

Newsletter

September 10th,2010 (#23)
Released Dec 2010

www.sacei07.org

To research, document, and promote Vietnamese Culture
A country stays alive when its culture is alive



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.

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



Inside this issue:

- I. SACEI Conference 2010
- II. Summary
- III. Phu Nguyen Cartoonist
- IV. Book: KARIN SAN-JUAN:
Little Saigons. Staying Vietnamese in America
- V. Book: BILL HAYTON: VIETNAM: Rising Dragon



I. SACEI FALL CONFERENCE (2010)

SECOND ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE (2010) THE FALL OF SAIGON

September 25, 2010
COURTYARD MARRIOTT, TYSONS CORNER
1960-A Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22102

0900-0910: **INTRODUCTION**

IDENTITY MODERATOR: RONALD FRANKUM

0910-0930: MAKING AMERICA AT EDEN CENTER

JOSEPH WOOD

0930-0950: THE TWO VIETNAMS

NGHIA M. VO

APRIL 30 MODERATOR: JOSEPH WOOD

1000-1020: THE FALL OF SAIGON

CUOC VAN LE

1020-1040: THE FINAL BATTLE FOR SAIGON

ERIK VILLARD

DIASPORA MODERATOR: ERIK VILLARD

1050-1110: OPERATION NEW ARRIVALS

ROBERT SILANO

1110-1140: IMAGES OF THE FALL

DUNG QUOC TRAN

1140-1200: GUAM AND THE *THUONG TIN* STORY

NGHIA M. VO

1215-1245: **LUNCH**

1245-1345: **VIETNAMESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

PHUONG & CHUONG

CAUSES MODERATOR: ROBERT SILANO

1400-1420: WHY VIETNAM? WHY WE LOST?

ROBERT TURNER

1420-1440: HOW AMERICANS SHOULD VIEW THE WAR IN VIETNAM

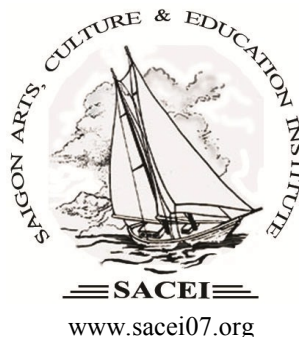
RONALD FRANKUM

1440-1500: THE PEACE MOVEMENT AND THE "LIBERATION" OF SAIGON

ROGER CANFIELD

1500-1530: OPEN DISCUSSION

1535: THE 2010 SACEI **PERSON OF THE YEAR** AWARD



II. SUMMARY

Making America at Eden Center

by Joseph S. Wood

Over the last twenty years, but especially in the 1990s, I have studied how Eden Center developed from a nondescript 1950s shopping plaza into a significant center of Vietnamese life in Northern Virginia and America. As a geographer, I am interested in how people shape places to make them comfortable for themselves and develop a sense of place that reflects their values and attitudes and behaviors. As a professor at George Mason University, I took students to visit Eden Center to learn about Vietnamese place-making in Northern Virginia. I wanted to share how Vietnamese refugees adopted American material culture—the shopping center—and adapted themselves and their needs to create a space that reflected elements of a Vietnamese market in an American suburb. I studied also the process by which in the late 1990s Eden Center was redeveloped into a kind of "oriental" spectacle market. This place making, I argue, demonstrates how everyone who has ever come to America has (re)made America in some fashion, contributing to an ever-evolving, complex tapestry of diverse cultures and places held together by a web of common ideals and interests.

4. The Two Vietnams

by Nghia M. Vo

Vietnam has been a country besieged, thus geographically divided by wars and ideologies during the years 1600-1802 (first North-South War), 1859-1954 (French colonization), and 1955-1975 (second North-South War).

The history of the Fall of Saigon is that of a country, divided by two ideologies, Communism against Capitalism, Oppression against Freedom.

It is the history of the "Little Saigons," of Vietnamese who walk around with hyphenated names like in Vietnamese-Americans.

It is the history of Justice against Injustice.

And as long as there are injustice, corruption, one-party state, and communism in Vietnam, there will be TWO VIETNAMS.

