



Wednesday May 21, 2008

Dear VMFC,

I've had my mind and heart elsewhere and haven't sent a newsletter since March.

In hopes that you've been missing it, here are some things to add to your Memorial Day reading list!

Thanks to all of you who have submitted articles, etc. It wouldn't be nearly as interesting without your contributions!

Enjoy,

Nancy

Included:

- Host Families for Vietnamese Students
- 4th Annual Vietnamese Arts & Cultural Heritage Exhibition
- Catalyst Garage Sale a Huge Success!
- Article: Vietnam puts stop on all US adoptions
- Article: Trade rules where guns once blazed
- Article: Lives remembered, lives rebuilt, attitudes changing 33 years after South Vietnam Fell
- Asian Nation website
- Vietnam News Links

Host Families for Vietnamese Students

Jodi Versaw, Nacel International Homestay Coordinator, has contacted us in hope that some of you would be able to provide a home for Vietnamese Exchange students. Perhaps this is the right time for your family to consider Jodi's request?:

I've often wondered if families who've adopted children from Vietnam would be interested in hosting an exchange student from Vietnam.

Here is some more specific information:

Exchange students are high-school age and will be studying at Nacel International School in St. Paul. (www.nacelinternationalschool.org/)

There are a large group of Vietnamese students waiting to be placed - currently 12 and likely more in the next few months.

Host families are needed in the Twin Cities metro area, preferably on a busline but potentially in other areas as well.

Students come for either 5 months (September - January or January - May) or 10 months (September - May).

Host families must provide a bed (room may be shared), a quiet place to study and regular meals. Families do not need to provide transportation to school, spending money or health insurance.

All sorts of families are considered - families with young children or older children, couples, singles or others.

Families are compensated \$300 per month for the duration of the student's stay.

Please let me know if you can get this information out to your members who might be interested, or if there is another way you would recommend getting in touch with potential host families.

Thank you very much for your time, and please feel free to contact me with any questions!

*Sincerely,
Jodi Versaw
Homestay Coordinator
Nacel International School
jkversaw@yahoo.com*

Submitted by Caroline Ticarro-Parker

4th Annual Vietnamese Arts & Cultural Heritage Exhibition

The Vietnam Center of Minnesota will be hosting its **4th Annual Vietnamese Arts & Cultural Heritage Exhibition** on Saturday, May 31, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's event will be held at Vietnam Center located at 1159 University Avenue West, St. Paul, MN 55104. The program includes a spectacular dragon dance performance, cultural shows, live entertainments, displays arts & crafts, hands-on activities for children, selected Vietnamese appetizers, refreshments and much more. This family event is **Free** to everyone so please join us!

**Saturday, May 31, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Vietnam Center
1159 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104**

Please contact Brandon Bui at 612-532-2728 for more information or visit our website at www.vietnamcenter.us . Thank you!

Submitted by John & Sue Stillman

Catalyst Garage Sale A Big Success!!

Thanks to your donations and help, our sale raised \$1,081 toward building a home for a family currently living in a garbage dump in Kien Giang.

We had beautiful weather despite predictions of rain and snow, and even decided to stay open an extra day to raise a little more money (and have a good excuse to sit outside in the sun all day!).

Our six year old son Jack designated himself "Security", so you can rest assured there was no funny business, and every item was paid for.

One of my favorite moments during the sale was when a father and his teenage son asked about [Catalyst](#) and what we were trying to do. When I told them about it, the teenager reached into his pocket, pulled out \$2 and said, "Here, I'm done shopping for the day, so you might as well have this". It was very touching, as we all know how precious those few dollars are at that age.

We plan to make the sale an annual event, so please think of us throughout the year and set aside anything you'd like to donate. The next sale will be May 2, 2009 and we can't wait!

The Stillman Family

Submitted by Don Hickman

Vietnam puts stop on all US adoptions

By Chris Brummitt, Associated Press

"HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam - Vietnam, where growing numbers of Americans have turned to adopt a baby, announced yesterday it is halting all US adoptions following allegations of baby-selling, corruption, and fraud."

(article can be found online :

www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2008/04/29/vietnam_puts_stop_to_all_us_adoptions/)

From Minneapolis Star Tribune Business Section, 5/20/2008

Trade rules where guns once blazed

By Neal St. Anthony, Star Tribune

Minnesotans reconnecting with Vietnam found the bustling country open for business and eager for commerce.

HANOI, VIETNAM - Destitute and war-ravaged a generation ago, Vietnam today boasts a fast-growing economy and a youthful workforce that has helped propel two-thirds of its 85 million people out of poverty since 1986...

(article can be found online :

[www.startribune.com/business/19085244.html?location_refer=\\$sectionName](http://www.startribune.com/business/19085244.html?location_refer=$sectionName))

Submitted by Caroline Ticarro-Parker

Lives remembered, lives rebuilt, attitudes changing 33 years after South Vietnam Fell

By My-Thuan Tran, Los Angeles Times

Thirty-three years after the Vietnam War ended, the fallen country of South Vietnam lives on -- in the streets of Orange County's Little Saigon and in the minds of thousands of refugees who fled communist forces and rebuilt their lives here.

The memories of hardship are still so bitter for some that they continue to mount street protests, fly the South Vietnamese flag from businesses and lampposts, and rail against communism on radio talk shows.

Now there are signs of shifting attitudes in the historically anticommunist community, the largest Vietnamese enclave in the U.S.

Vietnamese Americans are beginning to see opportunity in their home country, and increasingly, people are moving back, expanding their business ties or starting humanitarian organizations to improve the lives of those in Vietnam -- actions barely imaginable a decade ago....

(article can be found online : www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-me-saigon30apr30,1,1738706.story)

Submitted by Donna Cook

Asian Nation website

I found this to be a very interesting website, it has info for/by Asian Americans with info about adopted Asian children, info about Vietnam and a link to Andrew Lam and his video My Journey Home which is on YouTube and PBS.

Andrew Lam returns to Vietnam and documents his trip which is interspersed with video from the war as well. His father was a General in the South Vietnamese Army and their family left when Saigon fell and came to the United States.

Others may know about this web site but I thought it would be worth sharing this one.

www.asian-nation.org/headlines/2008/03/visits-back-to-viet-nam-by-andrew-lam/

Vietnam News Links

Want to keep current with what's happening in Vietnam and what may be of interest locally? Here are some links to add to your favorites:

Vietnamese Sources:

Vietnam Net Bridge: <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/>

Vietnam News: <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/>

Thanh Nien News: www.thanhniennews.com/

Saigon Times Weekly: www.saigontimesweekly.saigonnet.vn/2008/data/1focus_cover_story.htm

Vietnam News Agency: <http://www.vnagency.com.vn/Home/tabid/117/Default.aspx>

Midwest sources:

Asian American Press: <http://www.aapress.com/>

Asian Pages: www.asianpages.com/
