

Friends of SACEI's



Newsletter

February, 2011,

Saigon Arts, Culture & Education Institute

www.sacei07.org



To research, document, and promote Vietnamese Culture

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.

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

CHUNG CÙNG TÂN XUÂN

1. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011: THE LUNAR "CAT" YEAR

For the Chinese, however, this is the year of the RABBIT. Why this discrepancy, if both share the same Chinese zodiac?

Some have suggested that when the 12 Animal Zodiac was introduced into Vietnam from China, the "Mao 卯" in the Zodiac year "Mao Tu 卯兔" (Mao Rabbit Year) has the same Chinese pronunciation as "Mao 猫" (cat). Because the "Mao Nian 卯年" (Mao Year) sounds the same as "Mao Nian 猫年" (cat year), the Vietnamese had made a mistake in the writing and recorded it as "cat year" (mao nian 猫年).

http://www.chinahistoryforum.com/index.php?/topic/33283-why-is-there-a-cat-in-the-vietnamese-zodiac/page__st__15

It turns out that originally, the Mao in China was a Rabbit, while in Vietnam it was a Cat. It has always been like this since the beginning of times (?). Thus, when the zodiac was introduced into Vietnam, the Chinese Rabbit became the Vietnamese Cat.

http://www.vannghecongcuulong.org/vietnamese/tulieu_tacpham.asp?TPID=14752&LOAID=16&LOAREF=5&TGID=2198 Ngày



2. VIETNAMEXODUS.ORG HACKED by Bill Laurie

A website with very valuable information appears to have been hacked and disabled by hostile hackers. It went by designation "vietnamexodus.org" and had abundant important information, some tragic, about 'boat people,' the exodus from Viet Nam, etc. Text in both Vietnamese and English. There was nothing else like it. It had a list of 30 or so young girls and young women kidnapped by Thai pirates and never seen again.

There are other instances of website hostile hacking, which is what would be expected from Hanoi's propaganda department.



3. VIET LUONG, COLONEL



Task Force Rakkasan Commander Viet Luong briefed reporters and answered questions about current operations in Afghanistan
<http://www.c-spanarchives.org/program/MilitaryOperationsinAfgha>

Col. Viet Luong came to America in 1975 with his family as refugees from Vietnam. He is the first Vietnamese-American to command a U.S. Army combat brigade, having taken up his post in February 2011. From growing up amid a war to preparing a battle-hardened brigade for its fifth deployment, he describes his rise to the post as a deeply satisfying journey. Luong began his military career after graduating from the University of Southern California and has mostly served with the Army's airborne units, including the 82nd Airborne Division in North Carolina and the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Italy.

<http://www.slanteyefortheroundeye.com/2009/07/thats-first-col-viet-luong.html>

4. POET LINH DINH

With wry humor, Dinh describes the Vietnamese view of America garnered from Hollywood exports, "the root cause of America's immigration problems." He skewers everything in postwar Vietnam, from the exiting American soldiers, "going back to their sweethearts and Chevies," leaving their offspring behind, to the Hanoi regime of the late 1970s and 1980s, which "systematically destroyed" an entire society. By the 1990s, one character returning to America disparages his countrymen who, rushing to become modern, have "swapped their vegetable patches, carp ponds, pigs and geese for a fake pair of Levi's." At once caustic and humorous, harshly critical and nostalgic, Dinh's overview of his homeland is unfailingly honest.

A Vietnamese-American poet, fiction writer, and translator, he was a Pew fellow in 1993. He briefly returned to Vietnam in 1999 where he met and translate some Vietnamese writers. In 2002-2003, he was a guest of the International Parliament of Writers in Italy. He was a 2005 David Wong at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England.

He is the author of two collections of stories (*Fake House* and *Blood and Soap*) and five books of poems. His first novel *Love and Hate* was published in October 2010.



<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2010/02/18-3> (Casino Time)

5. BETTY NGUYEN AND LIFE IN VIETNAM

Born in Saigon, Vietnam of Vietnamese and Scottish-American descent, she came to the U.S. in 1975 and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism. Before becoming a network anchor and correspondent for CBS News, Nguyen anchored the weekend morning edition of CNN Newsroom. She was recognized as the first Vietnamese-American to



anchor a national television news broadcast in the United States. CBS News' Betty Nguyen traveled to her birth country of Vietnam to distribute humanitarian aid to those struggling to survive.

Thirty-five years after the end of the war, 80% of the Vietnamese still-lived in poverty (GDP per capita \$2,140 in 2010: 128th in the world). The revolution, which was supposed to help them, has failed them dearly.

http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7188112n&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+CBSNewsTheEarlyShowBooks+%28CBS+News:+The+Early+Show:+Books%29#ixzz1BgSrE33m

6. MEYON ROBSON: THE FIRST VIETNAMESE FBI AGENT

As a student, she was crowned Ms. Saigon in 1970 by the wife of then South Vietnam's Prime Minister, Mme Tran Thien Khiem. On April 29, 1975, her family escaped by boat from the port of Saigon and a few months later, they found themselves picking up strawberries in Stony Brook, NY.

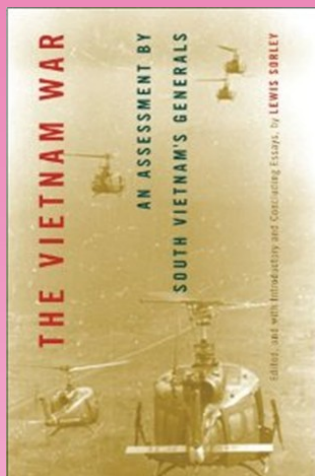
Her father, a former general, got painting jobs. She started a work study program at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she met an FBI agent and did some translation work for the agency. When she applied for an FBI job, she waited for three and a half years without receiving any formal response. The door finally opened for her transforming her dream into reality. She was later later posted in Saigon then Bangkok where she retired in 2004. She then opened *Xuan Mai*, a Vietnamese restaurant in Bangkok.

Although her mind is Vietnamese, her passport American, her heart now is firmly in Bangkok.



<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=95933599>

7. BOOK: LEWIS SORLEY: THE VIETNAM WAR. AN ASSESSEMENT BY SOUTH VIETNAMESE GENERALS



Soon after the end of the Vietnam War, memories of loss still fresh, top military leaders of defeated South Vietnam recorded their observations in a series of publications sponsored by the U.S. Center of Military History. Insightful and poignant, unaltered and unedited by the CMH, their distinctive stories are little known and long out of print.

Veteran historian Lewis Sorley has gathered, edited, and arranged these sixteen monographs for ease of reference and access, providing valuable glossary, biographies of the generals, and index.

http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7188112n&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+CBSNewsTheEarlyShowBooks+%28CBS+News:+The+Early+Show:+Books%29#ixzz1BgSrE33m



Cung Chúc
Tân Xuân
2011

