



The InformAsian

Smithsonian Asian Pacific
American Program

October 2008

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October is Filipino American History Month!

Filipino American History Month, also known as Filipino American Heritage Month, is celebrated in during the month of October. The Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) established Filipino American History Month in 1988 to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the permanent settlement of Filipinos in the continental United States.

Perhaps as early as the 18th century, "Manilamen" or Filipino sailors of the Manila galleon trade (1565-1815), jumped ship to escape their overseers and establish fishing and shrimping villages in New Orleans, Louisiana. Descendants of these first "immigrants" still live there today.

FANHS was founded in 1982 to keep alive the rich historical legacy of Filipino Americans.

Sources: FANHS and the Smithsonian APA Program's "A Century of Challenge and Change: The Filipino American Story" Curriculum Guide



Join Our Mailing List!

Masarap! It's Delicious! **Filipino American Culture and Cuisine**

Thursday, October 30, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Ring Auditorium
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
Independence Avenue at 7th Street, SW
Metro Stop: Smithsonian or L'Enfant Plaza

In celebration of Filipino American Heritage Month, come join us to learn more about Filipino American culture and cuisine.

Our delicious featured speakers include:

Martin Manalansan, associate professor of Anthropology at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign;

Amy Besa and Romy Dorotan, founding co-owners of Cendrillon, a chic Filipino fusion restaurant in New York City's Soho neighborhood, and co-authors of *Memories of Philippine Kitchens*;

and Jennifer Aranas, chef, teacher, and former owner of the nationally-acclaimed Rambutan Restaurant in Chicago who now spends her time as a food writer (*The Filipino-American Kitchen*) and cooking instructor.

And don't forget to stay for the book signing afterwards. You, too, can make some of these fabulous recipes at home!

The event is free and open to the public. No reservations required. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

SALTAF 2008™
South Asian Literary and Theater Arts Festival

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Baird Auditorium
National Museum of Natural History
10th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Metro: Smithsonian or Federal Triangle

Oh, how the patient of you have waited for the full line-up ... and here it finally is! You won't be disappointed, that's for sure!

Drop everything and mark your calendars in red for SALTAF™ 2008, which undoubtedly has become one of the most anticipated, highlight fall events here at the Smithsonian.

SALTAF returns anew, marking the fifth year that the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program joins forces with the Washington, DC chapter of the Network of South Asian Professionals (NetSAP-DC) to bring you another memorable event.

The SALTAF Committee is thrilled to announce four confirmed literary stars:

Tahmima Anam, whose luminous debut, *A Golden Age*, about one woman's remarkable experiences in the 1971 Bangladesh War, won the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Overall Best First Book;

V.V. Ganeshanathan, another fiction newbie with a critically acclaimed debut, *Love Marriage*, about a globe-scattered Sri Lankan family;

Naeem Murr, whose latest novel, *The Perfect Man*, a coming-of-age story about an Indian-born, London-raised young man, was last year's Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Europe and South Asia for Best Book, as well as a 2006 Booker long-listener; and

Manil Suri, whose highly anticipated follow-up, *The Age of Shiva*, to his critically acclaimed award-winning debut, *The Death of Vishnu*, appeared earlier this year to much praise;

For the filmi devotees, Richie Mehta, arrives with his award-winning feature, *AMAL*, which began as a short film based on a story written by his brother, Shaun Mehta. With a luminous cast that includes Naseeruddin Shah, Rupinder Nagra, and Seema Biswas, *AMAL* tells the poignant story of an auto-rickshaw driver who meets an eccentric billionaire searching for one last morsel of humanity in the streets of crowded, anonymous Delhi. Their fateful meeting will change both lives forever.

To complete the *AMAL* package, we'll have copies of Shaun Mehta's short story collection, *A Slice of Life*, from whence the story of *AMAL* sprang forth, available for sale so brother Richie can sign.

Finally, after numerous previous attempts, we are actually getting the inimitable Sooni Taraporevala to the Smithsonian to screen her debut feature film, *Little Zizou*. Already world-renowned for her scripts for Mira Nair's Oscar-nominated *Salaam Bombay*, *Mississippi Masala*, *The Namesake*, and more, Taraporevala's directorial debut features two Bombay families who both love and hate each other in this rambunctious family drama. This is a rare opportunity to get a sneak peek at this just-completed, delightful film long before everyone else will be talking about it!

