



# CREATIVE VOICES CREATIVE MINDS: *The Vietnamese American Experience*

Asia Society Texas Center is pleased to present *Creative Voices, Creative Minds: The Vietnamese American Experience*, a series of programs that seeks to celebrate the cultural and artistic contributions of Vietnamese Americans. Designed by Asia Society Texas Center to complement the exhibition *Exit Saigon | Enter Little Saigon*, produced by the Smithsonian, this series features Vietnamese American artists from a variety of fields including literature, film, and the visual arts. Join us as we explore the unique influences of the immigrant experience on the creative process.

## **AUTHOR: ANDREW LAM, *PERFUME DREAMS***

The series begins with **Andrew Lam**, author of *Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora*, an engaging collection of essays that explores his lifelong struggle for identity. On Wednesday, October 1 at Houston Community College, 3100 Main Street, Lam takes the first floor stage at 7 p.m. to reflect on his roles as immigrant, son and survivor. Lam is an award-winning syndicated writer and a regular commentator on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

## **FEATURE FILM: *OWL AND THE SPARROW***

Vietnamese American filmmaker **Stephane Gauger** screens and discusses his award-winning film, *Owl and the Sparrow*, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, October 30 at Angelika Theatre at Bayou Place. Gauger wrote and directed this tale of a scrappy ten-year-old runaway who plays matchmaker to two lonely hearts in the hope of forming a surrogate family.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION: *CREATIVITY AND THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE***

A panel of well-known Vietnamese American artists will explore the affects of their immigrant family experience on their lives and work today. Details TBA.

*Admission is free to all three cultural programs, but reservations are requested at 713-439-0265 or online at [www.asiasociety.org/texas](http://www.asiasociety.org/texas). *Creative Voices, Creative Minds* is a program series developed by the Asia Society Texas Center. *Asia Society Texas Center* is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance. Additional support is generously provided by Houston Community College.*

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## Letter from the Director

My first year in Houston was marked by welcomes, challenges, blessings, achievements, and in the end, sadly, some profound losses. Just weeks after the exhilarating groundbreaking ceremonies in May for our beautiful headquarters building in the Museum District, we saw the passing of two friends whose influence has monumentally impacted relations between Asia and the U.S., and indeed this building project.



Ambassador Roy M. Huffington and Dr. Sherman E. Lee were both 90 years old — their fabled lives and glorious careers spanned an era that saw far reaching transformation in Asia, and they bore witness to the strength, character, and vitality of Asian nations decades before mainstream awareness of Asia's influence in the West.

Ambassador Huffington had guided the Texas Center of Asia Society since its inception in 1979 and was proudly on hand for our groundbreaking festivities. (*See story, page 3.*) In my brief time at Asia Society I had come to truly value his insights and perspective — I never left a conversation with him without feeling energized and inspired. Dr. Sherman E. Lee, my esteemed university professor and internationally noted museum director, advised John D. Rockefeller III on acquisitions for the Asian art collection that he later bequeathed to Asia Society — works from the Rockefeller Collection that will travel to our own Texas gallery when the building opens in 2010. Dr. Lee began his career when few in the West, even among museums, emphasized Asian art. Dr. Lee's knowing eye guided many of today's most important collections both public and private. Both these giants of grace and diplomacy will be sorely missed.

Yet, as I look forward to the fall, I can't help thinking of the distance we've traveled — both as Asia Society and as global citizens — in the past decades. The amazing turnout we've experienced this year for events at Asia Society Texas Center shows the excitement is still growing in Houston — Roy Huffington's work is bearing fruit. And in the fall range of programs, featuring arts, culture, business, and policy offerings that shed light on a number of different nations, I am proud to follow in the tradition these men established — forging bonds and building bridges between Asia and Texas.

I hope you'll join us for some of the excitement throughout the fall to enjoy events like Sichan Siv's reading from his recent book *Golden Bones*, and the upcoming series highlighting the artistic achievements of Vietnamese Americans. I can't think of a finer legacy.

