



A Festival of Cambodian Culture

*We, the Cambodian-Americans
Children, Proud of our Roots and
Cultures.*

យើង, កូនខ្មែរអាមេរិកាំង, មានចោទភាព ចំពោះ
ដើមកំណើត និង សប្បុរស របស់ យើង

**Sunday, August 26, 2007
Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA.**

*Sponsored by Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks
and Cultural Activities.*

*Co-sponsored by Cambodian Community of the Greater
Washington, D.C Area.*



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Proud of our Roots and Cultures.**

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មេមត់ព្រឹត្តិ និង វប្បធម៌ របស់ យើង**



**Sunday August 26, 2007
Ben Brenman Park
5000 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA**

Cambodian Community Day

*Sponsored by Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.
Co-sponsored by Cambodian Community of the Greater Washington, D.C Area.*

Cambodian Community Day, August 26, 2007

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremony: Yanny Hin and Schanley Kuch

1. 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- Arts & Craft Exhibitions, friendship building and networking.
- Children popular and folk games.
- Cambodian Music CD: the Khmer Traditional and Modern music.

5. 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- Cambodian Traditional Music: The Mohori Phirum Ensemble** 12:00 – 1:00

Instructor: Master Ngek Chum; organized and led by Tevy Roth Veun : Performed by: Ngetk Chum (Kloy), Tevy Roth veun (Roneat Ek), Amro Veun (Sampho), Mohory Nak(Ching), Son Sin(Tro Sar), Sareth So(Takay), Sok Nuo(Khim), Kuon Hann(Tro Ou), Ponlork Le(Banjo).

7. 1:00 PM – 1:25 PM

- Salute of Colors
- American and Cambodian National Anthems.
Performed by: Sanica Sok, Sithon Sok, Brandon Holl, Malis Ek, Sanara Ek, Stephen Chum, Christopher Chum, Regina Yap, Erica Yap, Sean Tet, Zachary Kang, Samantha Lushinsky.

- Silence to salute our troops who defend our freedom.

- Opening Remarks: by Boran Tum, CCD Chairman.**

1:05 Pm

- Welcome Remarks: by Cheryl Lawrence,** Alexandria Dept of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Special Event Supervisor.

1:10Pm

- Guest Speaker: City Councilman Justin Wilson, Representative Mayor of Alexandria City**

1:15Pm

- CCD 2007 Proclamation Presentation by the Councilman Justin Wilson, Reps. Mayor of Alexandria.

- Guest Speaker: H.E Sereywath Ek, Cambodian Ambassador to the United States.**

1:20 Pm

16. 1:25 PM – 1:30 PM

- Poem Recital**

- Performed by Mantha Yong, Sophia Tep, Thal Ngin, and Bou Sakan, Accompanied with Flute by Chum Ngek.

19. 1:30 PM – 2:45 PM

- Cambodian Classical Dances and show:**

Presented by Cambodian Buddhist Society Culture Group and CCD Volunteers

- Robam Chun Por** (The blessings Dance)

1:30 – 1:40

Performed by *Bopha Suy, Vathany Say, Bunnida Cheang-Sek, Manida Samketh, and Annong Phann*

- Robam Sek Sarika** (The Parrots Dance)

1:40 – 1:50

Performed by *Danita Mani, Thyda Sam, Allysa Thao, Evenlyn Thao, Tiffany Tea, and Samantha Koy*

- Or Phthey Srok Khmer and Robam AngRe Show** (Livelihood of Cambodian and Sticks Dance)

1:50 – 2:05

Performed by *CCD Committee: Sinara, Sophia, Somony, Saody, Salang, Sovannroth, Sakan, Sophea, Rivann, Harn, Thal, Sophorn*

- Robam Sva Prathum** (The Monkey Dance)

2:05 – 2:15

Performed by *Zachary Taylor*

- Robam Nesat** (The fishing Dance)

2:15 – 2:25

Performed by: *Vathana Say, Bobbharat Rithipol, Lena Ouk, Puthyrith Sek, Khanthypor Chhim, and Ganbott Voey*

- Robam Tivea Propey** (Glorious Day Dance).

2:25 – 2:35

Performed by *Sabre Seang, Sakura Seang, Brittany Tea, Sabrina Keo, Lina Robertshh-Way, and Anna Mosher*

27. 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

- CCD active member presentation**

2:45 – 2:55

- Group Children Singing in Khmer: Chun Cheat Khmer** (Native Cambodians)

2:55 – 3:00

Performed by Cambodian Development Foundation, Inc (CDFI):

Stephanie Lay, Richard Lay, Jonathan Lay, Odommoni Nginn, Paulette Nginn, Horn Yim.

- Closing Remarks, by Ben Bao, CCD Advisor.**

31. 3:00 PM – 6:00PM

Social Dances

Performed by Reasmey Angkor Band: Rom Vong, Rom Khbach, Saravann, Cha Cha Cha

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every year for the past 27 years, the Heritage of Cambodian Americans has been honored and celebrated in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area and in other parts of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is home to many Cambodians who are rich in their cultural heritage and are very successful in their professional lives; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Cambodian Community in the City of Alexandria and in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area, will celebrate its rich heritage and culture through various cultural activities, live performance of classical, folk and traditional dances, arts and crafts displays, traditional games, and ethnic food tasting; and


WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria is very proud of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of its Cambodian citizens, and recognizing their continuing contribution to the culture, education, arts, industries, community, civics life, the City of Alexandria joins the rest of the Commonwealth in celebrating Cambodian Community Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2007 as:

"CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY"

in the City of Alexandria, and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in recognizing the multiculturalism and diversity of the Cambodian American heritage.

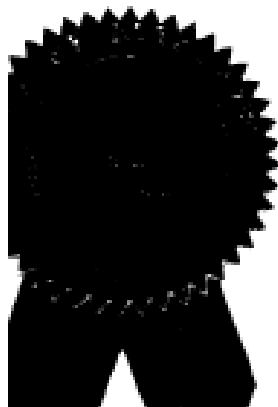
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 26th day of August 2007.



WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk



ខ្ញុំសូមគោរពលោក លោកស្រី និងប្រិយមិត្តជាទីមេត្រី

ខ្ញុំសូមថ្លែងអំណរគុណដល់ លោក លោកស្រីនិង ប្រិយមិត្តទាំងអស់ ដែលបានអញ្ជើញមកថ្ងៃនេះ។ វត្តមានអស់លោក លោកស្រីថ្ងៃនេះ ជាសខីយភាពមួយ រូបរូម ជួយលើកដំកើង និងជួយផ្សព្វផ្សាយវប្បធម៌ អារិយធម៌ខ្មែរយើង។

ខ្ញុំយល់ថាយើងជាខ្មែរម្នាក់ៗ មានភារៈ កិច្ចរាងខ្លួន ជួយជាតិតាមមធ្យោបាយណាមួយ។ ការចូលរួមក្នុងទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរ ក៏ជាធ្វេចបាយមួយល្អ ព្រោះគោលពំណាងចំរបស់ពិធីបុណ្យ នេះគឺធ្វើយ៉ាងណាអោយ អង្គរជាតិគេមើលឃើញ

ថាខ្មែរយើងជាជាតិមួយមាន អារិយធម៌ខ្ពង់ខ្ពស់។ សូមលោកលោកស្រីនិងប្រិយមិត្តជាទីមេត្រីទទួល

ការសប្បាយរីករាយនឹងរបាំបុរាណស្បែងប្រជាប្រិយ និងរាំលេងកំសាន្ត ជាមួយរង្សីតន្ត្រីសម័យ។ សូមអរគុណ

ដល់វិភាគទាន អស់លោក លោកស្រី និងប្រិយមិត្តទាំងអស់។ ពិធីបុណ្យទិវាសហគមន៍ខ្មែរកើតឡើងបាន ក៏ដោយសារ តែសន្តិសុខចិត្តល្អ របស់លោកលោកស្រីដែរ។

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My fellow Cambodians,

On behalf of the Cambodian Community Day Committee, I would like to sincerely thank for your presence today. We gather all the Cambodian, Cambodian-Americans, American people, and all communities to show and to play our traditional games that we have missed for so long. Please take a moment to reflect what you have done to our community. There are many good things happening since August last year. Our community has bonded together stronger than before. We supported Angkor Association during their fundraising event. We have participated in promoting Cambodian Cultural in Cambodian Temple in Silver Spring Maryland. We have collaborated with all Cambodian Organizations in Washington, DC for Cambodian New Year at the Cambodian Embassy in Washington, DC. Our community organized a welcoming party for all Cambodians who have come to participate in the Mekong River Festival in Washington, DC. We even have helped in the fundraising for Friend without a Board at the French Embassy for the benefit to build Children Hospital in Cambodia. We are proud of what we have done.

I truly believe that you will enjoy all activities and that you will find them educational. The CCD seeks to promote our culture, to raise the awareness of our cultural heritage, and to bridge our community to other communities. Consider yourself to be a role model for young Cambodian American. We need to teach them to love our origin and to value our heritage, our customs and traditions. Many of us were born and raised back home in Cambodia. We have seen and witnessed our culture and traditions first-handed. Our kids do not have the same kind of experiences. If you don't teach them, they will forget our root. If you don't value our heritage, who will?

The most important message for today event is, we would like to salute our troops who are defending freedom so that we can enjoy our lives here in America.

Again, thank you very much for supporting the CCD festival. Happy Cambodian Community Day!

Sincerely,
Boran Tum, Cambodian Community Day Chairman.

**CAMBODIAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
PERFORMING TRADITIONS FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS
AT BEN BRENMAN PARK, VA.**

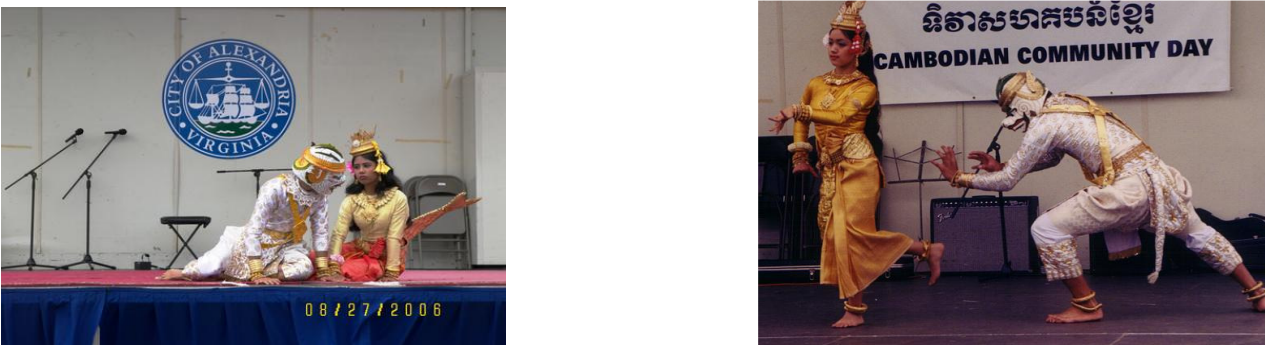
Cambodian Classical Dances.

Robam Chuon Por (The Blessing Dance).



This traditional Cambodian dance usually performed at the beginning of New Year celebration or at the beginning of any official/unofficial ceremonies. The footsteps, hand gestures and lyric of the song in the dance signify the important praying act to the Tevada (God) asking Him to bless the attendants of the ceremony, the Khmer People, and the people around the world to have best wishes, happiness and harmony. It is also to welcome guests and to officially open the ceremony.

Robam Sovann Macha (The Golden Mermaid Dance)



Suvann Machha is an excerpt from the Ramayana story depicting Hanuman (a white monkey) and Suvann Machcha (a mermaid). In this scene, Hanuma and his army of monkeys construct an enormous causeway with rocks and stones across the sea to the island of Lanka . The purpose is to launch a military attack on the Kingdom of Ravana (King of giants) in order to secure Sita (Rama’s wife) who has been abducted by Ravan. The mermaid Suvann Machcha and her army of fish constantly destroy the causeway. Finally, Hanuman intervenes and is successful in courting the mermaid.

Khmer Folklore Dances

Robam Bes Kravanh: (The Cardamom Picking Dance)



Originating from the Pursat Province, the Poar ethnic groups grow rice and trees harvesting the saps and fruits. They also grow cardamoms as part of their daily existence. As an inspiration of Cambodia's abandon natural resources, the dance celebrates the cardamom picking with natural sounds and lively gestures.

Robam Kanseng Sne: (The Magic Scarf Dance)



Robaim Kanseng Sne adapts the Cham traditional custom of expressing courtship between the sexes. The Cham believe in magic and spells for choosing partners. This dance portrays the shy women using the scarves to magically court their lovers.

Traditional Khmer Music Ensemble



Pleng Mohori is an orchestra. Mohori musicians use different type of fiddles, recorder (Khloy), dulcimer and banjo, Roneat (xylophone) and drums. The music is suitable for an entertainment in social and traditional events. Songs and lyrics of Mohori music normally depict the beauty of nature, the confession of love or the teasing between man and woman.

