

SPRING 2009

# Louisiana Folk

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE CENTER

THE 30TH ANNUAL  
NATCHITOCHE-SNSU FOLK FESTIVAL  
JULY 17 & 18

The 2009 theme, "New Populations in Louisiana," will celebrate the importance of those cultures either new to the state or those which have sometimes been overlooked because of their cultural "invisibility" to many people. Among other events, the Festival will showcase traditional Japanese, Chinese and Filipino dancing, Vietnamese lion dancing, *taiko* drumming, Thai *krathong* lotus flower arranging, Japanese *origami*, Filipino Silayan singing, and an Indian Bollywood dance exhibition. And, for those that love to dance, there will be music from Don Fontenot, Kyle Huval and the Dixie Club Ramblers, Gal Holiday & the Honky Tonk Revue, Jessie Brown and Choupique, Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys, and Hadley Castille! Come and see what the Festival has to offer you and your family!

2009 HONORARY CHAIR

Kiem Do was born in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 1933. He became one of the first Vietnamese cadets to graduate from the French Naval Academy in Brest, France, after which he was commissioned as an officer in the Vietnamese Navy. During his twenty-year naval career, "Captain Kiem" served as Commandant of the Vietnamese Midshipman's School, Chief of Staff of the Mobile Riverine Force, District Commander of the IV Naval Zone, and Deputy Chief of Staff-Operations.

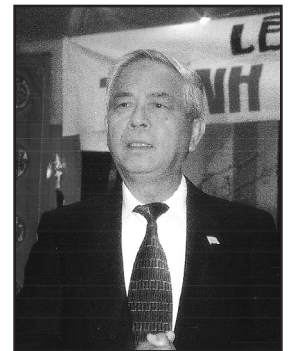
In 1975, together with Richard Armitage of the United States (who would later become Deputy Secretary of State under Colin Powell), Kiem planned and executed the evacuation of the Vietnamese Naval Fleet. Thirty-five ships loaded with 18,000 Vietnamese refugees were spirited out of the country just hours ahead of the invading North Vietnamese Army, keeping millions of dollars worth of equipment out of the victorious communists' hands and saving thousands of at-risk Vietnamese from imprisonment and torture in so-called "re-education" camps.

Together with NSU Associate Professor Julie Kane, Kiem co-authored a memoir entitled *Counterpart: A South Vietnamese Naval Officer's War*. Published by the Naval Institute Press of the U.S. Naval Academy, it became a History Book Club Featured Alternate in the spring of 1999.

Kiem, his wife Thom, and their five children resettled in the New Orleans area after the fall of Saigon. Kiem became a cost engineer with Entergy. His many service activities have included Chair of the Asian Pacific American Society of New Orleans (1993-94) and Board Member of the Arts Council of New Orleans. He and Thom are now retired in Mandeville, Louisiana.

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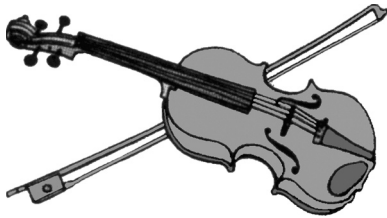
## LOUISIANA STATE FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP



On Saturday, July 18, the Folk Festival will host the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Main Stage in Prather Coliseum. Fiddlers from around the state will compete for cash prizes and ribbons in two main categories – Trophy Division and Championship Division. Fiddlers are welcome to enter in either division but not both. Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. Alternatively, the Trophy Division is not competitive for the state championship.

The two top fiddlers from each group in the Championship Division – ages 0-21, 22-59, 60 and above—will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to be recognized as the state's best fiddler. At 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, the winner will perform on the Festival's main stage in Prather Coliseum.

## HALL OF MASTER FOLK ARTISTS



The Fiddle Championship needs your support in order to remain an ongoing event!

\_\_\_ \$50 Supporter---2 passes (all events)

\_\_\_ \$100 Friend---4 passes (all events)

\_\_\_ \$200 Patron---8 passes (all events) &  
Stage Signage

\_\_\_ Other Amount

In addition, all donors will receive recognition from the stage, listing in the Festival Program and on the website, and the opportunity to present a prize.

Make checks payable to:  
NSU Foundation

Mail to:  
Louisiana Folklife Center  
NSU Box 3663  
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Hezekiah Early of Hezekiah Early and the Houserockers, a three piece blues band, will be inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists. Mr. Early will be inducted into the Hall at 1 p.m. on July 18, 2009, during the Welcome Ceremony for the 30th Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival. Unfortunately, Mr. Early will be unable to attend due to prior commitments. Dr. Pete Gregory, Professor of Anthropology and co founder of the Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival, will accept the award on behalf of Mr. Early. Mr. Early plans on being back in Natchitoches with the Houserockers to perform at the 2010 Folk Festival.