And since everyone has a book to sign, the day would not be complete without the availability of *PARSIS: The Zoroastrians of India - A Photographic Journey*, a stunning photography collection by the multi-talented Sooni, who will be signing copies, too!

Can you think of a better way to spend a Saturday?!! Nope, thought not. So bring your friends and families, your in-laws and their friends, too!

And remember to come early. The return SALTAFers can tell you ... seats fill up and then there will be none left!



SALTAF™ Author Spotlight: Naeem Murr

Naeem Murr has written three novels, *The Boy*, *The Genius of the Sea*, and, in 2007, *The Perfect Man*, which was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Europe and South Asia for Best Book, as well as being a 2006 Booker long-lister.

The Perfect Man follows the life of Rajiv "Raj" Travers, the Indian-born son of a British man and an Indian woman who is suddenly transplanted to the home of his Uncle's wife in a small Missouri town. The novel captures both the complications of ethnicity in

small-town America and the spirit of the American South.

Naeem Murr will be reading from *The Perfect Man* and will be available to sign books at SALTAF™ (South Asian Literary and Theatre Arts Festival) on November 15th in Baird auditorium at the National Museum of Natural History.

SALTAF™, an annual showcase of diasporic South Asian literary and film talents, is one of the Smithsonian APA Program's most popular events. The program is a partnership with the DC chapter of the Network of South Asian Professionals (NetSAP-DC). See above for the upcoming line-up of SALTAF stars.

Previous SALTAFs at the Smithsonian have featured such impressive participants as Booker Prize-winner Kiran Desai and renowned filmmaker Deepa Mehta who U.S.-premiered her award-winning film, *Water*, to overflowing crowds.

Keep checking www.apa.si.edu/programs_upcoming.html or www.saltaf.org for updates on this much anticipated event.

American History Museum to Re-Open Late November

Mark your calendars for the re-opening of the American History Museum on November 21! With a beautiful new interior, the displays will be more educational and more entertaining than ever before. A new view of the Star Spangled Banner, new showcases, new displays and a new beautiful atrium are just some of the additions that make a visit to the museum a must.

The Asian Pacific American Program will have its own showcase of artifacts from our rich history.

More information will follow in next month's issue of the newsletter, but for now, save the date and plan for a fun time!

For more information: <http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/about/renovations.cfm>

Welcome to Our Sogi Fellow: Faith Macauley

The APA Program proudly hosts our eighth Sogi Fellow this fall. Beginning in 2001, the Sogi Fellowship has provided opportunities for University of Hawai'i at Manoa students to intern at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program under the guidance of Director Franklin Odo. Francis and Sarah Sogi established the fellowship understanding the importance of scholarship and experience, and in turn, generously endowed these opportunities to one student each fall.

Our 2008 Sogi Fellow, Faith Macauley, is a junior majoring in Chinese Language and Literature. Over the course of her internship, she will conduct research on the progression of Asian Pacific American identity through literature, focusing on first-generation Asian Americans and Hapa culture.

The 9th Annual DC APA Film Festival

Congrats to the DC APA Film Fest for an excellent festival this past week! Last Saturday, September 27, The Freer and Sackler Galleries screened three films, *The Siamese Connection*, *Long Story Short*, and *Santa Mesa* to a warm and receptive audience.

The 9th Annual DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival ends on **Oct. 4, 2008** with the closing night film, *The Killing of Chinese Fortune Cookie*. In this offbeat documentary, filmmaker Derek Shimoda travels throughout the country in an attempt to document the truth behind the history of the fortune cookie.

Featuring an eclectic mix of interviews with people like master chef Martin Yan and Giant Robot founder Eric Nakamura, this film reveals how this edible invention evolved from an after-dinner treat to an American cultural phenomenon, influencing areas of art, film, fashion, and beyond. The Closing Night Reception with Derek Shimoda will be held at Civilian Art Projects directly after the screening.

Tickets to the film and reception can be purchased online in advance at a discounted price. A complete listing of all films with descriptions, time, and ticket information is available at <http://www.apafilm.org/2008>.