Musicians Instruments:

Master Ngek Chum: Khloy (Flute); Tevy Roth Veun: Roneat Ek (Treble Xylophone or high-pitched xylophone); Amro Veun: Sampho (Double-Headed Hand drum; Michel Chhor: Takay (Floor-zither); Sodina Chhor: Ching (Hand cymbals); Son Sin: Tro Soa (High-pitched two strings fiddle); Sok Nuo: Khim (Hammer dulcimer); Kuon Hann: Tro Ou (Low-pitched two strings fiddle); Kay Ek: Sko Dai (Single-Headed Hand drum); Ponlork Le: Banjo; Boran Tum: Roneat Thong (Bass xylophone).

Fashion Show

Performed by young and beautiful Cambodian-American girls



The Seven-Day color clothing

Today in general, we hardly follow our customs and traditions of dressing when attending the nationals and traditional ceremonies. People wear hol, phamuong and lace blouse of various color according to their taste and liking.

In the golden days, even men wear dress shirt (Av-Kod) with the kbenn. Women wear kbenn or shirts made of phamuong (long silk Sampot) according to the color of the seven days of the week. The customs and traditions are still practiced today. With respect to color and style, even today, the Cambodians are wearing clothes according to the color of the days in the royal ceremonies. To conform to the above traditions, even the royal umbrella must adhere to the color code of the day.

From Right to Left.

Alisa Smith	Red	Sunday
Sinath Math	Orange	Monday
Pichenda Bao	Purple	Tuesday
Rasmeay Bao	Light green	Wednesday
Miss Odommoni Nginn	Bride Wedding Dress	
Mr. Michael Chau	Groom Wedding Dress	
Kessanara Nginn	Green	Thursday
. Chanari Math	Blue	Friday
Monica Pandy	Burgundy	Saturday

HAPPY CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY!

Mak Thoeung Show: Performed by CCD Volunteers.

Peter, Chyak, Sophia, Somony, Saody, Salang, Natelie, Sovannroth, Sakan, Makara, Sopheap, Phallivan, Sophea, Rivann



This short play is adapted the dates back to 18th-century kingdom of Cambodia. It is a livelihood description of ordinary Cambodian citizens under a feudal and just ruler. MAK THEUNG, a middle-aged man, represents the main character of the story. MAK THEUNG was married to a beautiful young woman, named MEUY CHEUNG. The couple often trekked across villages, carrying loads of cosmetics and selling them to make a living. A strange incident occurred on a bright, sunny day. A young prince, taking a stroll down the roads, spotted MAK THEUNG's wife, MEUY CHEUNG, at a village market place and fell in love with her. The prince, assisted by his guards, took the beautiful young woman away from her husband. MAK THEUNG attempted to get his wife and be back with her, but he shunts himself out of fears for his life. When the truth was finally revealed before a royal court, MEUY CHEUNG, MAK THEUNG's wife, no longer feared death and wanted to depart this world. She prayed to meet with MAK THEUNG again in the hereafter, and then committed suicide. The scene you are about see is only a depiction of the 18th-century, lively market.

HAPPY CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY!

Social Dances with Modern Khmer Music



Cambodian folk games

1. Leak Kansegn (The Hidden Towel game)

Children sit on the ground forming a circle. One kid (the thrower) with a towel walks around the circle, while others sing. He/she will find an opportunity to drop the towel behind someone's back (the sitter). If the sitter realizes that the towel is behind his/her back, he/she has to get up and chases the thrower who will then run to avoid being hit by the towel. He/she then will take the sitting place being vacant by the sitter. The sitting becomes a thrower and the thrower becomes the sitter and this will go on and on. There is no winner or loser.

2. Bos Angkoun (The Throwing Angkoun Nuts game)



The angkunh is a fruit that grows on trees found in the provinces of Stung Treng and Kratie. It is round with two flat sides and a diameter of about six centimeters. When ripe, it has a hard skin and turns the color of mahogany. The game of angkunh requires several players with two mixed teams of young boys and girls. Each participant takes turn to throw the fruit, frizbee or

free style, into the opponent's area- a triangle made from three angkunh stuck into the ground. A goal is scored when a player knocks over all the angkunhs or when an angkunh lands in the triangle. The victor wins the right to gently tap the loser's bent knee with the two flat sides of the fruit-the sound of which is a source of much amusement. *Source From:* <http://www.khmerkampongspeu.org/index.htm>

3. Tort Seiy (The Foot-Feather game)

Usually, it is a man game. Men form a circle. One person throws the Seiy and the other returns it using foot. The Seiy could be bouncing up in air for while before somebody misses it. There is no winner or looser.

4. Lot Bao (The Rice Bag Racing)



Participants put both feet in the sack and begin hopping toward the finish line.

5. Chaul Chhoung (The Throwing Krama and Sing a Song game)

"Hit me again with that song of love" The most versatile of traditional Cambodian garments, the krama, (a multi-colored rectangular piece of woven cotton) is employed this time to create the game of Cha-ol Chhoung. A krama is rolled into a coconut-sized ball, with one length left free. This is to allow the players to take the ball and swing it around and then release it high into the air towards the opposition's half. There are two teams-boys versus the girls. The game begins with one of the boys throwing the ball into the air. The girls must catch the ball before it touches the ground. Once catching it, she must throw it straight back at the boys- with the aim of hitting one of them. If a boy is hit, he must go into the girls' camp and sing a song. At half time, the teams are reversed with the boys doing the catching and the girls doing the throwing and singing. A game of Cha-ol Chhoung always draws a large audience keen to hear the humorously improvised songs. Teasing each other over , who he/she was they intended to hit with the ball and woo with their lyrical talents.

An old song lyric of Cha-ol Chhoung

The Boy: I throw the Chhoung and I aim at my lover, be very careful, my dear that my Chhoung doesn't touch the ground.

The Girl: Throw it to me and don't worry. If the Chhoung touches the ground, I will sing for you. The Boy: Here is the Chhoung, Be careful or you will sing even twice. If you catch the Chhoung, wait for a while. To throw it back, wait for our union consummated. I look to the South and I see banana trees in flower. Escorted with thirty of his friends, he comes to ask for the young girl's hand. The father says no, but the mother says yes. She gives him her daughter, wanting to eat pig heads (wedding offerings). I look to the South and I see distinctly some coconut trees. Would you please tell the beautiful girl I am not to take a husband. *Source From:* <http://www.khmerkampongspeu.org/index.htm>

HAPPY CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY!