Best wishes,

Martha Blackwelder  
Executive Director

# Webpage Redesign

## Watch for New, Improved Content at [www.asiasociety.org/texas](http://www.asiasociety.org/texas)

Early this fall, Asia Society will present to the world a new and expanded web domain, powered by a state-of-the-art system, with a new look, more content and, most importantly, better and easier access to the Texas Center.

With demand for online availability increased by Asia Society's burgeoning reputation as a prime resource for news, opinions and collateral information about the more than 30 countries that comprise Asia, the Society's New York-based global website soon will include expanded reportage, plus audio and video program coverage from its Centers around the world.

"The new web design is cleaner and fresher," says the Texas web projects's Mersing Maitran. Online sign-up for membership, donations, programs or events will be faster and easier. And a generous global grant from global trustees Harold and Ruth Newman will provide the Center with equipment necessary to digitally record and archive each event. That means important Texas Center programs can now be made available on the website.

Bill Swersey, Executive Director of Asia Society Online in New York, cites this example of the online impact destined for Texas: "Approximately 150 people attended a November 2007 program on the Musharraf government in Pakistan in our auditorium. More than 100 others tuned-in to its live webcast from the UK, Pakistan,

Sweden, Canada and other countries. Over the next seven days, the audio archive of this event was accessed more than 3,000 times by people from 50 different countries as word spread on websites, blogs and through email."

So, if you have to miss attending a favorite program this fall, you (and several thousand others) can look for it shortly thereafter on our new and improved website.

Many past Asia Society programs already are available online at [www.AsiaSociety.org/resources](http://www.AsiaSociety.org/resources).

## Asia Society Texas Center

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May 1 through August 15, 2008

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DCG Partnership 1, LLP, Encotech Engineering Consultants, Inc., Houston Community College, McDermott, Will & Emery, Piping Technology & Products Inc., Quan, Burdette, Perez, PC, Vinson & Elkins, Wachovia, Waste Management

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#### Contributing

Ritsuko Komaki & James Cox, Loretta Castle, Laura & Tom Hsu, Marion McCormack & Richard Mullineaux

#### Asia Pacific Arts Circle

Richard Dixon & Nancy Grason, Sushila & Ninan Mathew, Jenny & Steven Spancake, Christina Girard-Hudson, Diane & Michael Cannon

#### Dual/Family

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#### Individual

Joyce Akins, Ruelynn Allen, John Antel, Gregory Armes, Mariam Chacko, Victoria Chin, James N. Falk, Elizabeth Feehan, Frederick Geissinger, Mehrnaz Gill, Sandy Haffner, Vehishta Kaikobad,



CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# Tianjin Conference

*A member of Texas Center for over a decade, Grace Li recently attended Asia Society's 18th Asian Corporate Conference in Tianjin, China. We asked her about the experience.*

## Exciting Location, Powerful Networking Spark 2008 Tianjin Conference

by Yunchen "Grace" Li

I came to the U.S. from Shanghai in 1986. As a Chinese American, I have always been interested in helping people in the U.S.

understand more about China and Chinese people. Better understanding and cooperation



Grace Li with Jet Li, martial arts champion, actor, founder Jet Li One Foundation.

between these two great nations is of great importance in the 21st Century. When I first returned to China to visit in 1998, I was surprised at how much and how rapidly China had changed, and I realized that we needed to understand what happened. I joined Asia Society to learn more.

Asia Society is a great place to network. As a member of the Texas Center for the past 12 years, I have enjoyed many workshops, seminars and social events, and had opportunities to meet many important politicians, diplomats, scholars, corporate executives and community leaders that I would not be able to meet otherwise. Those activities broadened my social networking circles and my views on U.S.-Asia relationships.

I am a Managing Director at BFL Associates Ltd., an executive consulting firm specializing in high level searches and information gathering on a global basis. As China has become more and more important in the global economy, our multi-national corporate clients have

been expanding their businesses into China. We help them recruit high level professionals and provide business consultation. Recognizing the unique opportunities and needs in China, we have established an office in Beijing.

Participation in the Asia Society Corporate Conference in Tianjin gave me opportunities to meet potential clients and candidates, some of which gave me good referrals in Shanghai as well.

