



Dear VMDT,

I've let myself focus on gardens and our upcoming trip to VN and have forgotten about anything online (except for searching for tropical weight apparel). Some of these were sent in some time ago but hopefully are all still of interest!

Nancy

Included:

- *Journey From The Fall* movie coming to theaters all over the country
- 2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Mekong Delta
- Lesson Plans for Celebrating Asian and Pacific-Island Heritage
- Registering as a Bone Marrow Donor - Thanks Mom Program
- In Vietnam, U.S. wins culture war – news article

***Journey From The Fall* movie coming to theaters all over the country**

"The Americans have broken their promise. They have left us."

(Long Nguyen, South Vietnamese resistance fighter)

Inspired by the true stories of Vietnamese refugees who fled their land after the fall of Saigon—and those who were forced to stay behind, *Journey From The Fall* follows one family's struggle for freedom.

STARTING 6/01/2007 MINNEAPOLIS, MN: [Landmark Lagoon Cinema](#) - ONE WEEK ONLY!

To check showings in other cities click on: <http://www.journeyfromthefall.com/Theaters.aspx>

2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Mekong Delta

on the National Mall, June 27-July 1 and July 4-8, 2007

Open daily 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Evening events 6 p.m.

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/festival/2007/Mekong/index.html>

Through craft demonstrations, dance and musical performances, and hands-on activities, *Mekong River: Connecting Cultures* will introduce visitors to the diverse cultures of the Mekong River. The Mekong region has been a cradle and crossroads of cultures for many centuries and more recently has become closely connected to the United States through the more than two million Americans who trace their ancestry to Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and the Chinese province of Yunnan. Visitors will experience the region's diversity firsthand through the presentations of artists, performers, craftspeople, cooks, ritual specialists, and presenters. Five stages, including a family learning center, will feature traditions as diverse as Vietnamese opera, Thai shadow puppetry, Cambodian classical dance, and Chinese gourd flute music. Exquisite Lao textiles, Naxi calligraphy, and mural painting will be only a few of the Mekong craft traditions presented. The Mekong has many different meanings to the peoples of the region as well as to Americans who may know little of its complexity. *Mekong River: Connecting Cultures* will help broaden everyone's view.

Lesson Plans for Celebrating Asian and Pacific-Island Heritage

Excerpted from post on APV

This month's National Education Association newsletter contains extensive information for teachers to use in planning activities that celebrate Asian heritage. You may want to share this link <http://www.nea.org/lessons/api.html> with your child's preschool or elementary school teacher. Even if it can't be used right away, there are some great ideas that may inspire the teacher to add this to her curriculum as time goes on.

Registering as a Bone Marrow Donor - Thanks Mom Program

Submitted by Lori Farmer, originally posted on FCC national website

Thought I group might be interested in this too. It's free for a short time and you just do it at home and mail it in!

From May 7 to May 21 you can join the National Bone Marrow Registry for FREE. Maybe you are the one person who is the only match for another child or adult. Here is information on the Thanks Mom program.

http://www.marow.org/NEWS/Events/Thanks_Mom/index.html

Please pass on the word about this program! It is free for the next two weeks and they mail the kit to your home, swab your cheeks and send it back in. It's that easy.

This is a cause near and dear to my heart. For years, we worked to find a suitable marrow donor for a little girl from China with aplastic anemia. She came close to dying many, many times and was on twice-weekly blood transfusions for two years. Finally, a donor was found by the Red Cross, within China...there were too few Asians registered in the US. She is doing very well, although is not out of the woods yet.

No matter what your race, I hope you will carefully consider this. This week there is no charge to register, but it is a serious matter so give it a lot of thought first. If you register, you will be expected to follow through in the rare chance that you are a match.

Thanks for thinking about it!

Jennifer, Alida's mom
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In Vietnam, U.S. Wins Culture War

Article submitted by Caroline Ticarro-Parker

April 30, 2007 Monday
Final Edition
BYLINE: William F. Powers

CHAPEL HILL--Recently, as young girls in prim school uniforms passed me on a Hanoi street, one of them smiled cheerfully, "Hi; see you later!" Recognizing a visiting American, she had decided to practice her English.

Americans were not always greeted in such a friendly fashion in Vietnam. Today marks the 32nd anniversary of

Saigon. Many of us have engraved in our memories the photograph of a helicopter on a Saigon rooftop hurriedly taking people as North Vietnamese troops moved into the city. After 10 years of savage warfare that included 58,000 service deaths, the conflict had ended and the country unified under Communist control. We had lost.

Paradoxically, although three decades ago our side lost the military war in Vietnam, today it is winning the cultural war. American movies, music, TV shows and clothing styles are all pervasive. China and Russia, ideologically and geographically closer to Vietnam than capitalist America, have made little impact in terms of language and the Vietnamese dream of visiting Los Angeles and New York, not Beijing and Moscow.

The admission of Vietnam to the World Trade Organization in January has accelerated the pace of development. Money from all over the world are pouring billions of dollars into real estate, housing, factories and infrastructure. For example, Saigon's international airport is being tripled in size to accommodate a rapidly increasing influx of tourists. What was once a country devastated by savage conflict now boasts that it is the most peaceful and stable country in Asia.

While poverty remains evident in both urban and rural areas, improvements in people's lives have been dramatic. The hope is palpable. One sign of progress is that while a decade ago bicycles were the most common form of transport, today millions of men and women own motorbikes. The roar of thousands of these vehicles filling the streets from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City characterizes every city.

As yet there are few private cars in Vietnam, but they're coming, and with them an increase in the already high air pollution. As in the United States, the price of "progress" is high.

As I walked along the street in Da Nang a teenage girl playfully touched my bare arm and ran away laughing. Her mother had similarly approached a Marine 40 years earlier. For it was in Da Nang in March 1965 that the first American combat troops arrived in Vietnam. Eventually, in the futile effort to stop the advance of the Communists, their numbers grew to half a million.

Despite impressive progress, there are reminders that not everyone in Vietnam has been healed, that not all the damage that was done to these people has been restored. In the seaside city of Hoi An is a sparsely equipped orphanage. The government provides only \$10 a month to support each of the 63 boys and girls housed there. Some of the children lie in cribs with bodies pitifully deformed.

No reconstruction project can eradicate the continuing genetic legacy of Agent Orange, the defoliant that U.S. troops used in a vain effort to stem the influx of Communist troops along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Some have compared our presence in Iraq today with that now long ago venture in Vietnam. What will Iraq be like decades hence? Will Americans be welcomed warmly as they are in Vietnam? Will there be lingering resentment over the unhealed wounds?

Perhaps I caused a little pain myself in Vietnam.

In the sprawling Saigon Central Market, a young girl spotted a plain yellow pencil in my shirt pocket. She reached for it and asked if I would give it to her, "for school." Startled by her forwardness and still not believing how friendly the Vietnamese were to Americans, I said "No," and hurried on.

Almost immediately I regretted my action, but it was too late. She had been swallowed up in the crowd. I had no opportunity to help in the process of forging links of friendship between our two countries. That girl would have used the pencil to all her friends and relatives. She would have said proudly, "A nice American man gave this pencil to me."

(William Powers, a retired professor of sociology, visited Vietnam recently. He is the author of "Tar Heel Catholics: How Strong As Death.")