6. Teagn Prot (Tug-of-War)



Participants make up two teams and form two opposing lines. A long rope is used which each team member holds on to. A line is drawn on the ground or a stake is placed to indicate the midpoint. The middle of the rope is placed across the line or at the stake. One team tries to "tug" the opposing team across the line or beyond the stake.

FACT ABOUT CAMBODIA

Climate: Temperatures range from 10°C to 38°C. Tropical monsoons: southwest monsoon blowing inland in northeasterly direction brings moisture-laden winds from Gulf of Thailand/Indian Ocean from May to October with period of heaviest precipitation September-October; northeast monsoon blowing in southwesterly direction toward coast ushers in dry season, November to March, with period of least rainfall January-February.

Maritime claims: contiguous zone: 24 nm, continental shelf: 200 nm exclusive economic zone: 200 nm, territorial sea: 12 nm.

Elevation extremes: lowest point: Gulf of Thailand 0 m , highest point: Phnom Aoral 1,810

Natural resources: timber, gemstones, some iron ore, manganese, phosphates, hydropower potential

Population: July 2005 est. 14,071,000 (63rd). In 1998, Census est. 11, 437,656. Density 78/Km2 (111th) 201/sq mi.

Ethnic Groups: Ethnically homogeneous, more than 90 percent Khmer.

Languages: National language Khmer, a member of Mon-Khmer subfamily of Austro-Asiatic language group.

Religion: Theravada Buddhism, suppressed by Khmer Rouge, revived but controlled under successor regime; wats (temples) and monks privately supported; wats administered by lay committees; Buddhist clergy or *sangha*; chairman (*prathean*) heads ecclesiastical hierarchy.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CAMBODIA

Researched By Dr. Lowell Cole

Pre-history. Archaeologists have unearthed evidence that Stone Age people as far back as 2000 B.C inhabited parts of present-day Cambodia. By the first century A.D., more advanced cultures emerged along the coasts, in the lower Mekong River valley, and in the delta regions. These cultures developed stable, organized societies, cultivated rice by irrigation, and raised domesticated animals.

Funan. Funan, dating back to the first century A.D., is regarded as the first of the Khmer kingdoms. The earliest written account of Funan is by a Chinese mission traveling in the area in the third century A.D. The Chinese "Funan" derives from the old Khmer word *bnam*, meaning mountain (possibly echoed as *phnom* in modern Khmer). Economic life was based on fishing and rice cultivation surrounding the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers. Important to its livelihood, this waterborne culture developed a maritime trade, probably centered at the port at Oc Eo (now in Viet Nam). Funan gradually became culturally Indianized by contacts with outside

travelers. By the 5th century the cultural elite and court adopted Indian ways. Civil wars weakened Funan, making it prey to its northern neighbor, Chenla, which by the 7th century lorded over Funan.

Chenla. After taking control of Funan, Chenla conquered large areas of Laos, added parts of the Mekong Delta, and swept over lands that are now western Cambodia and southern Thailand. Although the royalty of Funan and Chenla intermarried, Funan's society and institutions were maintained. In the eighth century A.D. Chenla split in two. The part known as Land Chenla remained a fairly stable society, but the other half, Water Chenla, was often racked by chaos. Suffering attacks by pirates from Java, Sumatra, and the Malay Peninsula in the late 8th century, Water Chenla became subservient to Javanese. Struggle among Land and Water rivals ceased with Jayavarmen II (A.D. 802-50) taking the throne, thus launching a unified Khmer nation.

Angkor Period. Lasting from the 9th to the 15th centuries, this period is culturally and politically the golden age of Cambodia. The temple-cities of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom dominated the life and culture of this period. Reservoir and canal projects protected crops from seasonal weather changes. Angkorian society was hierarchical, with the "divine" king ruling over the land and his subjects. Commoners suffered forced labor duties, while a slave class built monuments. Jayavarman II (800 A.D.) launched the Khmer ship of state, called Kambuja, by establishing its constitution, religion, and capital, Harikarlaya. A long series of Kings succeeded him until the early eleventh century. Suryavarman I (1006-1050) then becomes king. It was he who planned and set the foundations of the present day Angkor. He spread Mahayana Buddhism in Cambodia. One of the greatest kings of Angkor period was Suryavarman II, who expanded his reign to Viet Nam, Thailand, Burma, and the Malay Peninsula. His greatest accomplishment was the construction of Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious complex. A Cham invasion destroyed the Angkor city in 1177 A.D., but the Cham were expelled. The high point of Kambuja's power followed with the reign of Jayvarman VII (1181-1218). After Jayavarman's death, the Kingdom declined and disintegrated. The Thai captured Angkor Wat in 1353 and Angkor Thom in 1431. Khmer territory also fell to the Lao kingdom.

Cambodia's Struggle for Survival. As Angkor was abandoned in the fifteenth century, Cambodia became a pawn in the power play between the Thais and Vietnamese. Monument building ceased, Mahayana Buddhism and Hindu divine king cults faded in favor of Theravada Buddhism. A new capital was established where the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers meet, what is now Phnom Penh. To avoid a Thai threat, King Ang Chan (1516-66) then moved the capital north up the Tonle Sap. This new state connected with trade routes of international commerce, forming a global trading center. In fear of encroaching Thai, King Sattha enlisted the protection of personal guards from Spain and Portugal. While Spain hoped to make Cambodia a Christian protectorate, the Thai captured Lovek and the Kingdom in 1594. Thai and Vietnamese domination persisted until the 19th century.

French Colonial Period. In the early 19th century, France began to spread its influence to Southeast Asia. The promise of vast minerals and forestry wealth, as well as the hope of commercial openings via the Mekong River deep into China, contributed to France's ambitions in the area. The rediscovery of the Angkor ruins by French naturalist Henri Mouhot around 1860 sparked more visions of wealth. In the 1880s the French coerced Cambodia, helped by gunboat diplomacy, to sign a treaty that abolished slavery, allowed private ownership of land, and placed French governors in provincial cities. Local Cambodian elites stirred up rebellions over the terms of the treaty, which was not ratified until King Norodom's death in 1904. In 1887 France unified Cambodia, Vietnam, and later Laos, into a colony called the Indochina Union. The French assumed all of the authority of the king, who became a mere figurehead. In 1941 the French installed Norodom Sihanouk to the crown to succeed King Monivong. As France granted Indochina full independence, Cambodia then on to celebrate its independence on November 9, 1953 under Sihanouk. Although Sihanouk held his royal position until he abdicated in 2004, his actual power lasted only until 1970.