The conference was a great experience for me, primarily due to its exciting location. Tianjin is set to be the engine hub for the third wave of economic development in China following Shenzhen and Shanghai Pudong.

The day before the conference I toured the city with many senior members of the Asia Society. We visited historical buildings including the well preserved mansion of China's last emperor-Pu Yi.

The conference had strong support from Asia Society corporate members, local municipal city government, local business communities and media. On the first day of the conference, China's vice president, Xi Jinping, gave the keynote speech. I was amazed by the number of participants — two big board rooms, each with a capacity of 1000, were completely filled.



## Asia Society Young Professionals

As Asia Society Texas Center streamlines its policies and programs in preparation for the demands of a new headquarters building and cultural center in 2010, its Young Professionals, too, are setting their sites on becoming Houston's premier YP organization, says Asia Society Young Professionals president-elect 2009 Victorina Piccio.

"We started as a Dragon Boat team in 2002," Victorina laughs, remembering when former Society staffer Suzanna Wong asked Hau Pham and his friends to represent Asia Society in the citywide competition. "It was fun, and we made a good showing," she says. The next year ASYP members were invited to usher and greet guests at the gala, redefining their role in the parent organization.

The "Young Professionals" moniker was copied from New York's active YP organization, but in Texas, initially, they were Asia Society's "young athletes," primarily involved with boat racing, flag football, lion dancing and such. They wrote their own bi-laws, increased their membership and raised their own operating funds. "One year at the Tiger Ball gala we auctioned a basketball autographed by Yao Ming for \$4500," Victorina grins; "so that was our budget for the year."

In its third year, with Salman Khan as President, the ASYP became serious about social networking with other YP groups and aligning their programs with the Society's guidelines. Their Asian focus began with a dinner series at Asian restaurants and soon expanded to Asian art galleries and raising funds for world crisis relief. The organization was rapidly developing a global outlook.

When Asia Society launched its global Asia21 Initiative in 2006, the Texas Center's Young Professionals were quick to respond. Houstonians

Huan Le and Alamdar Hamdani became two of 200 delegates from the U.S. and Asia to participate in a weeklong summit in Seoul, Korea, to create an active network for emerging leaders. In 2007 Huan became Texas' ASYP President, and Paresh Patel and Adam Gilmore carried the Texas flag to the Asia21 summit in Singapore. This year, Texas has submitted some 30 nominations to attend the coming November 14-16 summit in Tokyo, hoping to up their ante to three delegates or more.

"We have big dreams," Victorina says of the Texas ASYP. "In fact, Asia21 is empowering important young leaders in Houston and across the world. Asia Society's programs and initiatives set us apart from other YP groups, and membership will grow as people recognize that difference."

"Houston is a city of immigrants," she says. "People come here because we are a city of vast opportunity to everyone who is motivated and aggressive in reaching their goals. Many young professional Houstonians are future world leaders in training."



ASYP's Resham Arora, Victorina Piccio, and Mersing Maitran celebrated Texas Center's historic groundbreaking event. PHOTO BY SOPHEAVY THAN

### SALUTING OUR INTERNS

The Texas Center was blessed during the spring and summer of 2008 with an amazing trio of collegiate interns — Elizabeth Peng, Cassandra Sridharan and Stephanie Haffner.



Elizabeth Peng

**ELIZABETH (LIZ) PENG** brought a sense of style and innate project management skills to the Asia Society Texas Center in the spring and summer. The recent Rice University graduate (Asian Studies, 2008) provided ideas and

logistical support for the Texas Center's groundbreaking, among other events.

Liz worked previously at such varied and notable organizations as *Paper City*, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Diane von Furstenberg in New York, where she honed her formidable skills, common sense, and exceptional writing talents. She has also studied in Buenos Aires, Beijing and Paris. After her stint at Asia Society, Liz resumed her world travels and scholarship: She is currently a Fulbright Scholar in Shanghai, China.

