



# The InformAsian

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program November 2008

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## American History Museum Reopens!

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History will open its doors to the public Friday, Nov. 21, providing a new look at the almost 200-year-old Star-Spangled Banner and a rare chance to see the White House copy of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The reopening will mark the completion of a two-year, \$85 million renovation of the building's center core, dramatically transforming the museum's architectural appeal while reorganizing and renewing the presentation of its extensive collections.



Visitors will enter a dramatic, five-story, sky-lit atrium, surrounded by artifact displays filled with more than 400 objects showcasing the breadth and depth of the museum's three million objects representing the cultural, social, technological, and political history of the United States. An architectural representation of a waving flag – 960 reflective tiles made of polycarbonate material – frames the entrance to the Star-Spangled Banner gallery. The gallery is a climate-controlled, state-of-the-art chamber designed to evoke the "dawn's early light." An exhibition that includes multimedia displays and historic objects will tell the story of the flag and the National Anthem.

The renovation project focused on three areas: architectural enhancements to the center core, including a grand staircase and a skylight; construction of a new Star-Spangled Banner gallery; and updates to the 44-year-old building's infrastructure. New York architectural firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP designed the project and Turner Construction Company is responsible for the overall construction. New York design firms Chermayeff & Geismar Studio and C&G Partners are working with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill on the new gallery for the Star-Spangled Banner.

The renovation is made possible through a public-private partnership with \$46 million in federal funds and the remaining \$39 million from individuals, foundations, and corporations. The museum's \$80-million donor, Kenneth E. Behring, has contributed \$16 million to the project.

Throughout its reopening year, the museum will present new exhibits and programs, with one highlight being the 8,000-square-foot exhibition, "On the Water: Stories from Maritime America," which opens in spring 2009. The Susan and Elihu Rose Gallery, also opening in 2009, will feature changing exhibitions. Programming will take center stage with visitors able to encounter historic characters every weekend and on federal holidays, as well as tours, theater, and popular song programs. A list of 2008-2009 exhibitions and programs will be available in October.

Visitors may explore virtual exhibitions, view collections, and find updates via the museum's website: <http://www.americanhistory.si.edu>. The public may also subscribe to a monthly electronic newsletter for re-opening updates and upcoming exhibitions.

The National Museum of American History documents the American experience from Colonial times to the present. For more information, call Smithsonian Information at 202.633.1000 or 202.633.5285 (TTY).

**Be a Part of History!**  
**Museum Reopening Celebration Weekend**  
**Friday, Nov. 21 - Sunday, Nov. 23**

We invite you to join us for a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, Nov. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., featuring appearances by living history presenters, festive music by a brass band and a children's choir, and other special guests. The lawn party on the National Mall terrace includes complimentary refreshments and special gifts for the first 1,814 guests.

Throughout opening weekend, you can delight in festive music, performances, and activities that complement the new spaces. Two stages feature all-American music, from jazz and blues to folk and salsa. Performers re-create significant historical moments. We invite you to discover our family-friendly Spark!Lab, pick up a flag pin, and take your own tour of the Museum's treasures.

The Museum wishes to thank its reopening media sponsor, WAMU 88.5 FM. The Reopening Festival runs Friday, Nov. 21 through Sunday, Nov. 23 between 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (open until 7:00 p.m. on Friday. Come join us and be a part of history!

**SALTAF™ 2008 Final Spotlights!**

**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**

**V. V. Ganeshanathan**, a fiction writer and journalist, lives in New York. She is a 2002 graduate of Harvard College. In 2005, she received an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her recent novel, *Love Marriage*, was released earlier this year to great acclaim. *Love Marriage* examines the lives of the many members of a Sri Lankan Tamil family, both in Sri Lanka and North America. V.V. utilizes an original storytelling style to take us into the lives of the vast family and their deep emotional connections, without ever losing sight of the context of Sri Lanka's civil war and the presence of the militant Tamil Tigers. V.V. will be reading from *Love Marriage* and will be available to sign books.

**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. The film is about Amal, a rickshaw driver in Delhi, who encounters an eccentric millionaire, who, after an inspiring conversation with Amal, decides to leave him his fortune. This inspiring film will definitely be a highlight of the event! 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 and signing by Richie.

