



NEWSLETTER

Saigon Arts Culture & Education Institute
To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

www.sacei07.org

February 2010 - No.16

A Country stays Alive when its Culture is Alive¹

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
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

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.



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 and trandq2001@yahoo.com

III. A VIETNAM WAR MUSEUM

It has been the hope and dream of Vietnamese Americans in general and of SACEI in particular to lay the ground work for a **Vietnam War Museum** somewhere in the U.S., especially in the Washington D.C. area. It may not become a *reality* in our lifetime, although it is our fervent hope that plans for such a building be started as a tribute to the Men and Women who fought a difficult and unthankful War.

The Museum is a "NOBLE CAUSE," and as Teryl Zarnow from the Orange County Register reminds us in her January 15, 2010 article, "*We spend so much time to fight wars. The cost would be even higher if we don't remember, study and learn from them.*"

Your opinions are appreciated.

SACEI

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/war-229450-vietnam-museum.html>

THE VIETNAM WAR MUSEUM: *A GOOD IDEA*

A good idea has a thousand parents, but a bad idea is an orphan. The notion of creating a **Vietnam War** museum in Orange County is a good idea, and if it ever comes to pass, the family reunion will be enormous.

The concept of gathering war artifacts from Vietnam has been discussed for years. Now the concept of turning those artifacts into a museum is getting traction.

Garden Grove City Council member Bruce Broadwater, who most recently proposed the idea, believes the city could help lay the groundwork and provide credibility to the effort without supplying major funding. The council has created an exploratory committee.

"We will form an organization and make things happen," predicts Broadwater, who sees a tourism opportunity. He was impressed by the National **World War II** Museum in New Orleans. That museum started with an initial focus on D-Day because New Orleans is home of the flat-bottomed Higgins boats used to land troops at Normandy. Orange County's connection to Vietnam is stronger. There is some urgency.

April 30 will mark the 35th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists. Passing years make it harder to document history first-hand from the veterans who fought the war, the families who lived through it, and the lives that were up-ended because of it.

U.S. military involvement, which lasted more than 14 years, claimed more than 58,000 American lives and over three million Vietnamese. Vietnam meant America was never the same. Orange County has competition. There exist or proposed Vietnam War museums in Texas and Illinois.

Craig Mandeville of Orange served two Army tours in Vietnam and was an advisor to the Vietnamese in 1972. He came back for his grandmother's funeral in 1968 and was met by protestors at the airport.

"When I came home in 1972, I was proud of what I did, but nobody wanted to talk to you about it, appreciated what you did, or said 'Thank you'."

•••

The passing of time has provided perspective, but not necessarily drained the passion.

Mandeville recalls: "Even then, some people said: 'Don't remind us of an unjust, unnecessary war.'"

Today, at least, our society is careful to draw distinctions: We honor those in military service no matter what we think of the war itself.

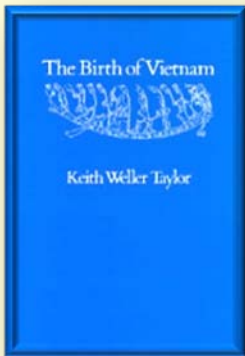
Mandeville, a member of **Vietnam Veterans of America**, calls a museum "a noble cause." He cautions it would have to include all viewpoints and gather a broad base of support.

"It is a misunderstood time; it was a misunderstood war...We need closure ... a place for past and future generations to come and understand the time and how things were."

We spend so much fight wars. The cost would be even higher if we did not remember, study and learn from them.

Teryl Zarnow

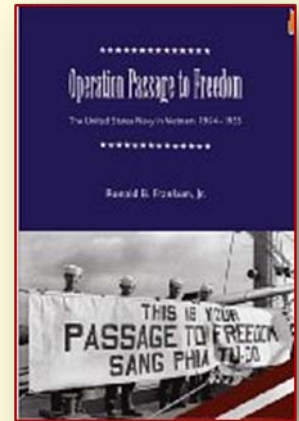
IV. BOOKS - THE BIRTH OF VIETNAM: KEITH WELLER TAYLOR



Vietnamese history prior to the tenth century has often been treated as a branch of Chinese history, but the Vietnamese side of the story can no longer be ignored. In this volume Keith Taylor draws on both Chinese and Vietnamese sources to provide a balanced view of the early history of Vietnam.

OPERATION PASSAGE TO FREEDOM: RON FRANKUM

Beginning in the fall of 1954, U.S. Navy ships, as a part of Task Force 90, helped relocate thousands of displaced North Vietnamese to South Vietnam following the separation of the nation at the 17th parallel. This accomplishment during the three hundred days of Operation Passage to Freedom forever changed the lives of over 310,000 Vietnamese who traveled on their ships.



VI. MUSICIAN - CAO THÁI



Cao Thái has been an international musician and singer for the last 50 years.

In 1951, he collaborated with Nghiêm Phú Phi, Võ Đức Tuyết and Enrico Marcias, Charles Anavour when he lived in Paris, France. By winning the First Prize at Deauville Casino in 1950, he propelled himself into the international musical stage. Being a French citizen, he served 16 months in the French Reserve Army.

He returned to Vietnam in 1959 and gained a large Saigon audience with his interpretation of Mexican songs. Since that time, he was known as "**Cao Thái Mexico**"

He returned to France in the 1960's and began performing in Italy, Spain, France, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, ...



V. POETRY

TẾT LƯU VONG

Độc Xuôi :

*Sương tuyết lạnh sâu héo cỏ cây,
Xứ xa chiều Tết rượu gì say ?
Thương mình nghĩ tủi niềm chua xót,
Mắt nước hờn đau nổi đắng cay !
Nhang khói nhạt mờ sân võ miếu,
Gió mưa nhà phủ mái linh đài.
Hương quê nhớ Tết hồn tê tái,
Sương tuyết lạnh sâu héo cỏ cây !*



Độc Ngược

*Cây cỏ héo sâu lạnh tuyết sương,
Tái tê hồn Tết nhớ quê hương.
Đài linh mái phủ nhà mưa gió,
Võ miếu sân mờ nhạt khói nhang !
Cay đắng nổi đau hờn nước mắt,
Xót chua niềm tủi nghĩ mình thương !
Say gì rượu Tết chiều xa xứ ?!
Cây cỏ héo sâu lạnh tuyết sương !*

Nhật Hồng Nguyễn Thanh Vân

**Happy Valentine's Day
&
Happy Lunar New Year**