With the strength of her written and spoken communication skills and penchant for multi-tasking, **CASSANDRA (CASSY) SRIDHARAN** made herself indispensable at Texas Center this summer. Whether supporting the Executive Director at important meetings, helping facilitate programs and lectures planned for this year, or compiling important resource directories, Cassy quickly impressed the entire staff. Returning to Seton Hall University's John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Cassy anticipates receiving both her BS and MA degrees in 2009 with concentrations in International Law, Global Negotiation and Conflict Management. She's currently honing those skills as a dormitory Resident Assistant, managing a floor of 65 students, and, as Houston's Model UN Secretary General, organizing a 2009 Summit for 700 delegates.

French/Mexican/Cuban-American **STEPHANIE HAFFNER** already considers herself "a citizen of the world," having lived most of her formative years outside the U.S. Her father's engineering career took the family to London when she was three, then to



Cassandra Sridharan and Stephanie Haffner.

Singapore where international schools and travels opened her heart and mind to diverse cultures, ethnicities and viewpoints. Houston and its St. Agnes Academy informed her final two high school years. Stephanie's global consciousness already has led her to five years of participation in the Model UN program plus hands-on support of a primary school in Ladakh, India, and an orphanage in Bangkok, Thailand. Having given ASTC a month of her copywriting, Spanish translation and organizational skills, she now is a sophomore at Claremont McKenna College in California, where she majors in Economics and International Relations.

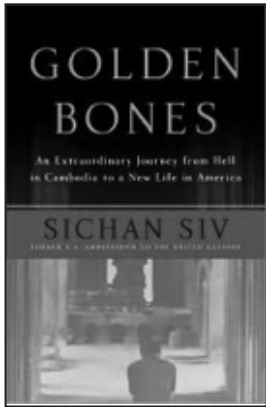
# Program Announcements

## Asian Author Series

### **Golden Bones: An Extraordinary Journey From Hell in Cambodia to a New Life in America**

**Sichan Siv, Former US Ambassador to the United Nations, Economic & Social Council**

*This event has been postponed due to complications from Hurricane Ike. Please check our website for more information.*



**Thursday, September 25, 2008**  
**6:00 PM Reception**  
**6:30 PM Lecture and Book Signing**  
**Cullen Hall, University of St. Thomas**  
**Admission is free, but reservations are requested.**  
**Call 713-439-0265**

Cambodians believe that the very blessed or lucky have “golden bones,” says author Sichan Siv. The Cambodian-born US Ambassador to the UN, recounts his extraordinary 1976 escape from ten brutal months in a Khmer Rouge forced labor camp, his resettlement as a refugee in Wallingford, Connecticut, his selection as the first Asian-American deputy assistant to the President of the United States, and his appointment as a US Ambassador to the UN Economic and

Social Council. Now a “Cambodian cowboy” living on a ranch near San Antonio with his wife, Siv avoids bitterness but hopes people will find in his book the ability to adapt and to adopt. And to know that with hard work, anyone can make the most impossible dreams come true.

This program is cosponsored by University of St. Thomas, Center for International Studies. Asia Society Texas Center is funded in part by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.



## Tokyo String Quartet

**Thursday, December 11, 2008**  
**8:00 PM**  
**Stude Concert Hall**  
**Shepherd School of Music**  
**Rice University, 6100 Main**  
**For tickets call 713-348-5400**

*Culture & Arts Program*

The Tokyo String Quartet has captivated audiences and critics alike since it was founded more than 30 years ago. Regarded as one of the supreme chamber ensembles of the world, the Tokyo Quartet — Martin Beaver and Kikuei Ikeda (violins), Kazuhide Isomura (viola) and Clive Greensmith (cello) — has collaborated with a remarkable array of artists and composers, built a comprehensive catalogue of critically acclaimed recordings and established a distinguished teaching record. Performing over a hundred concerts worldwide each season, the Tokyo String Quartet has a devoted international following that includes the major capitals of the world and extends to all four corners, from Australia to Estonia to Scandinavia and the Far East. Since it was founded, the Quartet has appeared nearly every year on the Houston Friends of Music Series.