Insurrection, Coup d'Etat, and War, 1967-1975. In the mid-1960's, Norodom Sihanouk tried to steer a course between the political left and right domestically and take a neutrality stance in the region's

Vietnam Conflict. This straddling tactic began to crumble. He harassed the left and withdrew his support for them and displeased the right by neglecting the economy and appeared little concerned by the influx of the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong armies. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong logistic bases appeared in Cambodia, while South Vietnam and its allies conducted intelligence and sabotage missions from Cambodia. Insurrections erupted in Battambang set off by tax collections and land expropriation. The unrest spread to other provinces. While Sihanouk was visiting Moscow and Beijing, General Lon Nol, prime minister, ousted the King (or "Prince") in a coup d'etat in March 1970. Sihanouk formed a coalition with the Kampuchean Communist Party (KCP, Khmer Rouge). This partnership flourished after Lon Nol abolished the monarchy and declared a republic, an unpopular move with villagers who were comforted by a monarch. Warfare widened to include virtually all the participants of the Vietnam War and Cambodian contingents. The Khmer Rouge launched their offensive on New Year's Day 1975 to capture the Cambodian capital. On April 1, 1975 resigned the presidency and fled the country. The Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975.

Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge). The Cambodian New Year seemed augur a new beginning for Cambodians, anticipating peace with the arrival of their new leaders. Cheer soon vanished when armed, grim-faced youths dressed in black and with checkered scarves entered Phnom Penh on the 17th of April 1975. Without a pause, the troops ordered Phnom Penh evacuated of its 2.5 million people, clogging the outbound roads in the process. Other cities were evacuated as well. The evacuees were sent to forced-labor camps to raise crops, thus becoming peasants. Anyone associated with the previous government was executed. Other victims were the educated people and monks. Some survived by pretending to be peasants or workers. Using any excuse, Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge caused the killing fields to be populated with victims by murder, starvation, exposure, or disease. By the end of 1978, an estimated 2 million lives vanished.

After the Khmer Rouge. Relations between Vietnam and the Khmer Rouge were never good and became worse. Border skirmishes were common and Khmer Rouge atrocities against Vietnamese, both national and ethnic, were reported. Vietnam delivered air strikes against Kampuchea, but still hung on, Pol Pot declaring "victory". Khmer Rouge belligerence persisted. Vietnam, exasperated, mounted a 17-day blitz-krieg against Cambodia, taking Phnom Penh in January 1979. Pol Pot and his compatriots continued an insurgency from the mountains and jungles against the Hanoi-backed Khmer regime, which they were unable to overthrow. When fighting ended in 1979, Vietnam withdrew. Many fled to Thailand and lived in refugee camps for several years before returning to Cambodia or immigrating to other countries.

In the early 1990s, a coalition government of political parties was formed, elections organized, and monitored by the United Nations. Even the mercurial Norodom Sihanouk participated, regaining the throne. To this day, a politically unsettled Khmer nation exists, as Cambodians strive to make their lives better.

For More Information

>Much of this account of Cambodian history was found in the Library of Congress Country Studies:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/khtoc.html#kh0047>. >Also see: <http://www.angkorwat.org/>

> Solange, Thierry, *The Khmers* (Kailash Editions, Paris, 1997). This is thorough and engaging history of Cambodia.

"Knowing others is Intelligent;

Knowing yourself is true wisdom.

Mastering others is power;

Mastering yourself is true strength."

WHAT WAS HAPPENING AROUND THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNITIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA?

Cambodian New Year celebration (Year of Boar - Kaor).



The start of the Cambodian New Year is determined by the cyclical movement of the moon. Every year, the Cambodian New Year begins April 13. One complete cycle takes sixty years, composed of five 12-year cycles.

According to tradition, each of the 12 years was named by Buddha as he prepared to depart the land. After summoning all of the earth's animals to appear before him, he named each lunar year after an animal in the order they arrived. The Cambodians believe the animal ruling during one's birth year is deeply telling of an individual's character.

Find your birth year in the chart below and discover what the ruling animal says about your personality.

Rat : Chout	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996	2008
Ox : Chlov	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997	2009
Tiger : Khal	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998	2010
Rabbit : Thos	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999	2011
Dragon : Rong	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000	2012
Snake : Masanh	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001	2013
Horse : Momi	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002	2014
Sheep : Momer	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003	2015
Monkey : Vork	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004	2016
Rooster : rokar	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005	2017
Dog : Chaor	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006	2018
Boar : Kaor	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007	2019

All Cambodians people celebrate Cambodian New Year (Year of Boar) at the Cambodian Buddhist Temple, located in Silver Spring, Maryland. They come to celebrate New Year from the States of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina; Some people come from far away as Rhode Island or Massachusetts.



Rat - Chout

Unlike the Eastern culture, the rat is revered as a symbol of luck and wealth in the East. The creature is known for its ability to seek out and quickly gather items of value. Sharp-witted and curious, the rat is popular and makes friends easily, although those who are most loyal will be shown an extra amount of generosity and protection. The sign is said to be motivated by self-interest; often times money and sometimes greed can take center stage.

Ox - Chlov

Solid and steadfast, the ox achieves success by setting goals and working methodically to achieve them. Often introverted in a crowd, many perceive the ox to be far too serious. Because of this, the sign tends to value close relationship with family and close friends. As companions, oxen are strong and reliable.

Tiger- Khal

Tigers are charismatic natural born leaders who are intent on following through on interests and often like to remain in control of situations. Unafraid of doing battle, tigers have raw power and passion that acts as a magnet to draw other signs in. Because of this intense passion, tigers are quick to pounce on others and act rashly; they are susceptible to emotional outbreaks and mood swings.

Rabbit - Thos

Rabbits are timid gentle signs who attract a large following of family and friends. Those in this sign usually dislike conflict and confrontation and will do anything to avoid it; they are often viewed as pushovers. As companions, rabbits tend to give more than they receive and are highly sensitive. They are extremely loving and nurturing to all those around them.

Dragon - Rong

Energetic and powerful, the dragon is viewed as the luckiest sign in the Chinese Zodiac. Intelligent and charismatic, dragons are viewed as the team leaders who inspire the masses to stay focused and intent on success. Retaining power and control in a dominant leadership position is the sole aspiration of the sign; defeat is not accepted gracefully.

Snake - Masanh

Hard-working and diplomatic, snakes are intuitive and often analyze a situation carefully before making a move. Charmingly seductive, snakes have little trouble attracting what they want, but may have deep-seeded insecurities and ill-placed jealousy in relationships. Snakes will rely on their own instincts and gut reactions, making them an attractive partner in business and money managing enterprises.