Finally, we are truly honored to host **Sooni Taraporevala**, one of the pioneers of Indian American film. She is best known as the screenwriter for the widely acclaimed films *Salaam Bombay!*, *Mississippi Masala*, and *The Namesake*. Now, we are fortunate enough to host the DC premiere – and only the second screening ever in the world! – of her directorial debut, *Little Zizou*. The film is about members of India's Parsi minority in Bombay and, in particular, the relationships between two feuding families. The film features an excellent ensemble cast and is sure to be a big hit! In addition, Sooni will be signing copies of her gorgeous book *PARSIS: The Zoroastrians of India – A Photographic Journey*.

SALTAF, an annual showcase of diasporic South Asian literary and film talents, is one of the Smithsonian's most popular events. The program is a partnership with the DC chapter of the Network of South Asian Professionals (NetSAP-DC).

Keep checking [www.apa.si.edu/programs\\_upcoming.html](http://www.apa.si.edu/programs_upcoming.html) or [www.saltaf.org](http://www.saltaf.org) for the latest details about this much anticipated event.

**Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program Partnership with The Filipino Channel to Promote "Singgalot: Ties That Bind" Traveling Exhibit**

For Filipinos living outside of their native country, The Filipino Channel (TFC) provides news reporting, game shows, comedies, and telenovelas. In many ways, TFC is the Filipinos' window to home away from home. TFC is ABS-CBN Broadcasting Network's Filipino-language premium television programming service in the world. Launched in the United States in 1994, TFC has since grown to include broadcasts in four other areas of the world: Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East. In North America alone, TFC reaches over 250,000 households serving up home-cooked television broadcasting to millions of Filipinos.

The idea to launch TFC came from ABS-CBN's late patriarch, Mr. Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr., an

astute Filipino businessman who built a media conglomerate in the Philippines which originated in the late '50s. With the Filipino populace burgeoning worldwide in the early '90s, Geny wanted to share ABS-CBN's TV programming with the overseas Pinoy. Working from a small office in Northern California, Geny and his son Raffy laid the groundwork for TFC with no more than a few tools, satellite dishes, and some perspiration. What drove father and son to succeed was a firm belief that the Filipino deserved more. And soon enough, more and more Pinoys were connecting via TFC to their homeland.

TFC's mantra is simple: to be in the service of the Filipino. It is a mantra which Raffy has adhered to in the operations of TFC, as well as ABS-CBN's other product lines. Today, as COO of ABS-CBN Global, he has carried this even further by taking ABS-CBN beyond the television screen and offering merchant,

telecommunications, money remittance, and cargo services, among others, as ABS-CBN continues its efforts to bring the overseas Filipino closer to their loved ones back home.

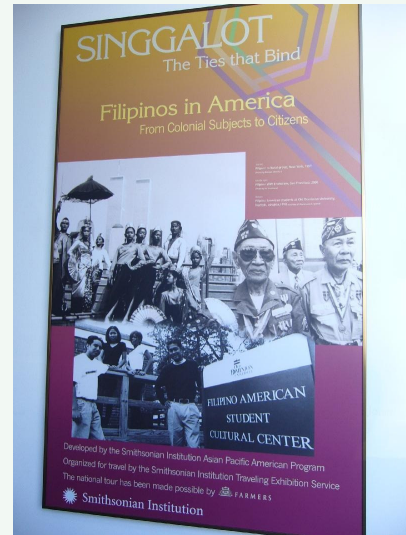
But while the business ventures of TFC and ABS-CBN keep Raffy engaged, he is also dedicated to corporate social responsibilities. Supporting campaigns and causes that help promote Filipino culture and heritage is high among his priorities. One of the campaigns he's currently supporting is the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program's "*Singgalot*" exhibit, which chronicles the Filipino immigrants' emergence and rise in the United States.

"*Singgalot: Ties That Bind*" is currently on view at Remy's Temple in Los Angeles, California but will be at Reynolds Gallery, University of the Pacific in Stockton, California from Nov. 15, 2008 - Jan. 25, 2009. ABS-CBN is the National Media Sponsor for the Filipino American Centennial Commemoration 2006. In addition to their generous contribution, they also provided free 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) promoting Filipino Centennial public programs in 2006. Now they are promoting the traveling exhibit venues through 2010.

"It is with much honor and pride that ABS-CBN Global and The Filipino Channel (TFC) serve as national media sponsors for the distinctive exhibition, "*Singgalot: Ties That Bind*," Raffy said. "The *Singgalot* exhibit takes us through the remarkable history of the Filipino immigrant - from our early status as farmhands, laborers, and soldiers to our emergence today as a relevant ethnicity in modern American society.

"The road taken by the Filipino in the United States was not an easy one as we had to strain to achieve equality, independence, and respect. Many of our predecessors even fought alongside our American brethren for a liberty and sovereignty which countless benefit from today. In making their contributions, our forefathers not only tightened the bond between two nations but they helped raise a democratic society as well."

