

**FRIENDS of SACEI's**  
**SAIGON Arts Culture & Education Institute**  
To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture  
[www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

**NEWSLETTER**

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 - No.9

*A country stays alive when its culture is alive*

SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the first of the month.  
It will update 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.

**I. JOIN US AT OUR FALL SACEI CONFERENCE**



The banner features a map of Vietnam on the left, the text "2009 SACEI CONFERENCE WAR & REMEMBRANCE" in large, stylized letters in the center, and a flag with a blue dragon on a yellow background with red stripes on the right. Below the text, it says "September 26, 2009 – Fairfax, VA".

Details will be updated at [www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

**Marriott Fairfax at Fair Oaks**  
Fairfax, VA 22033

0900-0915 INTRODUCTION  
**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** (TBA)

**SESSION I:** Moderator: JAMES BRUTON

09.15-09.45 **THE FIGHT FOR THE HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR:**  
MARK MOYAR

09.45-10.15 **THE WAR VIEWED BY ALL SIDES:** NGHIA M. VO

10.15-10.45 **LESSONS FROM THE WAR:** VAN NGUYEN DUONG

10.45-10.55 **BREAK**

**SESSION II:** Moderator: MARK MOYAR

10.55-11.25 **WHY VIETNAM MATTERS-AN EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT**  
RUFUS PHILLIPS

11.25-11.55 **THE BATTLE FOR HUE:** TRAN NGOC HUE

11.55-12.25 **THE FACE OF THE ENEMY:** Bacsy NGUYENLE HIEU

**SESSION III: LUNCH**

12.30-12.40 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** (TBA)

12.40-13.30 **HISTORY OF FAMOUS WAR PHOTOS:** DUNG QUOC TRAN

13.30-14.00 **BREAK**

14.00-15.00 **BOOK SIGNING**

**SESSION IV:** Moderator: RUFUS PHILLIPS

15.00-15.30 **HOW MY VIETNAM EXPERIENCE HAS INFLUENCED MY LIFE:**  
JAMES BRUTON

15.30-16.00 **GOLD RINGS AND JEANS: LAN NGUYEN'S STORY:** MARY CARGILL

16.00-16.30 **POST-VIETNAM WAR ERA: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE:** VINH MAI

16.30-17.00 **WRAP UP SESSION**

1900-2200 **DINNER GALA**

**A FESTIVAL OF AO DAI**

**VIETNAMESE NATIONAL MUSIC: VỌNG CỎ**

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

A block of rooms has been reserved for SACEI conference attendees at the special daily rate of \$69 (plus tax) at the **Marriott Fairfax at Fair Oaks**, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA, 22033 across from the Fair Oaks Mall. Reservations can be made at (703) 352-2525 or (800) 228-9290. The cut-off date is August 28, 2009.

## REGISTRATION

Name: .....

Address: .....

Company: .....

Morning Session and Lunch: \$40/per person

Dinner Gala: \$40/per person

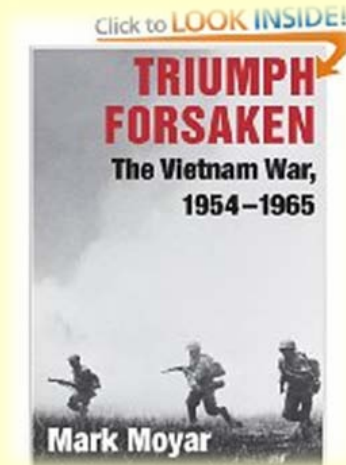
Total: ..... x ..... = \$ .....

Please mail Check to SACEI  
PO Box 2182  
Leesburg, VA 20177

Forms will be posted on our website later: [www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

## 2. BOOK: TRIUMPH FORSAKEN

A full-blooded member of what he calls the "revisionist school" of Vietnam War historians, Moyar firmly believes that America's longest and most controversial overseas war was "a worthy but improperly executed enterprise." His fiercely argued book, which covers the early years of American involvement in the war, is an unabated salvo against what he calls the "orthodox school" that sees American involvement in the war as "wrongheaded and unjust." The main villains are former Vietnam War correspondents David Halberstam and Neil Sheehan; former U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge; and just about anyone else who had bad things to say about South Vietnamese premier Ngo Dinh Diem and good things to say about Vietnamese Communist leader Ho Chi Minh.



