSNBC NEWS 8-10-2008)
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26124698/>