While most of his projects and products deal with the overseas Filipino, Raffy still extends a hand to the needy back home in the Philippines. Serving as Chairman of the ABS-CBN Foundation in North America, Raffy raises funds to help disadvantaged and at-risk Filipino children in a campaign known to many as *Bantay Bata* (Child Watch). Raffy and his sister Gina, Managing Director for the ABS-CBN Foundation in Manila, are creating better futures for the next generation of Filipinos.



### "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon" Exhibit Opening Recap

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program's traveling exhibit, "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon," opened on Aug. 20 in Houston, Texas at Houston Community College. The exhibit opening was marked by a huge turnout and overwhelmingly positive response. The exhibit, which chronicles the development of the Vietnamese American community through a series of photographic panels, is currently on display at Houston Community College until Nov. 30.

The opening celebration honored members of Houston's Vietnamese American community, which totals over 32,000 people and constitutes approximately 1.7 percent of Houston's total

population. Gigi Do, Director of International Initiatives at Houston Community College, was instrumental in assisting the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program in bringing this exhibit to Houston.

Houston Community College was a historically significant venue choice for this exhibit, as the college helped shelter refugees during the mass exodus from Vietnam. The exhibit opening proved to be a tremendous evening, and hopefully Houston's success will be replicated at the scheduled future sites for this exhibit.

*Photo of Gigi Do and our very own APA Program intern, Rajiv Menon.*

## **Smithsonian's Filipino American Centennial Online Curriculum: The East Coast Launch and Training!**

**Saturday November 8, 2008  
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Computer Science and Space Building  
Room 3332  
University of Maryland, College Park**

### **Training Includes:**

- Ready to use materials and resources for teachers
- Online and print activities for students
- Online community forum

"A fabulous curriculum about the history and culture of Filipino Americans. The graphics are gorgeous and the resources are rich and diverse."

- Dr. Franklin Odo, Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program

Workshop space is limited to 20 participants! Register now with Eleonor G. Castillo at [eleonorc@umd.edu](mailto:eleonorc@umd.edu) or call 619.417.2892.

### *Co-Sponsors:*

*University of Hawaii, Manoa, College of Education  
University of Maryland Asian American Studies Program  
Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program*

## **Vacancy Announcement**

**Position Available: Curriculum writer  
Closing Date: November 21, 2008**

In 2005, the Smithsonian Institution observed the 25th anniversary of the end of the war in Southeast Asia and the beginning of significant Vietnamese migration to the United States with a Vietnamese American exhibit, a series of public programs, and the establishment of an endowment. The exhibition, "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon," is now on national tour until 2010. For the exhibition to reach more people, we will develop a curriculum to aid teachers in incorporating Vietnamese American history into their classes. The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program seeks a contractor (an individual or team of individuals) to produce a curriculum guide based on the exhibition "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon" to raise awareness of Vietnamese American history.

### **Description of Project**

The curriculum shall cover three topic areas appropriate for 6th through 9th graders. Units shall focus on the themes of the exhibit "Exit Saigon, Enter Little Saigon" – with lessons centered on history and culture, immigration, and contemporary issues.

Curriculum materials shall include sample activities and resources that teachers can integrate into their own lesson plans. The curriculum framework shall use the National Social Studies standards as a guide (<http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/>) to facilitate the use of lessons to address state standards.

### **Timeline**

The contractor will have up to three months to develop the materials. The contractor and Smithsonian staff shall set up a schedule for review and updates.

### **Deliverables**

The contractor is responsible for the following deliverables:

1. Background information for teachers providing an overview of the topics.
2. Lesson plans.
3. Activities for students.



4. Resources and references, including source information for copyrighted materials such as photos and text excerpts.

**Contract budget:** \$4,000 firm fixed price.

#### **Distribution**

Smithsonian APA Program web designer will post the curriculum on the Asian Pacific American Program's website ([www.apa.si.edu](http://www.apa.si.edu)) where it will be available for use free of charge. Information about the curriculum will also appear on all Vietnamese American Heritage Project material produced by Smithsonian (exhibit brochure, public program handouts, bookmarks).

#### **Selection Criteria**

- Experience designing and implementing curricula.
- Some familiarity of Vietnamese American history, culture, and contemporary issues.

