

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 program year 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!

Behind the Mask: Penance and Thanksgiving

Sunday, February 23, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)
Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago
at the American Indian Center
1630 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago

The Morion festival is a Lenten ritual celebrated every Holy Week in Marinduque, an island at the southern end of Luzon in the Philippines, principally in the towns of Boac, Gasan and Mogpog. "Morion" means mask, or visor, which is the top part of the Medieval Roman armor covering the face. It is this mask that is the focal point of the moriones celebrations. The men who participate in this ritual and go about the streets of Marinduque as morions perform this as an act of penance or thanksgiving for some favor granted in the past. Join the Filipino American Historical Society to learn more about the story of this mask and its intended purpose within the context of the Morion festival. A hearty sampling of Filipino foods will follow the presentation.

Weaving Art and Utility — A Joint Event

Wednesday, March 12, 6pm-8pm
at the Swedish American Museum,
5211 N. Clark Street and

Thursday, March 13, 6pm-8pm
at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
2600 N. Central Park, Evanston (select one)

Believe it or not, Swedes and Native Americans share an art form. The ancient art of weaving baskets is featured prominently in Native American tribes and among the Saami, the indigenous people of Northern Sweden who are famous for herding reindeer. Master craftsmen will demonstrate traditional weaving practices that create containers equally valuable for their usefulness as for their beauty. And Swedes and Native Americans, many of whom are neighbors in the Uptown/Andersonville neighborhood in Chicago, will have the opportunity to learn about the connection between their cultures. Refreshments will include the Native American dessert fry bread and Swedish pancakes.

Teachers can receive 2 Continued Professional Development Units (CPDUs) as approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for each *Cultural Connections* program attended. Teachers can also enroll in the *Cultural Connections Lane Credit/CPDU* course, which begins in September each year. Please call 312-665-7474 for more information.

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

Kirigami and Wycinanki: Paper Art Forms in Context — A Joint Event

Sunday, March 30, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)
Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
and The Polish Museum of America
at The Polish Museum of America
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago

Join us in an exploration of Japanese *Kirigami* paper cutting and Polish *Wycinanki* paper folding as a means of transmitting culture and tradition. Since at least the 18th century, the Poles have decorated their homes, especially in the countryside, with paper cut in the forms of beautiful flowers and farm animals. *Kirigami*, which became more popular in Japan during the Edo period (1600-1868), is believed to have originated from *monkiri*, which is the cutting of *mons*, or family crests. These family crests reflected symbols similar to those of the Poles, for example, plants, animals and objects, but in different ways. Both the similarities and differences of these artistic practices will be examined. Guests may arrive early to see samples of this art form and to view the museum's current exhibits. Participants are encouraged to create a piece of art themselves. Conclude your exploration with a sampling of traditional Polish and Japanese foods.

From Hand to Heart: Wedding Crafts and Sentiments — A Joint Event

Saturday, April 12, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)
Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center
and Ukrainian National Museum
at the Ukrainian National Museum
720 N. Oakley Boulevard, Chicago

What is it that makes a wedding a wedding? How might your grandmother's wedding have been different from your own? Join us for an informal gathering to discuss various wedding traditions from different cultural foundations and also different generational perspectives. Each partner will bring in two community members from different generations to compare and contrast their matrimonial rituals and handmade must-haves, including traditional garb and handmade textiles, foods and baked goods, like the Ukrainian *korovai*, or wedding bread. We will also discuss the differences between such traditional objects as the Greek wedding crown, *stefana*, and the Ukrainian wedding wreath, *vinok*, and take a look at how things have or have not changed over generations. Greek and Ukrainian foods will complement the discussion.

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).

Mehendi: More Than Adornment

Saturday, April 26, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)
Indo-American Center
6328 N. California Avenue, Chicago

Few hip Americans who acquire a temporary tattoo of *henna* are aware of the significance of its traditional use in India. The Indian art of *mehendi* involves creating designs with vegetable dye, particularly on the hands and feet of brides, members of the wedding party, and classical dancers. During this *Cultural Connections* program at the Indo-American Center, participants will observe the application of an elaborate design by a skilled artisan, hear songs which women enjoy while decorating a bride in preparation for her marriage, and learn about the importance of traditions related to marriage among Indian Americans. Participants will create designs containing symbols of good fortune and prosperity, have an opportunity to produce *mehendi* decorations on their own hands, and sample Indian snacks. Take-home packets of information and materials for doing *mehendi* designs will be provided.

On Stage and In The Streets: Stories of Our Culture — A Joint Event

Sunday, May 18, 12noon-2pm and 4pm-6pm (select one)
Cambodian Association of Illinois and
Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture
at the Swedish American Museum
5211 N. Clark Street, Chicago

Join us as we explore two versions of mask-making and traditional regalia from Cambodia and Puerto Rico. The stories of the Reamkr (based on the Ramayana) are the basis for Cambodian theatrical presentations using masks and costumes from Khmer history, while Christian and Yoruba myths are combined to create the ritual Festival of St. James (Santiago) in Loiza, Puerto Rico. Both the theatrical plays and the festival share a story of conflict and struggle, fear and cultural preservation. Their performances, reenacted in elaborate masks and regalia, continue to be performed as part of the living cultures of both societies today. Participants will also enjoy traditional Cambodian and Puerto Rican fare.

Chicago's Southeast Side - The Built Environment — Tour

Saturday, May 31, 10am-2pm
Southeast Historical Society
9801 S. Avenue G, Chicago

Join us for a tour of the built environment on Chicago's Southeast Side. See industrial sites, which drew workers to the area. See different styles of houses and residences built by those who lived in the area. See commercial structures, parks, churches, and schools, which served the neighborhoods. See some of the new economic initiatives under development on the Southeast Side. The tour will begin at the Southeast Historical Museum and conclude with a hearty ethnic meal and discussion in a local establishment.

SPRING 2003