Mr. Early and the other members of the Houserockers began playing together in 1978. They released their first album, *Since Ol' Gabriel's Time*, in 1982. The trio blends drums, trombone, guitar, and the harmonica into a unique combination, evoking the river blues sound of the early steamboat jazz and country blues bands that came out of the lower Mississippi River Valley.

Though hailing from Concordia Parish, near Ferriday, Louisiana, Hezekiah Early and the Houserockers aren't just a long time, local club band. They've taken their traditional minstrel music, rockabilly, and blues stylings to Europe, performing for music critic Angelo Morini in Florence, Italy. Mr. Morini writes, "The album is extremely interesting and it is worth the trouble trying to find it. It is not possible to not become bewitched by such musical beauty." This album, *Since Ol' Gabriel's Time*, is available from the Louisiana Folklife Center and can be purchased at this year's Folk Festival in the Country Store located in the main hall of Prather Coliseum.

## TENTATIVE NARRATIVE SESSIONS

**Chinese New Year:** Come learn how Chinese New Year and other traditional holidays are celebrated by Chinese-Americans living in Louisiana, as well as the cultural significance of these holidays.

**Czech Culture in Louisiana:** This will be a discussion of the importance of cultural heritage as expressed in such traditional activities as dance, dress, and foodways. A demonstration of traditional Czech dance will be part of the session.

**Historical Evolution of Cajun Fiddling:** Cajun fiddler Hadley Castille will discuss styles of Cajun fiddling from its beginnings to the present day. Hadley's son, Blake Castille, and granddaughter, Sarah Jayde Williams, will accompany him in the discussion and in some classic fiddle music.

**The History and Culture of Filipinos in Louisiana:** Marina Espina, author of the landmark scholarly study, *Filipinos in Louisiana*, will share her vast knowledge about the culture and history of the Filipino community.

***I Always Do My Collars First:*** This documentary on the ironing traditions of several Cajun women explores the cultural significance of this overlooked domestic ritual. Writer and director Conni Castille will introduce the film and answer questions after the showing.

**Indian Foodways in Louisiana:** The editors of the award-winning Louisiana cookbook *Saffron to Sassafras* will discuss recipes and foodways, from both India and Louisiana.

**Japanese Holidays and Customs in Louisiana:** Several Japanese natives now living in Louisiana

will discuss how traditional Japanese customs and holidays are celebrated in Louisiana. The importance of traditional dance as a means of maintaining cultural heritage will also be a topic.

**Korean Life in Louisiana:** Living overseas entails both challenges and opportunities. Several native Koreans will share their experiences, discussing their common and individual solutions to the cultural, linguistic and emotional challenges they face as Koreans living in Louisiana.

**St. Joseph's Altars in Louisiana:** Lucy Mike has exhibited her St. Joseph's altars at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. Come hear her explain the importance of this Italian-American tradition.

**Tamale Making:** Tamale making is an important part of traditional foodways in many countries. Several tamale makers will discuss tamale making as well as the relation of tamales to Hispanic culture and holidays.

**Thai Culture and *Krathong* "lotus flowers":** The tradition of the "floating lotus" *krathong* is being slowly revitalized in Thai ritual and celebrations in Louisiana. *Krathong* makers Wimol Harwell and Jenjira Wilson will display *krathongs* as they discuss the importance of this cultural revival.

**Vietnamese Refugees in Louisiana:** A political exile himself, Captain Kiem Do has worked closely with the Vietnamese refugee community in greater New Orleans. He will share his experiences in assisting this community.

## EXHIBITS

The 2009 Folk Festival will include several exhibits. Improve your *mahjongg* playing skills with a lesson from a long-time teacher of this traditional game, examine an authentic Italian-American St. Joseph's altar, and admire the beauty and artistry of Thai *krathongs*, or lotus flower floating water lanterns.