PHOTO BY HENRY J. FAIR

Presented in collaboration with Houston Friends of Music as a part of their 2008-2009 series in partnership with the Shepherd School of Music. Asia Society members receive 10% off the single ticket prices — General \$46-67, Seniors \$36-\$56, Students \$18-\$28. Asia Society Texas Center is funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

## Digging to China

### SAVE THE DATE

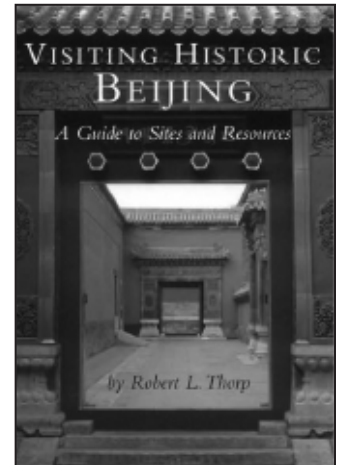
*Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Call 713-439-0265.*

Culture & Arts Program

### Historic Beijing in the 21st Century

Thursday, December 4, 2008

Beneath even the most modern city is a subterranean wonder — pipes, drains, infrastructure and subway systems can reach as far underground as the buildings above. But in older cities where humans have occupied the land for millennia, the world underground is a trip into the past. And under the glitz, glamour, and 21st spectacle of the Olympic venues, Beijing's buried architectural heritage of the Ming and Qing capitals survives. Robert Thorp was a member of the U.S. team that, together with the Institute of Archaeology, Beijing, surveyed China's Anyang region, where the Shang capital flourished more than 3000 years ago. His recent book, *Visiting Historic Beijing*, showcases a city that, while it has been transformed in recent decades, is today richer in protected historic sites and monuments than in any time in recent memory. Thorp is Professor Emeritus of Chinese Art and Archaeology at Washington University in St. Louis.



### On Golden Mountain: Archeology of Chinatown in San Francisco

Thursday, December 11, 2008

A Chinese emporium that was destroyed by the earthquake and great fire in San Francisco on May 3-4, 1851 is the oldest and best-preserved cultural deposit ever encountered in San Francisco's Gold Rush-era Chinatown. An emporium, with its diverse collection of materials, trade goods, and treasures, provides a fascinating snapshot of life among the early Chinese settlers in California. In 1967 Dr. Allan Pastron, founded Archeo-Tec Inc. to conduct anthropological research throughout Northern California. The firm specializes in historic and pre-historic archaeological investigations within the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

*These programs are presented in collaboration with the Houston Society of the Archeological Institute of America and the Chao Center for Asian Studies of Rice University. Asia Society Texas Center is funded in part by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.*



### Annual YMCA Dragon Boat Team Challenge 2008

September 27, 2008, 2:00-6:00 PM, Northshore Park in The Woodlands

Asia Society Young Professionals will defend last year's Division first place finish and Community Cup award, when more than 90 teams participate in the 10th Annual YMCA Dragon Boat Team Challenge 2008. The Saturday afternoon event features six fun-filled team-building, problem-solving activities, both non-athletic and physically challenging. By popular demand, the competition will include giant inflatables — Human Foosball, Bounce Volleyball and Dodge ball. But the Dragon Boat Race is the main event. Dragon boats are 40-foot long, extremely colorful dragon-headed canoes that weigh over 1800 pounds, and each synchronized racing team pulls its oars to the beat of an Asian drum. It's spectator fun for the entire family, so come out to cheer for our YP champions.

### Chinese Ink Art: Vegetables, Grasses, Flowers and Insects

Six Mondays, October 13 –  
November 17, 2008

7:00 – 9:45 PM

Glasscock School of Continuing Studies  
Rice University, 6100 Main

Education Program

Traditional Chinese ink art is considered one of the greatest expressions of Chinese spirituality and can be likened to the physical and mental discipline of *tai chi*. Through mental concentration and disciplined repetition of the movement of the brush and the formation of the character, one is instilled with a sense of calm, inner serenity and good health. In this course for new and returning students, participants will explore compositions of vegetables, insects and related grasses, and flowers. They will also learn the basics of Chinese calligraphy, which will be used to finish paintings in the traditional style.

Instructor: Artist and teacher Weihong.  
CEUs: 1.65. Fee: \$285.00 (plus supplies). To register and get class supply list, go online to [www.gscs.rice.edu](http://www.gscs.rice.edu) or call 713-348-4803.

