

Cultural Connections is a unique way to experience and learn about the rich cultural diversity in Chicago. As a participant, you will travel to community ethnic museums and cultural centers in and around Chicago to explore the reasons for cultural differences and to uncover connections to people you may think of as very different from yourself. The theme for the 2005-2006 program year is **The Language of Looks**. With anthropology to guide your experience, you will be exposed to the technique of participant observation as you become "urban anthropologists". You will view collections and artifacts, hear presentations by museum curators and staff, get first voice accounts of specific communities in our city, participate in discussions and taste delicious ethnic foods. You will grow to understand and appreciate other cultures...and hopefully share something about your own!

Spring 2006 CALENDAR of Events

FEBRUARY

"Timeless" Fashions

Arab American Action Network and
Swahili Institute of Chicago

Saturday, February 18, 3:30pm-6pm

at Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church
11310 S. Forest Avenue

If one were to walk down Michigan Avenue dressed like a Pilgrim from the *Mayflower*, it would likely provoke a scene. By contrast, on the streets of Beirut or Dar-Es-Salaam, it is not uncommon to see some of the population dressed in styles dating to the Middle Ages interspersed with those sporting contemporary fashions. The Arab American Action Network and The Swahili Institute of Chicago will demonstrate the richness of the fashions and styles of the Middle East and East Africa and explore some interesting similarities and differences.

MARCH

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall... How Am I Perceived By All?

Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
and Indo-American Center

Saturday, March 18, 11:30am -2pm and 3:30pm-6pm

at the Indo-American Center
6328 North California Avenue

Even the act of getting dressed can pose dilemmas of choice and identity for Americans with a distinct ethnic identity. Explore how dynamics of generations, immigration, history, economics, and politics impact attire and appearance in the Asian Indian American and Japanese American communities. Come learn the secret of the sari, the complexity of the kimono, and the relevance of both in the lives of individuals from these groups.

APRIL

Traditional Yet Contemporary

Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago and
Swedish American Museum Center

Wednesday, April 19, 6pm-8:30pm

at the Swedish American Museum Center
5211 N. Clark Street

Owing to both local and global factors, many peoples' appearances have changed considerably over the last 100 years. Still, amid this change, threads of continuity can be teased out as traditional attire and adornment have either become part of new looks or have been consciously preserved as faithfully to the original as possible. Come see some of the traditional rural and working attire of the Philippines and Sweden and learn how this attire has been incorporated into contemporary fashion. We'll also consider traditional forms of appearance that have been more faithfully preserved, exploring some of the reasons for self-conscious conservation.

MAY

Beauty in Action

Brazilian Cultural Center of Chicago, DuSable Museum
of African American History, and Italian Cultural Center

Wednesday May 17, 6pm-8:30pm

at the Italian Cultural Center
1621 N. 39th Avenue, Stone Park

The saying "beauty is as beauty does" means outward appearance matters less than what is inside. But what if outward appearance is what is inside? That is, what if specific elements of appearance are meant to make a social statement, expressing deeply held views? To explore these questions, members of the Chicago region's Italian, Brazilian, and African American communities will discuss how hair styles, costumes, dance movements—among other aspects of appearance—constitute a beauty in action that also bespeaks identity.

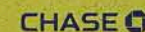
TEACHERS can receive 2.5 Continued Professional Development Units (CPDUs) as approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for each *Cultural Connections* program attended. Teachers can also enroll in our Professional Development course for Lane Credit and/or CPDUs, which begins in October and March each year.

Cultural Connections also offers an initiative for **PARENTS** of school children. Please call 312.665.7475 for more information about either of these initiatives.

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Cultural Connections programs are taped and cablecast on CAN TV thanks to a partnership between *Cultural Connections* and CAN TV. For more information, call CAN TV at 312.738.1400 or visit their web site: www.cantv.org/cultural.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited! Please call 312.665.7474 or e-mail ccuc@fmnh.org for more information or to reserve your space at an event today! Admission fees will be collected at the door. Cash or check only, please. General admission is \$15, teachers/students \$10. Children under 12 are always admitted for free. Event capacity varies depending on venue and reservations are accepted on a first-received basis. You will receive a confirmation in the mail 2 weeks prior to the event. A sampling of traditional foods is always served.