The Fall of Saigon

by Cuoc Van Le

The Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975 is a complicated and mysterious event not only through the lenses of Vietnam's history, but also through the world's. A series of controversial decision making by the United States in the context of the first Cold War (1945-1979) has surprised both friends and enemies. The following turning points: supporting the Vietnamese Communist takeover of North Vietnam (1944-1945) by the OSS, supporting the French's return to Indochina (1945), refusing to drop bombs at the Dien Bien Phu Battlefield (1954), accepting the neutralization of Laos (1962), supporting the overthrow President Ngo Dinh Diem (1963), drafting the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964), secretly negotiating after the Junction City Operation in Tay Ninh (1967), pausing of the bombing in North Vietnam led to the General Offensive and General Uprising (1968), seriously negotiating with North Vietnam in March 31, 1968, rapidly withdrawing American troops (1970), agreeing to the Paris Agreement (1973), abandoning Phuoc Long Province, Corps II, and Corps I by President Thieu in 1975, and American betraying Vietnam (April 1975), illustrate a mysterious and immoral linear trail leading the Fall of Saigon (1975). Studying the development of the Vietnam War in the context of the Cold War allows a better understanding of the policy of the United States, Great Britain, French, China, the Soviet Union, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam. A close analysis of these above events that occurred under the Roosevelt to Ford Presidencies allows us to understand how and why the United States became involved in Vietnam; which decision might have caused the United States' missed opportunities to win the war. What appeared from the outset to be a simple conflict turned out to be a deadly war killing millions of people. These events also suggest that the fall of Saigon is a direct consequence of U.S. decision making, or "inside that lost war are hidden victories, and one of the most impressive is the Tet Offensive." In fact, the fall of Saigon is a result of the fall of Washington in the first Cold War.

The Final Battle for Saigon: A View from North Vietnamese Commanders

by Erick Villard

This presentation will examine the tactical and operational thinking of senior North Vietnamese commanders during the final Communist push on Saigon during April 1975. Presented with an opportunity to move against the capital much sooner than they had expected, the PAVN leaders entered into a vigorous debate about how to proceed, a behind the scenes discussion that has remained largely unknown to Western scholars until only recently. From the logistical problems that the North Vietnamese encountered, the challenges they faced moving large mechanized units with only a few major roads, to the often fierce resistance that they faced from South Vietnamese units, the PAVN leaders had to resolve a host of difficulties in a fluid and fast-changing environment. How they reached their decisions and how the last ten years of the war had informed their operational thinking is the topic of this paper.

U.S. Military Support to Indochinese Refugees: Operation New Arrivals, April-December 1975

by Robert A. Silano

Thirty-five years ago some 139,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians were evacuated to safe havens in the Pacific and onward to reception centers in Arkansas, California, Florida, and Pennsylvania with the support of the U.S. Armed Forces. Operation New Arrivals processed these refugees for sponsorship and resettlement across the Nation and in third countries under the Interagency Task Force for Indochina. Military planning began on 27 April 1975 when the Department of Defense through the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the Army, Navy, and Air Force to nominate military bases as reception centers. That resulted in the selection of Fort Chaffee, Camp Pendleton, Eglin Air Force Base, and Fort Indiantown Gap, which prepared for the initial arrival of refugees.

The military was responsible for coordinating refugee movement; transporting refugees from the airports to reception centers; presenting orientation briefings; issuing identity cards; developing information for refugee data bases; providing shelter, food, health care, and security; conducting civil affairs operations as directed; performing medical vectoring and screening as required; and furnishing necessary logistic support to reception centers. All of these functions were performed under the supervision of civilian task force officials. The cost for refugee operations incurred by the Department of Defense amounted to over \$227 million for the evacuation, sealift and airlift, maintenance of reception centers, and medical care, which was reimbursed by the Congress.

Images of the Fall of Saigon

by Dung Quoc Tran

The Fall of Saigon on April 30th, 1975 marked the end of the Republic of South Vietnam's 21 years of freedom, democracy, and soul searching.