Archived Newsletters Up and Running

We will post newsletters from here on out on the Smithsonian APA Program website. Simply go to the following website and download the PDF files of past months to double-check event times/dates or to re-read certain articles.

To access the site: http://www.apa.si.edu/resources_multimedia.html. And thanks for reading!

Congratulations!

The winner of the Newsletter Title Contest is Connie C., from the University of Virginia, who submitted "InformAsian"!

Thanks so much for all your submissions - it was a tough choice!



Collections: Philippine Nursing Cap

Between 1965 and 1988, more than 70,000 foreign nurses entered the United States, with the majority coming from Asia. Although Korea, India, and Taiwan are among the top Asian sending countries, the Philippines is by far the leading provider of nurses to the United States. At least 25,000 Filipina nurses immigrated between 1966 and 1985.

Reyna Jayme Legaspi, RN, BSN, graduated from San Pedro College of Nursing, Davao, Philippines in 1991. Displayed is her white cap from her college nursing capping ceremony. In 1995, Legaspi immigrated to the United States with an H-1 Visa. Shortly after her arrival, she worked as a Registered Nurse after passing the Nursing Comprehensive Licensure Examination in Florida.

Filipina American nurses provide a critical source of labor for metropolitan and public hospitals that are primarily in the states of New York, New Jersey, California, Texas, Florida, and Massachusetts.

This nursing cap will be in the APA Collections showcase featured in the National Museum of American History when it re-opens in late November.

Gift of Reyna Jayme Legaspi. Photo by Krishna L. Aniel.

Spotlight on Smithsonian Affiliations: Kona Historical Society Museum, Kealahou, Hawai'i

The Kona Historical Society Museum was founded in 1976 by the Kona Historical Society, a community-based, non-profit organization founded with the mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate the history of the Kona districts. The museum is housed in the historic Greenwell Store, built in 1875 out of native stone by Henry Nicholas Greenwell. The Kona Historical Museum most prominently features the coffee industry through old

photographs and artifacts, but also hosts artifacts of sugar, pineapple, and macadamia nut cultivation in the region.

The Kona Historical Society also maintains an extensive research archive that contains over 50,000 photographs, maps, manuscripts, films, slides, oral histories, and an extensive database of Kona place names. The Society furthermore provides walking tours through Kailua Village and the Kona Coffee Living History Farm, maintains a restored Greenwell Store with accurate reproduction of goods and a staff dressed in period costumes, and conducts lectures and outreach programs in association with the Smithsonian Institution.

The Society currently has a few other projects in the works: the Kona Heritage Ranch, an outdoor museum depicting the daily life of an 1890 rancher, is planned to open next door to the Greenwell Store, and a \$1-million visitor center is slated to open by the end of this year.

The Kona Historical Society Museum is located at 81-6551 Mamalahoa Highway (Hwy.11), Kealahou, Hawaii 96750. For more information, call 808.323.3222 or fax 808.323.2398. The museum can also be reached by email at khs@konahistorical.org or by mail at P.O. Box 398, Captain Cook, Hawai'i 96704.

This Month in History: MacArthur's Return

"I shall return," General Douglas MacArthur said on March 11, 1942 as he was forced to flee the Philippines due to orders from President Roosevelt. With World War II putting a strain on U.S. military forces and the Japanese offensive making strong headway in the Pacific, MacArthur was pulled away from Corregidor, Philippines and put in charge of the defense of Australia.



Meanwhile, back in the Philippines, the Japanese were capturing city after city, and on April 9, 1942, nearly 70,000 U.S. and Filipino soldiers were forced on a 60-mile death march, the infamous tragedy that became the "Bataan Death March."

Two-and-a-half years later, an invasion of the Philippines was again feasible, and on October 20, 1944, MacArthur landed on the island of Leyte. The October landing was the beginning of the end for the Japanese troops in the Philippines. By the following June, the Japanese were finally pushed from the islands.

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history.do?action=ldihArticleCategory&id=7056>

<http://pinas.dlsu.edu.ph/history/history.html>

For more information about what's going on in our office, visit us at www.apa.si.edu.

Until November,

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*Please note, in last month's issue, Krishna Aniel and Becky Esman also contributed articles.

*Title photograph of flowers outside Smithsonian Castle, Washington, DC by Becky Esman