

LAOTIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY

www.lasga.org



Dragon Boat Race - Enough Participation from Lao Teams to have own Race Category



2 Senior Citizen Trips to Georgia Aquarium



LAS Education Award Ceremony - Scholarships to Laotian College Students and Awards to Laotian Schoolkids



Rice Festival

TEA Walk - Together Empowering Asians

SCLC MLK Gala

Tonight's Schedule

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7:00pm LAS President's Welcome | 9:00 Sponsors and VIP Recognition |
| 7:15 Ambassador Sichan Siv | 9:05 - 11:45 Grand Opening Dance
(Music by Noumkousonh)
DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!
Lao, American, and Thai Songs |
| 7:30 Dinner (Music by Fisheye) | 11:45 Closing Remarks by LAS VP |
| 8:00 Laotian Blessing Dance
Laotian Folk Dance
Laotian Khaen Instrument | 11:50pm Event Close |
| 8:45 Fashion Show | |

LAOTIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY

5th Annual Charity Ball



FEBRUARY 7, 2009

Happy Valley
Norcross, GA



The Laotian American Society is a non-profit organization committed to being a resource to all people of ethnic origins native to Laos or have ties to Lao culture and heritage in order to improve their quality of life, education, health, and welfare by organizing and sponsoring educational, cultural, social, and other related activities as well as promoting communication and education about issues related to the Laotian community.

Laotian American Society (LAS)
www.lasga.org

P.O. Box 48432
Atlanta, GA 30362

2009 Officers



President
Cookie Daravanh Morey
president@lasga.org

An active member of LAS since 2003, Cookie's goal for 2009 is to be more involved with the elders in the Lao community. She would like to develop a program to help the community with their naturalization test and also understand their civil rights. Cookie has been a contract interpreter for the Department of Homeland Security for over 10 years.

Cookie hopes that through LAS and other resources she can reach out to the community especially the elders and new immigrants with limited English proficiency.



Secretary
Ting Kim Pathammavong
secretary@lasga.org

Kim has been instrumental in the organization, promotion, and instruction of the LAS Natasinh Dance class. She has devoted much time teaching children traditional Laotian folk dances as well as instilling good manners and respect for one's culture. This year alone the LAS dance team has performed in more than 10 events for over 12,000 people.

Kim graduated from the University of Milwaukee in Wisconsin with a Bachelor's Degree in Health Allied. She relocated to Georgia in 2002 with her husband Keck Pathammavong and two beautiful daughters Arianna age 10 and Mollie who is 7 years old. Teaching and coaching the dance team has brought Kim a lot of joy and she hopes to continue her efforts with LAS for many

Vice President
Neo Douangpraseuth
vp@lasga.org



Neo attended Arizona State University and the University of Mississippi and he received his B.A. in finance with an emphasis on Southeast Asian studies. Neo enjoys volunteering and is inspired by other Laotians.

Aside from nonprofit volunteer work Neo participated in the Host Family Program at the University of Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi where he hosted international exchange students from Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Brazil. He was also the Treasurer for the both the Arizona State's Asian Students Association and the ASU Fencing club.

Noy has been a Georgia resident for 18 years and currently resides in Alpharetta. She is married and actively involved with her three wonderful children Greg, Emily, and Lance.

Noy works as a Project Manager at UPS Supply Chain Solutions (UPS SCS) and has been employed there for 13 years. She has held various leadership assignments throughout her UPS career with the most recent assignment being Women's Leadership Development. The program provides a supportive environment that encourages and enables the attraction, development, and retention of women through networking, mentoring, education, and community-based involvement.

One of her aspirations is to stay engaged with the Lao community and instill its culture and heritage for the younger generation. She looks forward to serving as Treasurer for Laotian American Society.

Cultural Director
Dao Malaythong

Marketing
Fawn Boutviseth Nguyen

LAS Natasinh Dance Teacher
Malaythep Nina Siharath

5th Annual LAS Fundraising Ball
Thank You

Supporting Organizations

ACE - Asian Cultural Experience
www.asianculturalexperiencega.com
APAC - Asian Pacific American Council of Georgia
www.apacga.org
CPACS - Center for Pan Asian Community Services
www.icpacs.org
Emelita Breyer Foundation
GAAPICC - Georgia Asian American Pacific Islander Community Coalition
www.actingeorgia.org
MAG - Malaysian Association of Georgia
www.malaysia-ga.org

NAAAP Atlanta
National Association of Asian American Professionals
www.naaapatlanta.org
OCA - Organization of Chinese Americans
www.oca-georgia.org
TAWC - Thai Association World Center
www.tawcusa.com
Wat Lao Buddhakhanti (Stone Mountain, GA)
www.buddhakhanti.org
Wat Lao Buddhamoongoon (Riverdale, GA)
Wat Lao Buddharam (Baldwin, GA)
Wat Lao Pothisaram (Conley, GA)

Special Thanks

United Parcel Service for Scholarship Donations

Donations in Kind

Phon Phongsavath
Thong and Kristine Taysavang
Nancy Sananikone
Lily and Michael Hinnat
Mrs. Kahnmal Pathammavong

