

SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE, & EDUCATION INSTITUTE
www.sacei07.org

Friends of Sacei's

Newsletter

December 10th, 2010 (#26)

To research, document, and promote Vietnamese Culture

A country stays alive when its culture is alive

SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the 10th 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. USS KIRK



USS Kirk (FF-1087) was a *Knox*-class destroyer escort, originally designated as DE-1087 and reclassified as a frigate (1975) in the United States Navy.

As part of the evacuation of South Vietnam in 1975, the USS Kirk carried out one of the most significant humanitarian missions in U.S. military history. Under the direction of a civilian, Richard Armitage, the Kirk rescued the South Vietnamese Navy (30 ships), dozens of fishing boats and a few cargo ships, and along with them, 20,000 to 30,000 Vietnamese refugees, and led them to the Philippines. From there, most of the refugees ultimately emigrated to the United States.

Ba Nguyen (right), here with his wife, Nho, was able to maneuver his helicopter so his passengers — including his 10-month-old daughter — could drop to safety on the Kirk. He then flew the Chinook over the ocean and jumped out while the helicopter crashed. In July 2010, Kirk crew members honored Nguyen with an Air Medal, the award the U.S. military gives for heroic feats while flying.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129554870>



II. EDEN CENTER



Eden Center is a strip mall Vietnamese American shopping center located near the crossroads of Seven Corners in the City of Falls Church, Virginia. The City's Economic Development commission considers it the #1 Tourist Destination in the City. The center is home to over 100 shops, restaurants and businesses catering to the extensive Asian American, especially the Vietnamese-American, population. Eden Center has created an anchor for Vietnamese culture serving the Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Pennsylvania areas, as evidenced by the large number of phở soup restaurants as well as Vietnamese-American cultural events that are regularly held at the Center. The name derives from the 1960s Saigon arcade Khu Eden.

Read more about: *Eden Center and the Making of America* by Joseph Wood in SACEI Forum # 8 (THE FALL OF SAIGON)



III. LY CON SAO, Vietnamese traditional music

A lyrical traditional southern delta song that expresses the sadness of a lovelorn man who has lost his lover to a man from another village. He compares her departure to a bird who has escaped from its cage and flown across the river.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgiskfobRbA>

Performed by 300 high school students at Gillawarna Festival of Performing Arts, in Sydney, Australia on 9/2010.

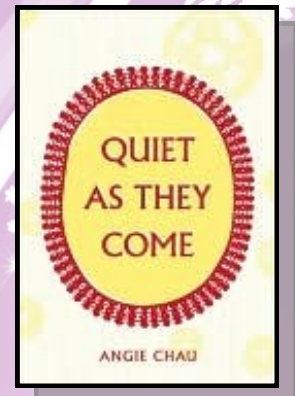
The original Ly Con Sao sung by Phi Nhung:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHWzIYvH3zs>

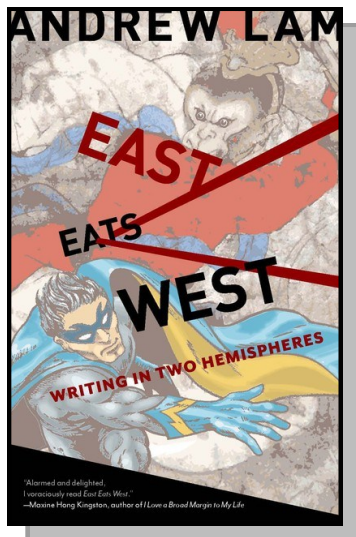
IV. BOOK: ANGIE CHAU: QUIET AS THEY COME

Serenely stirring stories from Vietnamese-American Chau track the breaking asunder of an extended Vietnamese boat family newly arrived in California in the 1970s. Fleeing the Vietcong and relocated to San Francisco, the family of aunts, uncles, and cousins has assumed catchy Western names like Sophia (Loren) and Marcel (Marcello Mastroianni), harboring many secrets in their bewildering new life in America. Well intentioned but misunderstood ("as quiet as they come"), Chau's characters, in portraits that radiate dignity and depth, seek freedom but find crushing loneliness

<http://www.angiechau.com/news.shtml>



V. BOOK: ANDREW LAM: EAST EATS WEST



In this compact collection of short personal essays, Vietnamese-American writer Lam considers how quickly the world (and, more specifically, California) has gone global. The most compelling insights come through reflections on his own family's escape from Vietnam in 1975, the east vs. west cultural differences in raising children, and the narrative potency of Manga. To marvel that eating pho in nearly every country in the world became possible seemingly overnight sounds trite precisely because we've come to expect it, yet the phenomenon remains worthy of observation and analysis.