While recovering from the 100 years of French colonial invasion, the Second World War, the Japanese colonial invasion in 1945, the war between North and South Viet Nam, or rather the war between the Super Powers on Vietnamese soil, has prolonged effects on the Vietnamese.

This collection of pictures taken from the internet shows some of these stunning and tragic effects--pre, intra and postwar.

Guam and the *Thuong Tin* Saga

by Nghia M. Vo

Guam, a 80,000-inhabitant-tropical U.S. island, located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean became in 1975 the Vietnamese's Ellis Island, the gateway to freedom for 130,000 Vietnamese immigrants who had escaped from their country at the end of the war.

Of these immigrants, 1,546 Vietnamese decided to return home on the fatidic *Vietnam Thuong Tin I*, the boat that had brought them to Guam. The fate of some of these people would remain known until a decade later when waves of boat people reached the shores of Asian countries. This is the story of these unfortunate returnees.

WHY VIETNAM: Why America was Right to Go to the Defense of South Vietnam; Why We Lost

by Robert F Turner

This would briefly touch on who Ho and the Viet Minh were, put it in the context of containment and note that Vietnam was a "test case" on whether America could successfully resist "People's War"/"Wars of National Liberation," and then note after we finally were winning on the ground starting with Tet the "peace movement" pressured Congress to throw in the towel and abandon our commitment.

A Moment in Time: How Americans should view the war in Vietnam

by Ronald Frankum

This paper examines the prevailing view of American leadership on the war in Vietnam. It begins with President Ford's statement at Temple University on April 21, 1975 and then goes back in time to 1950 when the United States recognized the State of Vietnam. The paper then explores how the United States leadership view Vietnam in intervals of five years and examines the evolution of American thought. Significant events include: 1) the end of US involvement in Operation Passage to Freedom in 1955; 2) how US ambassador Elbridge Durbrow responded to the abortive November 1960 coup d'état against Ngô Đình Diệm; 3) Lyndon B. Johnson's justification for the Americanization of the war; and, 4) Richard M. Nixon's Vietnamization justification in 1970.

I hope to show how America's Vietnam experience changed over time from one of a moral obligation to the survival of the Republic of Vietnam to one in which American students cheered when President Ford announced that the war in Vietnam was over for the US. The paper will focus on memory and the need for historians to understand the evolution of this thought as they mark anniversaries such as the 35 anniversary of the April 30, 1975 fall of Sài Gòn.

The "Peace" Movement and the "Liberation" of South Vietnam.

by Roger Canfield,

excerpts from *Comrades in Arms:*

How the Ameri-Cong Won the Vietnam War

Against the Common Enemy—America. Copyright 1988-2010

According to Tom Wells in his comprehensive *The War Within*, "No evidence has ever been produced for foreign communist involvement in the anti-Vietnam War Movement."

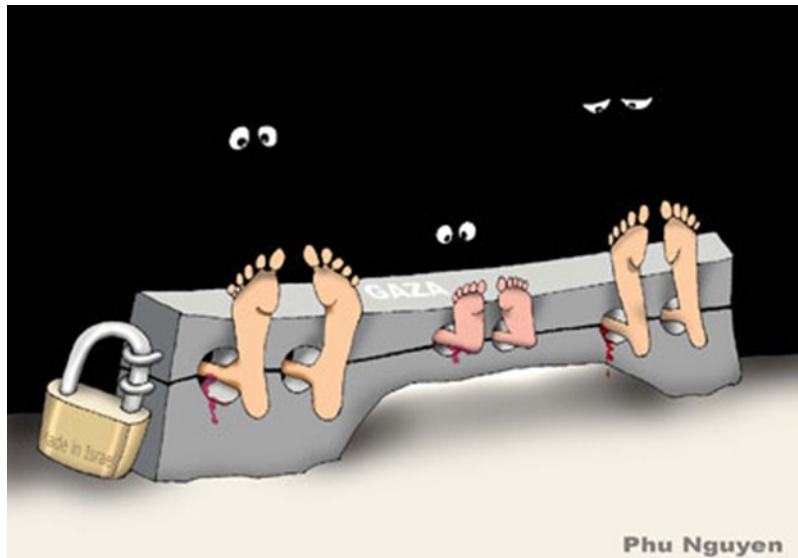
There is plenty of evidence if one looks. For example *Viet Cong Circular No. 33/VP/TD*