Horse - Momi

Horses are energetic lovers of travel and adventure who can't bear even the shortest times of inactivity. Horses are deeply romantic and sensual, often coming on strong in the beginning of a relationship due to the sign's desire to experience love and intimacy. Often impatient, the horse may roam from one activity or group to the next, possibly out of a misguided inferiority complex.

Sheep/Goat - Momer

Sheep are wildly creative lovers of imagination. Disorganized and high strung, sheep thrive in occupations which allow them to exercise independence. Sheep are prone to phases of insecurity and incessant worry, often needing to feel loved and appreciated in a relationship to ward off insecurity.

Monkey - Vork

Monkeys are drawn toward fun and naturally know how to be the life of the party and have a good time. Good listening skills and constantly evolving interests draw others in. Prone to mischief, the sign often finds trouble while pursuing interests; and the monkey's quick wit may not be able to charm the displeasure away. Sometimes lacking self-control, the monkey may indulge in over-the-top pleasures and may jump from relationship to relationship.

Rooster - Rokar

Roosters are quick-thinking and resourceful creatures who would rather stick to the tried-and-true than experiment with unproven risks. Roosters pay careful attention to detail and are known for their open and honest nature. Drawn to high-style, roosters are social and engaging. The sign's need to maintain perfection and control can create conflict with other more relaxed individuals.

Dog - Chaor

Dogs are loyal and kind creatures who possess a deep-seeded sense of right and wrong. Sometimes appearing stubborn and self-centered, dogs have difficulty maintaining their temperaments in times of turmoil. Discreet and attentive listeners, dogs are coveted friends. Although the sign is typically trustworthy, dogs have a hard time finding that same trust in others.

Boar/Pig - Kaor

Contrary to Western belief, pigs in the East are perceived as generous and honorable creatures who take perfection seriously. Pigs are quite intelligent and alarmingly giving, leaving them susceptible to being taken advantage of. Pigs strive to help others and love to feel appreciated. Often so involved in lavish indulgences; pigs may miss exciting opportunities in life because they are so intent on focusing on only what is known and enjoyed.

Mekong River Festival in Washington, DC.

Through craft demonstrations, dance and musical performances, and hands-on activities, *Mekong River: Connecting Cultures* introduced 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 experienced the region's diversity firsthand through the presentations of artists, performers, craftspeople, cooks, ritual specialists, and presenters. Five stages, including a family learning center, featured 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 were 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* helped broaden everyone's view.

The Khmer people have a saying that reflects their close relation with Buddhism: "When alive, send your possessions to the pagoda; after death, send your remains." The local people always try their best to beautify the pagoda in their village.

Khmer people often send their sons to study at the pagoda before marrying. They believe entering the religious life will help train honest people or divert people from their mistakes. "A bad-tempered person, after entering into religion for several years, will develop a milder character," 76-year-old Son Linh, a Trà Sết resident, observes. At the pagodas, older monks teach Buddhism to young novices who are also taught how to live in accordance with Buddhist precepts. They also learn to read and write the Khmer language.

Every morning, the young novices go begging for food. The food is shared among the monks for breakfast and lunch. After mid-day, the monks are not allowed to eat food, drinking only milk and fresh water. On the 15th and 30th days of each month in the Khmer calendar, the villagers prepare food to present to the pagoda. To prepare for the food giving ceremonies, all the monks at the pagoda have their heads shaven the preceding afternoon. During their three months learning at the

pagoda, the young novices pray to Buddha and chant Buddhist scriptures at the main shrine of the pagoda, praying for a peaceful, sustainable, and prosperous life for the villagers.

Robe-offering ceremonies are held regularly at every Khmer pagoda from the 15th day of the 9th lunar month to the 15th of the 10th month. On this occasion, villagers present the monks with robes, Buddha images, money, and many other utensils. Especially for this occasion, they will build, repair, or re-paint the palanquin.

We can say that the pagoda is not only the site for religious ceremonies, but the cultural centre of the village.

The Dances, Songs, Music, Singing, Recitation, and Epic Singing are Cambodian tradition:

Ayai Repartee Singing
Sok Bouny
Yos Sath

Chamrieng Chapei Epic Singing
Kong Nay

Khmer Classical Dance
Chey
Chankethya
Proeung
Chhieng
Ros Kong
Sam Limsothea

Khmer Wedding Music
Chhorn Sam
Ath
Hun Bunchhen
Men Sakhan
Proeung Pruon
Say Sareth
Yun Khean

Smot Poetry Recitation
Prom Ut

HOW MANY CAMBODIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA?

- **CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY, INC.**

- **“DANCE SCHOOL OF THE CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY”**

The dance school was organized in 1989 under sponsorship of the Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc. of Silver Spring, Maryland, which serves as a place of worship as well as a community center for all Cambodians in the Washington metropolitan area. It is open every Sunday to all young people ranging from age 6 to age 20's. Cambodian music class and Cambodian language class are also offered. The program was founded by Mrs. Peou Khatna, master dancer and song of the royal palace school of dance, with the support of Venerable Oung Mean Candavanno, chief of the Cambodian Buddhist Society, Inc.

Two kinds of dances and music are taught to young people: classical and folk dance, Pinpeat and Mohory music. The teachers are master dancers and musician from Cambodia (they are the survivors of the Cambodia Holocaust).

The dance troupe has performed in several places, including the Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Smithsonian, National Institutes of Health, and other federal/local government agencies. Recently, the troupe had performed for the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees on the World Refugee Day with the presence of Ambassador Goodwill Angelina Jolie. The school hosts between 50 and 60 students each year.

Master teachers are:

- *Mrs. Masady Mani, co-art director, a graduate and Professor of the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh.
- *Mrs. Ny Sin-Jewel, co-art director, a graduate of the royal palace school of dance.
- *Mr. Ngek Chum, music director, 2004 recipient of the Bess Lomax Hawes Award.
- *Mrs. Kantya Nou, a graduate of the royal palace school of dance.
- *Mr. Socheata Ung, specialize on Giant role, folk dance, and group costume.
- *Mr. Viphas Heng, a graduate of the royal palace school of dance, specialize on monkey dance)
- *Mr. Puthyrih Sek, specialize on monkey dance.
- *Mrs. Visal Peang Sam, teacher's assistant
- *Ms. Vathana Say, teacher's assistant

www.CBSCG.org

• **ANGKOR ASSOCIATION**

On December 31st, 2004 Angkor Association celebrate its 18th Anniversary. It was also a fundraising event. Proceed from this event will used to help Cambodian family who lost their love one. Angkor Association was founded in 1986 and incorporated in 1987. It is a Cambodian grass-root, community-helping community organization in the metropolitan area. It is a non-profit organization. Mr. Channa Pak is the current president. Angkor Association does the fundraising event at least twice a year. One is around Cambodian New Year, mid-April each year. Another is always on the New Year eve. On both occasion, they do the fundraising; celebrate the association's anniversary and also the New Year. The next celebration will be held on December 31st, 2005. There will be also an election for new officers this year. For more information, please call Channa Pak at 703-624-7723.