#### **How to Submit an Application**

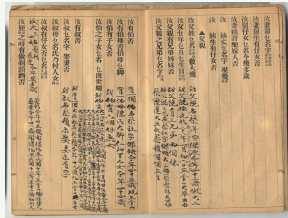
Please submit your resume with a cover letter detailing your experiences writing curriculum guides. If available, please send a sample of your past work. You can submit materials electronically to Gina Inocencio at [inocenciog@si.edu](mailto:inocenciog@si.edu) or fax to 202.633.2699 or by mail to the address listed below. All applications should be received no later than *November 21, 2008*.

#### **For USPS**

APA Program  
Smithsonian Institution  
P.O. Box 37012  
Capital Gallery, Suite 7065, MRC: 516  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
Attention: Gina Inocencio

#### **For FedEx or other commercial couriers**

Gina Inocencio  
Smithsonian APA Program  
Capital Gallery, Suit 7065  
600 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
Phone: 202.633.2827



#### **Collections: Chinese Coaching Book (1938)**

A new exhibit, "Barriers to Bridges," opens at the National Museum of American History on Nov. 21, 2008 – when the American History Museum itself reopens after an extensive renovation. This artifact case presents Asian immigration to the United States from the 19th century to the present.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first racially discriminatory legislation in American immigration history, prevented all but a few Chinese from entering the U.S. In 1906, the San Francisco earthquake and subsequent fire destroyed local public records, allowing many Chinese to claim that they had been born there. These men, with newly established citizenship status, periodically returned to China and claimed citizenship for their children (overwhelmingly boys), who could then move to the U.S. as citizens. U.S. officials were aware of this practice and created elaborate "traps" to uncover these "paper sons," thus subjecting both legal and undocumented Chinese to harsh treatment. At California's Angel Island immigration station, which was in use from 1910 to 1940, officials detained immigrants for weeks and months, sometimes for years, before admitting or rejecting them.

This is a coaching book which was studied by Choi Tsia who arrived on Angel Island in 1938. Approximately 175,000 Chinese immigrants came through Angel Island. Prospective immigrants memorized minute details of their homes and villages as well as specific knowledge of their ancestors in order to "prove" their status.

*Gift of Ted Gong.*

#### **Spotlight on Smithsonian Affiliations:**

##### **Lyman Museum Hilo, Hawai'i**

The Lyman Museum, a Smithsonian Institution affiliate located in Hilo, Hawai'i, began as the Lyman Mission House in 1839. The mission house was built for New England missionaries David and Sarah Lyman and was converted into a museum in 1931 by the descendents of the Lymans.

Two major galleries make up the Lyman Museum today: the Earth Heritage Gallery, which highlights the volcanic origins and ecosystems of Hawai'i that existed prior to human contact, and the Island Heritage Gallery, which showcases the life of native Hawaiians and early immigrants. The Lyman Museum Archives also hosts over 26,000 historical documents and photographs of Hawai'i. The Mission House remains an important part of the museum today and showcases life in Hawai'i as it was 150 years ago.

While the Lyman Museum primarily showcases the natural and cultural history of Hawai'i, it also features the ancient art of China in its Shipman Gallery of Chinese Art, a collection of seashells and minerals in a Special Exhibit Gallery, as well as works by local artists. The museum also hosts numerous community programs and events each year.

Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays. The Lyman Museum Archives are open by appointment only. The Museum is located at 276 Haili Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720, and can be contacted by phone at 808.835.5021 or by fax at 808.969.7685.

**This Month in History:**  
***Takao Ozawa vs. United States***  
**November 13, 1922**

Takao Ozawa wanted to be an American citizen. He attended higher education in California, went to Christian churches, spoke English at home, and sent his children to American schools. These were all attempts to blend into white mainstream America.

When he applied for citizenship in 1914, one would think that not only because he had been living in the States for so long, but also because of his American way of life, that he would have been allowed to become a citizen. However, he was denied citizenship because Congress had said naturalization would only be given to whites and African descendents.

Eight years later, in November 1922, the Supreme Court in stood by the lower Courts' decision to deny Ozawa his U.S. citizenship. They said in the opinion of the Court, as presented by Justice Sutherland, that Ozawa was "qualified by character and education...[but that] having been born in Japan, and being of the Japanese race, he was not eligible to naturalization." For decades to come, this case and later anti-immigration laws ended the hopes of many who wished to officially join the ranks of American society.

Source: Franklin Odo's *The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience*.

For more information about what's going on in our office, visit us at [www.apa.si.edu](http://www.apa.si.edu).

Until December,

Becky Esman  
Newsletter Editor

Noriko Sanefuji, Francey Youngberg, Rajiv Menon, Mina Yu, Krishna Aniel, Becky Esman  
Newsletter Contributors

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