John and Noy Bozarth
Dr. Wayne Trowell D.D.S, P.C.
Phetsouvanh Bill Kounlavong
Ko Kai Thai Restaurant

Volunteers

Ball Chair
Cookie Morey

Co-Chair
Souk Vongkhamchanh

Entertainment & Special Guests
Kim Pathammavong
Nina Siharath
Dao Malaythong

Stage Managers
Keck Pathammavong
Paul Malaythong

LAS Natasinh Dancers
Arianna Pathammavong
Mollie Pathammavong
Merlena Kenson
Melanie Kenson
Melanie Mey
Indara Indy Malaythong
Intila Tila Malaythong
Sara Phoaungphet
Stephanie Nguyen
Jennifer Nguyen

Dancers Costume Designer and Seamstress

Dao Malaythong
Pikul Kongpachit
Fawn Boutviseth Nguyen

Dressing and Prepping the Dancers
The Parents!

Hosting
Sarah Phongsavath
Ann Rithmyxay
Elizabeth Bee Vichathep

Drinks
Neo Praseuth

Fashion Show Narrators
Vannasone Keodara
Somchay Siharath

Printing
John Morey

Program Book, Photography
Boon Vong
www.b-vong.com

Fashion Show

Melanie Kenson
Ashley Phan
Intila Malaythong
Stephanie Nguyen
Alyssa Vongkhamchanh
Mollie Pathammavong
Melanie Mey
Murickon Mey
Sara Phoaungphet

Arianna Pathammavong
Nang Phouangphet
Bobby Sisounthone
Stacy Chanlyvong
Nancy Praseuth
Ann Xayavong
Sarah Phongsavath
Indara Malaythong
Vikki Taysavang

Air-Noy Chanlyvong
Nina Siharath
Jeffrey Phanyavong
Jennifer Nguyen
Merlena Kenson
Emily Lounnarath
Kelsey Chanthrabouta
Brenda Phan
Patoom Nguyen
Phouthone Nguyen

Hair and Make Up
Malayluck Jiep
Siharath

Coordinators
Nina Siharath
Ting Pathammavong
Cookie Morey

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Tonight's Emcees / Presenters



Vannasone Keodara

Vannasone currently works as a Broadcaster, Reporter and Translator for the Voice of America-Lao Service. Her primary duties include: translating the news from English to Lao to be broadcasted, and she is in charge of a weekly Lao Diaspora and Music program that features overseas Laotian current affairs and music.

She also wrote, directed, and produced *The Leaf, Not Yet Falling*, which was nominated for the best documentary film of the US-ASEAN Film, Video and Photography Festival, Washington, D.C.



Anisong Pathammavong

- Employed at Printpack for 20 years. Printpack is a leader in the Packaging Industry.
- Current position: Business Development/Product Development, Printpack Snacks Division
- In Flexible Packaging Industry for 30 years
- 3 years of Research & Development at the Space Physics Department, University of Wisconsin, 1975
- Graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Fulbright Scholar, University of Wisconsin, 1972-1975



Somchay Siharath

Somchay Siharath has worked hard to achieve success in many aspects of her life. She has a four year college degree, with honors from Dongdock of Laos, and has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Laos from 1986 to 1992.

Mrs. Siharath also received an Associates Degree in Business and Marketing from Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in North Carolina with honors. She is currently an office assistant at the same school, being with the institution since 2004. In addition she received her certification in the Art of Food Carving from well known Chef James Parker.

Hosting



Ann Rithmyxay



Sarah Phongsavath

Tonight's Performers



NOUMKOUSONH

We are a Laotian band from Milwaukee, WI. We have the ability to play different kinds of music and songs, but especially Lao and Thai songs. Just to name a few styles of music: *lumvong*, *lumpern*, *lumdern*, *salavone*, *pouthai*, *sipundone*, and *tungwai*.

We also welcome anyone who wants to sing with us!

FISHEYE



Jason Roberts - mandolin, guitar and backing vocals
Brian Mobley - vocals, bass and guitar
Andy Robinson - guitar, bass and backing vocals
Doug Ward - drums and percussions

Atlanta-based acoustic rock group

www.fisheyeatlanta.com

OTT VONGPHACHAN



My name is Ott Vongphachan and I'm 34 years old. I live in Concord, North Carolina with my wife and two sons, Andrew and Darren. My hobbies are playing tennis, bowling, volleyball, singing, and soccer. I also love meeting new friends from different countries.



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Nina Siharath

Instructor
Sabaidee, my name is Malaythep Nina Siharath, and I am 24 years old. I started dancing at the age of 5. My mom was a dancer in Natasinh school and I was always anxious to learn as a young girl. Ever since then, I just continued to dance and learn more about my culture. Growing up I've always been intrigued with my heritage. I've continued to indulge myself in many aspects of Lao culture, customs and traditions. It's a pleasure to work with the younger generation, a blessing to learn from the older generation, and an honor to promote and preserve for many more generations. I have come to learn that it is no longer an interest or a hobby but it has grown to become a love.