• **CAMBODIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE, INC (CAHI)**

Cambodian-American Heritage, Inc. (CAHI) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1980. The mission of the organization is the preservation of Cambodian arts and culture here in the United States. The centerpiece of the organization's cultural activities is its dance troupe and music ensemble. For almost 20 years, the troupe has performed selections from the repertoire of Cambodian classical and folk dances. In recent years, the dance troupe and music ensemble have performed in a variety of settings including the 150th anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, the Freer Gallery of Art, the American Red Cross, presidential inaugural events, various folk art and heritage festivals and our annual observance of Cambodian New Year during the month of April.

CAHI has taught many young Cambodians to become proficient in Cambodian classical dances. For parents, this is a clear choice of having their own kids involved in preserving Cambodian heritage in America. As young groups like those in the above picture grow up and move on to their college lives, CAHI has to recruit another group of young kids and starts over again. This cycle has happened over the past 20 years. What could be more fun than to bring the whole family to the dancing classes? CAHI offers a free dancing and music classes every year. For 2005-2006, the class will start from the first week of December of 2005 to mid-April o 2006. If you are interested to have any or whole family to join, either to learn how to dance or to play traditional music, please call Mr. Sareum Tes at 301-292-6862 or 240-441-0915.

www.cambodianheritage.org.

- **CAMBODIAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED.**
(Formerly Known as **Cambodian Children Association, Inc**)

The Cambodian Children’s Association, Inc. (CCAI) is non-profit organization dedicate to the education and well being of children, young adults, and women.

The corporation is organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. CCAI is registered under the 501(c)(3) section of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership is open to all persons who are willing to support the purposes of the corporation.

CCAI supports the community by providing: information referral; Cambodian classes for those who want to learn how to read and write the Cambodian language; English class for new comers and senior citizens; sewing classes for young ladies and low-income women; and conflict resolution sessions for children and parents. Teaching them how to adapt to a new culture and to improve language skills enables the participants to acquire gainful employment and allows for eventual full and successful integration into the community neighborhood (the multi-culture) in which they now live.

CCAI is multi-cultural as an organization. American-born friends of refugees and immigrants serve as both our Board members and our Program advisors. All are volunteers.

CCAI’s Board and program advisors have met many refugees and immigrants in the Washington Metropolitan area, who need a support community of friends and teachers, who will help them adapt to a multi-cultural American Community. For more information, please contact Sharon Young at 703-228-1662.

- **United Cambodian American Resources for Enrichment (UCARE)**



Developing and Sharing Resources For A Sustainable Community

UCARE – *United Cambodian-American Resources for Enrichment* – is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the sustainable advancement and betterment of the Cambodian-American community. It seeks to serve as the focal point for the gathering, development, sharing, and dissemination of community resources and information to strengthen the coalition of all Cambodian-American individuals and organizations nationwide.

Since its inception in 2002, it has promoted and disseminated the traditional Cambodian arts and culture nationally and internationally through the participation in conference in Cambodia, the organization of dance and music classes at grade schools from K-12, the presentation of Cambodian classical and folk dances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and sharing and collaboration of resources with numerous Cambodian and mainstream organization.

Contact: Natalie Chhuan, Program Director
Phone: (240) 603-9788 Fax: (301) 977-9148

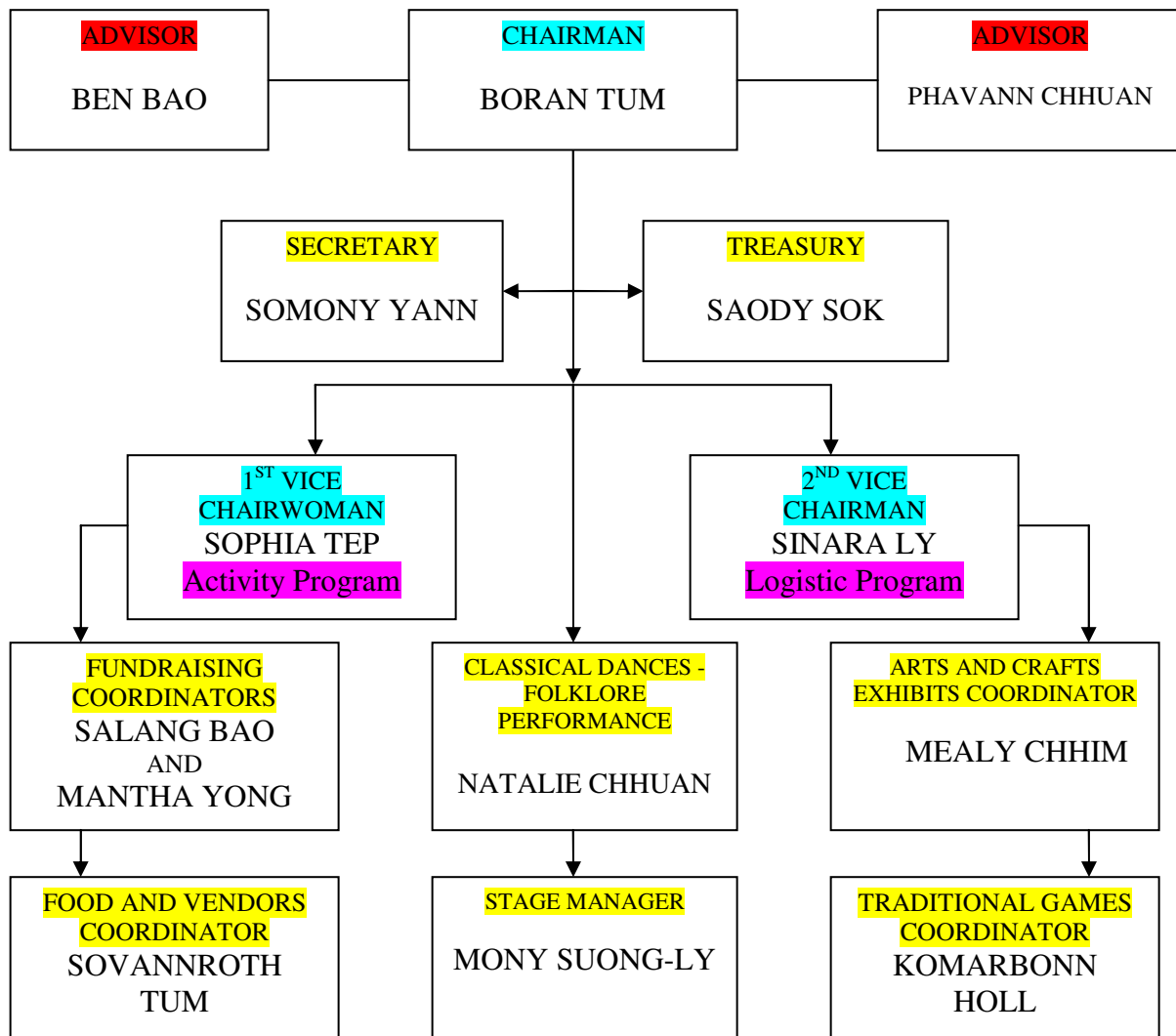
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HAPPY CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY!