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Grace Li with Nicholas Platt, President Emeritus, Asia Society New York.

“A New Era for Global Business: Sustainable Growth for China and the World” was the theme of the conference, and the speakers and panelists were first class.

The networking alone was worth the time and investment. For example, I met Jet Li, martial arts master and a keynote speaker at the conference, and I learned that he has teamed his Jet Li One Foundation with the China Red Cross. I worked at the United Way of Houston for over 12 years before joining BFL and have volunteered with United Way International for a Global Standards project.

Bjorn Lindgren, Chair of BFL, and I founded the Chinese Philanthropy Global Partnership Inc. last year to help people in the U.S. fulfill their charitable goals in China. When the Sichuan earthquake happened on May 12, many people in the U.S. made online gifts for the earthquake relief through our website.

I have always dreamed of introducing our charitable organization to China. On the first day of the conference I met CCTV 9 English channel anchor Rui Yang and was invited to do a 30-minute interview about the importance of developing a modern philanthropic system in China. It broadcast live three days after the Tianjin conference.

How powerful the networking opportunities!

## A Tribute

### Remembering Ambassador Roy Huffington For Service to Asia Society Locally, Nationally

by Charles Foster, Chairman, Texas Center

Asia Society Texas Center lost a great friend and great supporter with the July 11 passing of Ambassador Roy M. Huffington. Roy did so much for so many, for both individuals and for many of great Houston institutions.

But for the Asia Society family, Roy was extraordinarily special. He served for a number of years as National Chairman of the Asia Society in New York during a critical time, helping put it back on sound financial footing. Not only did he regularly attend the Texas Center Board meetings for many years, but he was always available to give good advice and guidance.

He played a critical role at the outset of the process by which we developed the Asia House project. It was Roy who insisted that, if we participated in a nationwide capital campaign of the Asia Society, the funds raised in Texas stayed in Texas. That begged the question of what we were going to with those funds, which ultimately led to the decision to develop the Asia House project.

Roy participated with Nancy Allen, Louisa

Sarofim and Marilyn Oshman, along with the late Jim Elkins, on the very critical Architectural Selection Committee that selected and, more importantly, recruited our wonderful internationally acclaimed architect, Yoshio Taniguchi. Later, as we went forward, not only did Roy support our capital campaign but also regularly stressed the importance of acquiring adjoining land for future growth and parking, which with the generosity of our key supporters we have been able to do.

Roy was also one of the biggest supporters of the annual Asia Society Caravan Trip to Asia. No matter how rigorous the trip, Roy was always in the forefront of participation, whether it was Mongolia, the far reaches of western China along the Silk Road or Cambodia.

In short, we will miss both the friendship and the guidance of our friend Roy Huffington, who we will continue to honor yearly at our annual Tiger Ball gala as we present the Roy M. Huffington Award for International Understanding, so named because Roy was its first recipient.



Texas oilman, diplomat, philanthropist and world traveler Roy M. Huffington (center) was recognized front and center at the May 15 groundbreaking for the Texas Center's future Museum District headquarters building. PHOTO BY RICHARD CARSON

## Corporate Profile: Continental Airlines

Houston-based Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline, offering a full-service product with consistently reliable flights and a positive company culture. With more than 46,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland and Guam, and together with Continental Express, carries approximately 69 million passengers per year.



Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 3,000 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 140 domestic and 139 international destinations.

The Asia/Pacific region is one of the most important markets for Continental Airlines, and Continental has a long and successful history of service to important destinations in Asia.

Proud to have a long, uninterrupted history of serving the Japanese market, this year Continental celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Narita-New York service, to be followed early in 2009 by Narita-Houston service. Today, Continental Airlines serves eight cities in Japan, the largest number of any U.S. or European carrier.

In addition to Japan, with its stable passenger demand, China — characterized by double-digit economic growth in recent years — is emerging as a significant destination and travel market. Continental has operated nonstop service between New York and Beijing since 2005 and between New

*“We are excited about extending our China route network to include nonstop service to Shanghai, since it is the largest Pacific market currently not served by Continental and offers significant opportunities for growth in the future.”*

### Jim Compton

Executive Vice President, Marketing

York and Hong Kong since 2001. The airline will add service to a new destination in China next year with daily nonstop flights between its New York area hub at Newark Liberty International Airport and Shanghai and through flight service between Cleveland and Shanghai beginning March 25, 2009, subject to government approval.