Kim Ting Pathammavong



Dao Malaythong



Jennifer



Stephanie

LAS Natasinh Dance Group Past Performances

Asian American Night at Beaver Ridge Elementary - 1/10/2008	4/13/2008	UPS - 7/29/2008	Chinese Cultural School Christmas Party - 12/20/08
Agnes Scott Women's College, Lunar New Year - 2/7/2008	Agnes Scott Women's College Diversity Dinner Banquet - 4/27/2008	Malaysian Festival in Downtown Duluth - 9/6/2008	WFG New Year Celebration - 1/10/08
Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration - 2/10/2008	Wat Conley Lao New Year Celebration - 5/9/2008	Hong Kong Dragon Boat Race - 9/13/2008	SCLC MLK Gala - 1/24/2008
LAS Charity Ball - 3/15/2008	Representative Charlice Byrd Luncheon - 6/5/2008	AARC Rice Festival - 10/4/2008	Atlanta History Center - 1/25/2009
Wat Riverdale Lao New Year -	LAS Education Award Ceremony at	TEA Walk - Doraville, GA - 10/11/2008	Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration - 1/25/2009

Tonight's Guest of Honor



AMBASSADOR SICHAN SIV

Sichan Siv was nominated by President George W. Bush in 2001 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate as a United States ambassador to the United Nations, serving until 2006. In June 2005, Ambassador Siv addressed the 60th anniversary of the U. N. in San Francisco, following a tradition set by Presidents Truman in 1945, Eisenhower 1955, Johnson 1965, Secretary of State Schultz 1985, and Clinton 1995.

From 1989 to 1993, during the administration of President George Bush, Ambassador Siv served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia. In the private sector, he has held positions in social services, educational exchange, financial management, and investment banking. Currently, he provides global strategic advice and gives motivational speeches around the USA and the world.

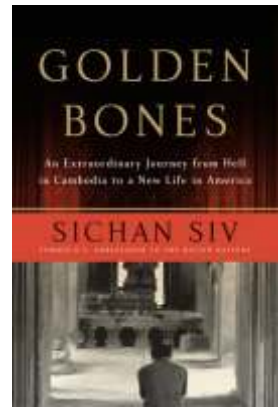
Ambassador Siv holds a master of international affairs from Columbia University. He escaped Cambodia's killing fields in 1976 and was resettled as a refugee in Wallingford, Connecticut. He and his wife, the former Martha Pattillo of Pampa, Texas, spend their time in San Antonio, New York, and beyond. He recounts his American dream in *Golden Bones*, published by HarperCollins in July 2008 in honor of America's 232nd Independence Day.



NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"What a life, what a story." President George Bush
"Most interesting book." King Father Sihanouk of Cambodia

"Uplifting saga." Kirkus Reviews
"Required reading." New York Post
"Should be in every classroom!" WDRC
"A great American story, told by a great American." American Spectator
"American dream...Fascinating, inspirational." San Antonio Express-News
"Spine-tingling, cliff hanger of a tale...Powerful narrative." Philadelphia Bulletin
"Should be read by all ages; will stay with you long after you finish."
Pensacola News Journal
"Gripping firsthand account of pain, perseverance, & survival; always compelling." Publishers Weekly



Sichan Siv's unbelievable journey from certain death in the killing fields of Cambodia to the corridors of power of Washington is the basis for *GOLDEN BONES* (HarperCollins)—a classic American dream story. It offers a searing glimpse into the soul of a man who endured the worst horrors humanity can face, and how he remarkably transcended these into an inspirational testament to the triumph of the human spirit in the face of true evil.

In 1975, the U.S. presence in Vietnam ended. In neighboring Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge came to power and began a vicious genocide to return to a primitive society. They enslaved and murdered those who disagreed with them, resulting in the harrowing "killing fields"—rice paddies which yielded millions of skulls and bones. Young Sichan Siv was told by his mother to run and "never give up hope!" Removing his glasses (since only intellectuals wore them), he set out to bicycle across Cambodia.

Captured and put in slave labor camps, Siv knew it was only a matter of time before he would be worked to death—or killed. With a daring escape through the jungle, including falling into a dreaded punji pit, Siv finally made it to Thailand. While he loses family members and his country to the communists, his spirit is never broken.

After spending months teaching English to fellow refugees, Siv was allowed to resettle in the U.S. in 1976. With two dollars in his pocket, he kept striving, working as an apple picker in Connecticut and a cab driver in New York. He was later awarded a scholarship to Columbia University. His perseverance was noticed while volunteering in the presidential campaign of George Bush in 1988. The following year, he was appointed a Deputy Assistant to the President, becoming the first American of Asian ancestry to reach that level at the White House.

In 1992, he returned with trepidation to Cambodia. He recounts this emotional visit in *GOLDEN BONES*. In 2001, he was nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the Senate as a US ambassador to the UN. Siv is now in demand as a speaker around the country and the world. His incredible story always inspires and motivates.

At book stores, www.amazon.com, or www.sichansiv.com, ssiv@sichansiv.com