CCD is finally becoming a Non-Profit Corporation in Virginia

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Please visit our website at
www.cambodiancommunityday.org

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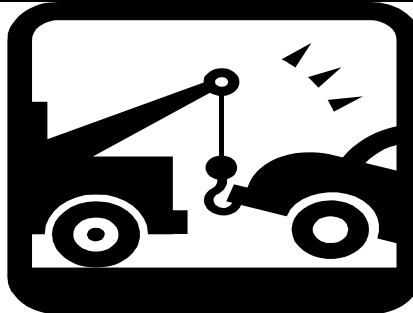
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Manager: Vanna So

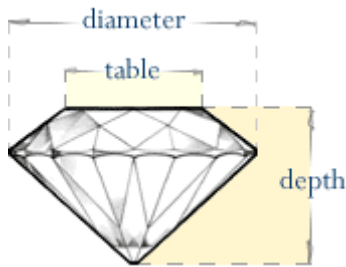
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Cambodian American for Human Rights and Democracy

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8516 Thames Street, Springfield, Virginia 22151

E-mail: cahrad@googlegroups.com , Website: <http://www.cahrad.org>

CAHRAD is seeking to be one of the main functions in building a strong foundation of democracy at the grass-root level and it shall help supporting the CCHR members in Cambodia to create awareness on human rights and democracy concepts and principles. CAHRAD also works to protect the active members of CCHR in Cambodia that received a direct and indirect intimidation and harassment from the Cambodian Government.

CAHRAD is an independent, non political, and non-profit organization promoting Human Rights and Democracy in Cambodia through peaceful means by protecting and defending human right and democracy working groups so that they can safely and effectively conduct and carry out their works such as, Community

Forum, Community for Democracy project etc, conducted by the Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)

The Community for Democracy Project or CfD.

CCHR is committed to create a grass root movement in the commune, which has many, important and useful functions, roles, activities, and services of CCHR such as monitoring government's implementation of human rights in the local level, organizing of public forums, community dialogues, public hearings; facilitating participation of the people in the commune, such as participation in the planning initiated by local authorities and participation in political activities such as **ELECTION** . Starting this Fall 2007 to 2008, CAHRAD will support **Student Movement for Democracy** (SMD) to work with other NGO to help monitoring the National Election.

For the realization of this CfD & Election Monitoring project, CCHR & SMD need resources, financial and in kinds, to recruit, train, educate, provide assistance and support to local volunteers , and Cambodian Student to create a core group of the democracy movement in the commune and in the Schools to carry out the above activities.

Stop Eviction and Land Grabbing from Our People.



Please Help Stopping Evictions, Land Grabbing & Getting Freedom, Democracy, & Justice Back To Our People!

To support this project, please send donation (Make Check Payable to CAHRAD) to 43551 Barley CT, Ashburn, VA 20147



HAPPY CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY!

Statistical Profile

(Courtesy of Southeast Asia Resource Action Center)
(SEARAC 2004)

<http://www.searac.org>

US Census 2000

Asian American Populations

All Reports of Membership in Asian Groups (1)
Population

Chinese, Except Taiwanese	2,734,841	Taiwanese	144,795
Filipino	2,364,815	Indonesian	63,073
Asian Indian	1,898,828	Bangladeshi	57,412
Korean	1,228,427	Sri Lankan	24w587
Vietnamese	1,223,736	Malaysian	18,566
Japanese	1,148,932	Burmese	16,720
Other Asian, not specified	369,430	Okinawan	10,599
Cambodian	206,052	Nepalese	9,399
Pakistani	204,309	Singaporean	2,394
Laotian	198,203	Indo Chinese	199
Hmong	186,310	Iwo Jiman	78
Thai	150,283	Maldivian	51

People from Cambodia, Lao, and Vietnam Naturalized as U.S. Citizens Between 1987-2001

Cambodia	Lao	Vietnamese	Total
62,475	84,180	489,911	636,566

Source: Statistical Yearbook of INS (Fiscal Years 1986-2001) and www.ins.gov

Percentages of Foreign-Born People

Naturalized as U.S. Citizens

Populations	Females	Males
Total U.S.	43.0	37.6
All Asians	50.6	49.0
Cambodian	42.7	49.1
Hmong	29.7	33.3
Laotian	46.3	49.7
Vietnamese	55.9	60.4

People Reporting Southeast Asian Heritage Born in the United States

Population	Number
Cambodian	69,207
Hmong	83,357
Laotian	68,715
Vietnamese	332,361
Total	553,820

HAPPY CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY DAY!

Acknowledgement

We wish to thank the City of Alexandria, Dept of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities, all CCD 2007 committee, volunteers and their families; individual and group organization sponsors; business advertisers, professional and non-profit communities, all artistic performers and musicians, all Cambodians, Americans who comes and support us today. The CCD preparation is the hard work of people who involved all year round. We appreciate for all the contributions and donations that made the CCD's event possible.

CCD COMMITTEES

Would like to recognize the following organizations and individuals, for their generous support of the Cambodian Community Day. Their financial and in-kind supports made this festival possible.

Supporters

**CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY, INC.
DANCE SCHOOL OF THE CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST SOCIETY.
Cambodian Development Foundation, Inc.
Cambodian American for Human Rights and Democracy.
United Cambodian American Resources for Enrichment.
Cambodian American National Council.
Cambodian Education Excellence Foundation.
Lycee Sisowath Alumni.
Angkor Association Inc.
Prime Auto Care, Inc.
VA Heating and Air Conditioning.
The Top Jewelers
BB&T
SD's Reflection Hair Saloon**