## Updated 30th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Tentative Schedule

<b>Friday July 17</b> Main Stage	5:00 – 5:45 Champ Crossno Cajun Dance Lessons	6:00 – 7:30 Kyle Huval & The Dixie Club Ramblers	8:00 – 10:30 Don Fontenot & Les Amis de la Louisiane
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### Saturday, July 18

East Stage	West Stage	Main Stage	N-Club Narrative Sessions
9:00 – 9:45 Thai Culture & Krathong Lotus Flowers	9:00 – 9:45 Korean Life in Louisiana	8:00 – 8:30 Fiddle Championship Late Registration	9:00 – 9:45 Tamale Making
10:00 – 10:45 Champ Crossno Cajun Dance Lessons	10:00 – 10:45 KidFest Activities	9:00 – 1:00 Louisiana State Fiddle Championship	10:00 – 10:45 Japanese Holidays and Customs in Louisiana
11:00 – 12:15 Jesse Brown & Choupique (Cajun)	11:00 – 12:15 Blake Brothers Bluegrass Band	1:00 – 2:00 Welcome Ceremony	11:00 – 11:45 St. Joseph's Altars in Louisiana
12:30 – 1:45 Gal Holiday & the Honky Tonk Revue (Country)	12:30 – 1:00 Dancers from the Philippines	2:00 – 2:15 The Vietnamese Lion Dance Group of Marrero	12:00 – 12:45 Film: <i>I Always Do My Collars First</i>
	1:00 - 1:30 Japanese Minyo Dance Troupe	2:30 – 2:45 SGI-USA New Orleans Jazz Taiko Team	1:00 – 1:45 Indian Foodways in Louisiana
2:00 – 3:15 Knight Train	1:30 - 2:00 SGI-USA New Orleans Jazz Taiko Team	3:00 – 3:30 Japanese Minyo Dance Troupe	2:00 – 2:45 Czech Culture in Louisiana
	2:00 – 2:30 Silayan Choir of New Orleans	3:30 – 4:00 Dancers from the Philippines	3:00 – 3:45 Historical Evolution of Cajun Fiddling
	2:30 – 3:00 The Vietnamese Lion Dance Group of Marrero	4:00 – 5:15 Jesse Brown & Choupique (Cajun)	4:00 – 4:45 The History & Culture of Filipinos in Louisiana
3:30 – 4:45 Goldman Thibodeaux & the Lawtell Playboys	3:00 – 3:30 Czech Dancers	5:30 – 6:00 The Baton Rouge Chinese Sunshine Dance Group	5:00 – 5:45 Vietnamese Refugees in Louisiana
	3:30 – 4:00 Indian Classical Dance	6:00 – 6:30 LA State Fiddle Champion	6:00 – 6:45 Chinese New Year
5:00 – 6:15 Hadley Castille & the Sharecroppers Cajun Band	4:00 – 5:15 Gal Holiday & the Honky Tonk Revue (Country)	6:30 – 7:45 Goldman Thibodeaux & the Lawtell Playboys	
6:30 - 7:45 Blake Brothers Bluegrass Band	5:30 – 6:45 Back Porch Band	8:00 – 9:15 Hadley Castille & Sharecroppers Cajun Band	
	7:00 - 7:30 Westside Baptist Church Praise Band	9:30 – 10:45 Rivers Revue Band	

## INVITED CRAFTS PEOPLE

Michael Boicourt - spinning & weaving	Nicole Holcombe /Frieda Tuma - pysanky eggs	Doris Perkins - lye soap making, quilling, & wood burning
David Brown - walking sticks	Sanae Keyser/ Sugai Barker - Japanese origami, calligraphy, & water colors	Clifton & Margie Rambin - gourds & walking sticks
John Colson - filé		Kenneth and Mary Royston - whittling & needle work
Thomas Colvin - boats & river cane baskets	Jo O'Quinn dba Shelaghley Woods - wood turning	
Pinki Diwan - crafts from India	Blake Owen - wooden toys	Bobby Terry - fiddles & fiddle repair
Bill Fisher - Choctaw carvings	Los Adaes Foundation - quilting & bonnets	Myrna Wilson - Koasati Pinestraw Baskets
Rose Fisher - Chocktaw split cane baskets		

## 2010 NATCHITOCHESES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL

The theme for the 2010 Folk Festival will be “Traditional Remedies: Folklife During Times of Adversity.” During times of stress people rely upon traditional folkways to help them deal with situations. They eat traditional comfort foods to relieve stress, they employ folk healing remedies, and they engage in traditional arts and crafts in order to economize. Many of the stories, songs, and proverbs that people employ during hard times reflect their struggles with adversity.