Moyar contends that South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, who has been incessantly depicted as an obtuse, tyrannical reactionary by some historians, was in reality a very wise and effective leader. Moyar states that supporting the November 1963 coup was the worst American mistake of the war, that President Kennedy had no plans to abandon his South Vietnamese allies after the 1964 election, and that President Johnson's lack of forcefulness in Vietnam in late 1964 and early 1965 squandered America's deterrent power and led to a decision in Hanoi to invade South Vietnam with large North Vietnamese army units. **(Amazon.com)**

### 3. THE NIXON TAPES

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us\\_nixon\\_tapes](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_nixon_tapes)

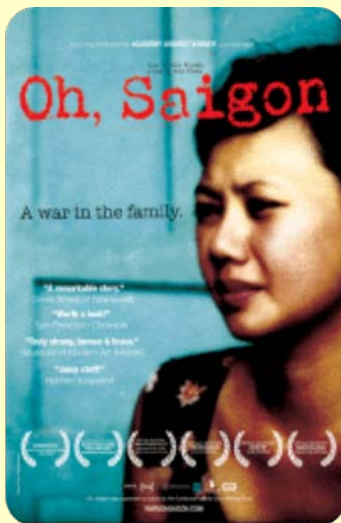
[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/24/us/politics/24nixon.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/24/us/politics/24nixon.html?_r=1)

Several conversations center on the pressure Nixon placed on South Vietnam's president, Nguyen Van Thieu, to accept the cease-fire agreement. [Ken Hughes](#), a Nixon scholar and research fellow at the Presidential Recordings Project at the [University of Virginia](#), said he was struck by listening on one of the new tapes to Nixon's [telling](#) his national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, that to get Thieu to sign the treaty, **he would "cut off his head if necessary."**

Mr. Hughes said the conversation bolstered his view that Nixon, Thieu and Mr. Kissinger knew at the time that the cease-fire could not endure, and that it was **not "peace with honor,"** as Nixon described it, so much as a face-saving way for the United States to get out of the war. In 1975, North Vietnam would violate the cease-fire and conquer South Vietnam.

### 4. MOVIE: OH, SAIGON by DOAN HOANG

<http://www.ohsaigon.com>



BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER  
MOTHER AGAINST DAUGHTER  
A WAR IN THE FAMILY

**Twelve line synopsis:** The last family airlifted out of Saigon on the last day of the Vietnam War attempts to resolve its divided past. A father reunites with the brother he fought against decades after the conflict that split them. A mother in impossible circumstances is forced to choose between her daughter and her husband. Meanwhile, two first-generation Vietnamese-American sisters try to reconcile a difficult past that altered the course of their lives. While one was airlifted out of Saigon at the end of the war, the other was tragically left behind and suffered through imprisonment and kidnapping.



## 5. POETRY

### VÀI KỶ NIỆM VỚI CON *Trương Ngọc Thạch*

Ngày con chào đời  
Tiếng khóc oe oe  
Da con đỏ khè  
Cha vui biết mấy.

Ngày con tập nói  
Tiếng gọi ba ba  
Lòng cha vui sướng  
Âm hưởng tình thương.

Ngày cha nhập trường  
Lên đường cải tạo  
Cơm gạo mang theo  
Con đeo cha mãi.

Ngày cha ở trại  
Ở lại lâu năm  
Nay con được thăm  
Nhìn chăm lạ lắm.

Ngày cha tạm hoãn  
Mãn hạn trở về  
Cha thề lòng cha  
Phải ra khỏi nước.

Ngày cướp biển đông  
Không còn giọt nước  
Con ao ước được  
Giọt nước thấm môi.

Ngày trôi hải đảo  
Con bảo cùng cha  
Cô-ca con ước  
Được thử một lần.

Ngày chân tới Mỹ  
Mình chỉ tay không  
Túi dưới trăm đồng  
Trông nhờ xã tắc.

Ngày con đi học  
Đôi mắt vẫn vương  
Tiếng bạn khác thường  
Thương con biết mấy.

HP-TNT 6/21/2009  
*Father's Day*



## **SACEI MEMBERSHIP**

Share our mission which is to research, document and preserve the Vietnamese culture:

***Become A MEMBER***

***Preserve A LEGACY***

***Build A FUTURE***

<http://www.sacei07.org/registration.pdf>  
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