"The spontaneous antiwar movements in the US have received assistance and guidance from the friendly [Viet Cong/ North Vietnamese] delegations at the Paris Peace Talks....The PCPJ [People's Committee [sic] for Peace and Justice]... maintains relations with us..." Indeed, the Vietnamese Communists made the antiwar movement the most critical factor, in their grand strategy for a military victory. This paper discusses the personalities and activities of the peace movement leading up to the fall of Saigon and thereafter. They luxuriated in the fall, condemned the refugees and covered up executions, reeducation camps and new economic zones.

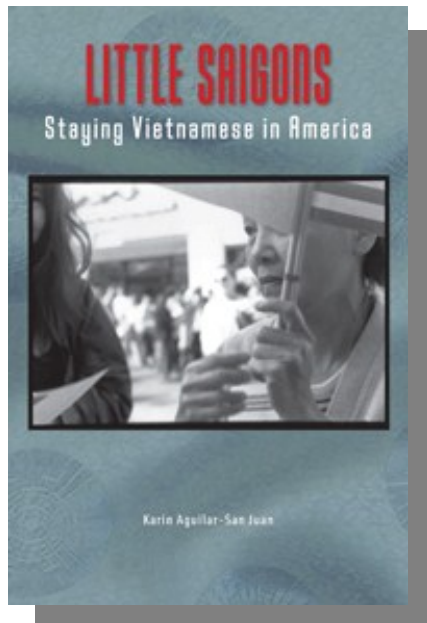


III. PHU NGUYEN CARTOONIST

A Viet Kieu and well-known cartoonist in Orange county, CA, he sometimes signed under the names of Babui or Buibaro. He was the runner up at The Second Annual Cartoon Contest "Mussel and Fish 2010" in Bulgaria with the cartoon "The Black Mussel 2010."



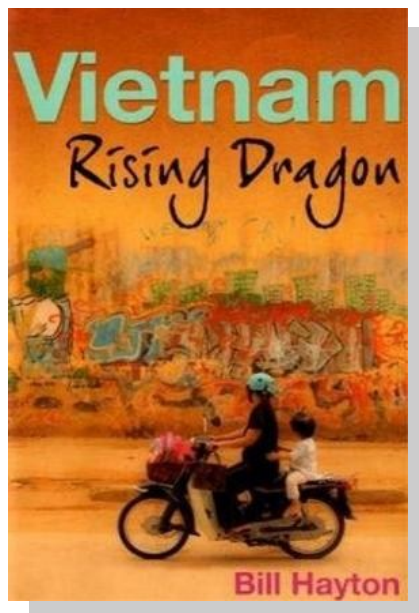
IV. BOOK: KARIN SAN-JUAN: LITTLE SAIGONS. STAYING VIETNAMESE IN AMERICA



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.

Staying Vietnamese, according to Aguilar-San Juan, is not about replicating life in Viet Nam. Rather, it involves moving toward a state of equilibrium that, though always in flux, allows refugees, immigrants, and their U.S.-born offspring to recalibrate their sense of self in order to become Vietnamese anew in places far from their presumed geographic home.

V. BOOK. BILL HAYTON: VIETNAM: RISING DRAGON



Based on vivid eyewitness accounts and pertinent case studies, Hayton's book addresses a broad variety of issues in today's Vietnam, including important shifts in international relations, the growth of civil society, economic developments and challenges, and the nation's nascent democracy movement as well as its notorious internal security. His analysis of Vietnam's "police state," and its systematic mechanisms of social control, coercion, and surveillance, is fresh and particularly imperative when viewed alongside his portraits of urban and street life, cultural legacies, religion, the media, and the arts. With a firm sense of historical and cultural context, Hayton examines how these issues have emerged and where they will lead Vietnam in the next stage of its development.