The new service will provide daily nonstop flights to the largest U.S.-

China market that today lacks daily service, linking the world's financial center and top business and tourism destination with China's center for finance and trade. Continental will operate the nonstop flight with a Boeing 777-200 aircraft, and the flight will be timed to provide convenient roundtrip connections at Continental Airlines' New York hub to more than 60 other cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture. For the fifth consecutive year, *FORTUNE* magazine named Continental the No. 1 World's Most Admired Airline on its 2008 list of World's Most Admired Companies. For more information, visit [www.continental.com](http://www.continental.com).

*One of the benefits of corporate membership at the Business Council Gold Level (\$5000) is a corporate member profile. For more information email Tina Medlin at [TinaM@asiasociety.org](mailto:TinaM@asiasociety.org).*

## Program Photo Gallery



Best-selling author Fared Zakaria was welcomed by Texas Center's Anitha Pai (right).

With the recent exhilarating memory of groundbreaking still reverberating through the community, the Asia Society Texas Center punctuated summer with verve and variety. All-star programming spotlighted *Newsweek* editor and author **Fareed Zakaria**, signing and reading from his new book *The Post-American World*; world-renowned Indian art scholar **Dr. Pratapaditya Pal**, presenting the 15th annual Asian Art Lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Asia21 Initiative veteran **T. Paresh Patel** addressing a gathering of young professionals from Asia Society and World Affairs Council; Republic of Vietnam Prime Minister **Nguyen Tan Dung** at a breakfast discussion on Vietnamese education and trade, with Harvard University reps Tom Vallely and Ben Wilkinson and Texas Center Advisory Board member Gigi Do; and TV news anchor **Ted Koppel** starring in a big-screen preview of his latest Discovery documentary series, "The People's Republic of Capitalism."



Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, with Gigi Do, Texas Center Advisory Board member.  
PHOTO BY SHEHLA Z. SHAH



Discovery Channel producers and film discussion leaders James Blue and Jay LaMonica and moderator Shern-Min Chow, local TV anchor, were introduced by Martha Blackwelder.



Right: Asia Society Young Professionals Alan Nguyen, Joseph Tornberg and Michael Hardt were among those gathered at SoVino to hear about the 2008-09 Asia21 Initiative.



### Preparing Asians and Americans for a shared future

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States. We seek to increase knowledge, enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression and generate new ideas across the fields of policy, business, education, arts and culture.

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller III, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with global headquarters at 725 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021; phone 212-288-6400; fax 212-517-8315. Other Centers are in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai and Washington, D.C.

Asia Society Texas Center is located at 4605 Post Oak Park, Suite 205, Houston, TX 77027; phone 713-439-0051; fax 713-439-1107. Established in 1979, we serve the South Central region of the U.S. with nearly 100 lectures, demonstrations, cultural programs and initiatives annually, reflecting Asia Society's global mission. With the completion in 2010 of a new Museum District headquarters building designed by Yoshio Taniguchi, Asia Society Texas Center will become an international destination and expand its programming to include gallery exhibits, international conferences and cultural celebrations.

Martha Blackwelder  
*Executive Director*

Naila Qureshi  
*Deputy Executive Director*

Tina Breska Medlin  
*Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships*

Anitha Pai  
*Assistant Director of Programs & Education*

Susie Works  
*Program and Public Relations Associate*

Brandi Wilson  
*Executive Assistant*

Mersing Maitran  
*Administrative Assistant*

Jim Winter  
*Internal Auditor*

Debra Yeang  
*Bookkeeper*

Stephanie Haffner,  
Elizabeth Peng,  
Cassandra Sridharan  
*Interns*



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Asia Society Texas Center programs are funded in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, Houston Endowment and the generous support of our corporate and individual members.

