

calendar of EVENTS

Cultural Connections is a unique way to experience and learn about the rich cultural diversity in Chicago. As a participant, you will travel to wonderful ethnic museums and cultural centers in and around Chicago to explore the reasons for cultural differences and to uncover connections to "others". The theme for the 2002-2003 season is "With Our Hands: Crafting Culture". With anthropology to guide your experience, you will be exposed to the technique of participant observation in exploring this theme as you become "urban anthropologists". You will view collections and artifacts, hear presentations by museum curators and staff, learn about specific communities in our city, participate in discussions and taste delicious ethnic foods. You will grow to understand and appreciate other cultures...and possibly share some of your own!

Peace at Hand

Kick-off Assembly!

Thursday, September 12, 6pm-8pm

Center for Cultural Understanding and Change

The Field Museum

1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

Join us for a unique opportunity to contribute your good wishes to the well being of our global urban community! This year's theme—"With Our Hands: Crafting Culture"—presents us with the challenge of addressing the role of handicrafts within particular social contexts. Within today's social context, we find ourselves in a conscious pursuit of more effective ways to approach conflict resolution and peace making policies. With that in mind and in keeping with our theme, the Shanti Foundation for Peace will be joining us at our Kick-off this year along with the *Cultural Connections* partners to explore this concern as we create, with our hands, a symbol of protection and well being. Together, we will make a giant *Rangoli*, a folk art tradition of South Asia, which will embody our wishes for the well being of our community and demonstrate our collective hopes for a peaceful world. We ask that participants bring a leaf from their own garden or community to contribute to the *Rangoli* symbolically uniting various Chicago neighborhoods and celebrating our connections between communities. You will also view extraordinary handcrafted objects from The Field Museum's collections and sample an assortment of various ethnic foods.

The Craft of Making Middle Eastern Music

Saturday, October 5, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)

Arab American Action Network

at the Southwest Youth Collaborative

6400 S. Kedzie Avenue, Chicago

This event will introduce the *oud*, the parent of the European lute, by exploring its development and construction through the ages and across the Middle East. As a handcraft, the *oud* is a direct descendent of instruments depicted in the wall paintings and carvings of Egyptian, Assyrian, Sumerian, and far eastern civilizations. The *oud* evolved further during the Moorish period in Spain (711-1492) to its current characteristic appearance. Come join in a discussion of the role of this stringed instrument in Arab culture over a sample of Arab cuisine. Live demonstrations of the various styles and genres associated with the *oud* accompanied by the *nai* (a flute-like instrument) and the frame drum will be presented.

Gathering To Behold Wellness — A Joint Event

Wednesday, October 23, 6pm-8pm and

Thursday, October 24, 6pm-8pm (select one)

American Indian Center and

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center

at the American Indian Center

1630 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago

Some people carry stones with them at all times that convey a personal sense of wellness while others gather at certain times of the year to collectively purify the soul and strengthen the heart of their community through traditional ceremonies. What sorts of handcrafted objects are associated with these traditional practices and how have they found their way into their respective societies? Join the American Indian Center and the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center for a unique cross-cultural comparative presentation of traditional handcrafted objects of protection and healing. Learn the histories behind the Ojibwe Jingle Dress and various Korean talismans for an understanding of how different cultures respond to the common need to ward off harm and evil. And enjoy a taste of traditional American Indian and Korean foods while you explore.

Crossing Thresholds: The Mezuzah

Wednesday, November 13, 6pm-8pm and

Thursday, November 14, 6pm-8pm (select one)

Spertus Museum

618 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

Join us to explore the *mezuzah*, a ritual object that hangs on the doorposts of a Jewish home. It is a marker of identity and the fulfillment of a Jewish commandment. Together, we will examine the ways that contemporary artists have interpreted this ancient object as part of our Philip and Sylvia Spertus Judaica Prize. We will consider how the *mezuzah* symbolizes transitions between our lives in the community and at home. Our program will conclude with delicious kosher food!

Transforming the Everyday to Ceremony

Sunday, December 8, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture

6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago

Learn how Lithuanians have long utilized a common natural Lithuanian resource - rye and wheat straw - to contribute to the creation of traditional ceremony. Straw was widely used in the everyday lives of nineteenth and early twentieth century Lithuanian peasants, but once in the hands of talented and creative artisans, its aesthetic significance as ritual object became increasingly apparent. Join us for a deeper look into the transformation of the ordinary to the ceremonial and furthermore its development over time and change of place. Discover for yourself some of the secrets of straw art while you sample an array of authentic Lithuanian foods!

Mark Your Calendars for these Spring 2003 Events in the works!

Brochure will be available in January 2003.

Saturday, February 22 — A Joint Event

Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago
and The HistoryMakers

Wednesday, March 12 and

Thursday, March 13 — A Joint Event

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian and
Swedish American Museum Association of Chicago

Sunday, March 30 — A Joint Event

Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
and The Polish Museum of America

Saturday, April 12 — A Joint Event

Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center and
Ukrainian National Museum

Saturday, April 26

Indo American Center

Sunday, May 18 — A Joint Event

Cambodian Association of Illinois and
Institute of Puerto Rican Art and Culture

Saturday, May 31 — Tour

Southeast Historical Society

Capacity at each museum varies so please be sure to Register Early by phone or mail! Late registration may not be accepted due to limited space. Reservations are made on a first received basis. For more information, please call: 312-665-7474 or e-mail: ccuc@fmnh.org

Cultural Connections has received generous support from Robert Morris College, the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Illinois Humanities Council, the Allstate Foundation and Chicago Public Schools' Office of Language and Cultural Education. The Field Museum salutes the people of Chicago for their longstanding support of The Museum through the Chicago Park District. Cultural Connections is proud to partner with Chicago Access Network Television (CANTV).