**Continental Airlines**

The Official Airline of Asia Society Texas Center



Indian art scholar Dr. Pratapaditya Pal (at left) joins Martha Blackwelder and Vatsa Kumar at a dinner for the Asia Pacific Arts Circle members that was hosted by Mr. Kumar.

## Other Asian Events

### Sutra Dance Theatre

September 28, 2008 at 4:00 PM  
Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston  
4800 Calhoun, Houston, TX

Ramli Ibrahim directs "SPELLBOUND," a dance theatre production in Odissi fusion, presented by Samskriti Society for Indian Performing Arts in collaboration with the UH College of Fine Arts. Call 281-265-2787 or 979-240-9496. Buy tickets online at [www.tickets2events.com](http://www.tickets2events.com) or Anjali Center for Performing Arts.

### Chinese, Japanese, Russian Language Courses

Classes begin September 24  
Rice University, 6100 Main

Evening foreign language classes in all levels of proficiency start September 24 and meet twice weekly for eight weeks. Application deadline is September 9. Fee: \$360. Group classes for companies and other organizations may be arranged. Visit [www.gscs.rice.edu/fl](http://www.gscs.rice.edu/fl) or call 713-348-4019 for more information.

### Annual Texas Asian-American Business Symposium

October 4, 2008  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
208 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX

This day long platform for presenting information on regional capital improvement projects for water, transportation, power delivery and higher education facilities is hosted by the Texas Federation of Asian-American Chambers of

Commerce, Austin Asian American Chamber of Commerce and Tan International Group. The event culminates with a Discover Asia: China banquet, where The Hon. Sichan Siv, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., will share the stage with Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, Chinese dancers and martial arts demos. Call 512-407-8240 or visit [www.AusinAACC.org](http://www.AusinAACC.org).

## Asia Society Texas Center

NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS  
May 1 through August 15, 2008

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Michael Katz, Sung C. Kim, Vahid Kooros, Amy Lawch, Deanea LeFlore, Pamela Leighton, Alan Livingston, Virginia E. Mampre, Marie Mater, Wade Mayberry, Anned Muse, Bhupesh Patel, Sima Sharifian, Mark Szara, Daniel L. Stoecker, Shehnaz Vadgama, Thomas Vance, Robert Warnsman, Thomas E. Wey, Susie Works, Jack Wu, Sana Zaidi

#### Asia Society Young Professionals

Evan Betzer, Jennie Bui-McCoy, Lindsay Calvert, Mark Davis, Justin Gillenwater, Kheng Goh, Meiyang Hu, Ryan Higgins, Daniel Katz, Ken Ma, Jason Navarette, Chau Neason, Lisa Nguyen, Sanjay Parikh, Alistair Pereira, Victorina Piccio, Elizabeth Referente, Anthony Referente, Kavya Rajan, Adnan Siddiqui, Xiaoxu Cathy Sun, Thao Thieu, Emalie Thok, Joseph Tornberg, Alice Wei, Joanne Yoo, Bilal Zakaria

#### Student/Teacher/Senior

David Bitonti, Krishna Dronamraju, Beth Gunn, Peter Hoffman, Linda Johnson, Fabienne Jones, Jacob Klementich, Edwin Marx, Dossett McCullough, Ann Riddel, Michelle Wambaugh, Douglas White

# Asia Society Texas Center Membership Form

**New**       **Renewal**       **Gift**

**A Gift Membership from** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a gift membership at the level checked below in celebration of a:  Birthday     Anniversary     Graduation  
 Holiday     Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
to the recipient named at right.

**Membership Levels**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$500               | <input type="checkbox"/> PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asia Pacific Arts Circle \$300 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$250             | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$25,000     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual/Family \$100              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$10,000    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$55                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer \$5,000   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Professional (ASYP) \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Time Student \$35         | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$1,000   |

I am interested in a **Corporate Business Council membership**.

Please contact me with details.

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete if the payee is different from the person listed above.*

**I support Asia Society's mission of education. In addition to my membership, I am also enclosing an annual gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I believe in Asia Society. Please add a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my total for the Building Capital Campaign.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options**

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed made payable to Asia Society Texas Center

Credit card:  Amex     MasterCard     Visa     Discover

Cardholder Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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