One of the “Traditional Remedies” of folks burdened by hard times is to address their burdens in music and song. Traditional blues music is an obvious example. Two blues groups performing at the Festival are Hezekiah Early and the Houserockers and the Rivers Revue with Hardrick Rivers. Much of Cajun and Zydeco music fits the Festival theme as well. While the beat may be sprightly, many of the lyrics of Cajun and Zydeco songs revolve around themes of loss and adversity. The 2010 Festival will include the Jambalaya Cajun Band and Zydeco performer Goldman Thibodeaux. Country music also has a long tradition of lyrics that express coping with adversity. Hugh Harris and his Drifting Cowboys band will perform classic country songs such as those sung by Hank Williams. Finally, long-time Festival favorite the Back Porch Band will present Depression-era songs as well as traditional folksongs.

While many traditional crafts have their roots in a “back to basics” approach to overcoming lean economic times, artisans today continue making these crafts for their artistic and cultural merit. David Brown will demonstrate the art of crafting walking canes. Charlene Quinilty will demonstrate prairie Cajun spinning and weaving. Blake Owen will present wood working techniques related to crafting homemade wooden toys for children. Jo Ann Parish will exhibit bonnets and string quilts, and Geraldine Robertson will demonstrate traditional methods of making cornshuck dolls and moss mattresses. Allen Holmes will display traditional methods of making fishnets, and John Colson will demonstrate filé production. Although these craft items have a long historic tradition, their production continues, and the traditional methods of production are kept alive by these and other artisans in Louisiana. These crafts are still purchased and used by people all over the state.

# THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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The Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism: Office of Cultural Development, Division of the  
Arts--Shreveport Regional Arts Council  
Northwestern State University



LOUISIANA



## WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Dates: July 17-18, 2009

### FESTIVAL HOURS:

Friday-5:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Saturday-8:00 a.m. -11:00 p.m.

Box office opens Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Box office opens Saturday at 8:00 am

\$8.00 all events Saturday  
\$5.00 evening only (5:00 p.m. - Till)  
\$3.00 kids ages 7-12  
FREE kids 6 & under  
\$11.00 two-day all event pass  
(available in advance only)

Discounted all-event passes must be purchased by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at the Louisiana Folklife Center, Room 213 Kyser Hall; no discounted all-event passes will be sold at the Festival.

The Festival is held in comfortable, air-conditioned Prather Coliseum, on the campus of Northwestern State University in historic Natchitoches. The site provides ample, nearby parking and is handicap accessible. No alcohol is allowed or sold on the site. To reach the Coliseum, take the Natchitoches exit from I-49. From Shreveport, turn left; from Alexandria, turn right onto Hwy. 6 / University Parkway and turn right on South Jefferson. Prather Coliseum is on the right, just past the tennis courts. Contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332, by email [folklife@nsula.edu](mailto:folklife@nsula.edu), or through the website at [www.nsula.edu/folklife](http://www.nsula.edu/folklife) for information.

### KIDFEST

Kidfest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities such as storytelling, scavenger hunts, and “make and take” activities. It’s a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state. Bring the kids over to learn how to use chopsticks or experiment with Japanese calligraphy. As part of the Kidfest activities, the NSU Writing Project will host a booth for young writers! Kidfest will be available on Saturday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

### BOOK SIGNINGS

This year’s Folk Festival will include several exciting book signings on Saturday. Practically a legend in the Filipino community, Marina Espina will be on hand to sign her book, *Filipinos in Louisiana*. This book is the first scholarly work on this topic, and is regarded as the standard in the field.

Dr. Julie Kane of Northwestern State University and Capt. Kiem Do are the authors of *Counterpart: A South Vietnamese Naval Officer’s War*. Capt. Do was instrumental in the evacuation of thirty thousand at-risk South Vietnamese amidst the chaotic fall of Saigon in April 1975. Dr. Kane will also be signing copies of *Jazz Funeral*, her newest volume of poetry.

The ladies of Sharing Shores will be signing copies of their award-winning Louisiana cookbook, *Saffron to Sassafras*, which includes recipes from India and Louisiana. This book took first place in the nationwide Annual Tabasco Community Cookbook Awards. All proceeds from the sale of this book, will support underprivileged women and children.

The Louisiana Folklife Center  
NSU Box 3663  
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0014  
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2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival  
"New Populations in Louisiana"

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Receives: 1 pass (all events)

\_\_\_ Member (\$50)  
Receives: two passes (all events)

\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$100)  
Receives: 4 passes (all events)  
1 T-shirt (size \_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Patron (\$250)  
Receives: 10 passes (all events)  
2 T-shirts (sizes \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Grand Patron (\$500)  
Receives: 20 passes (all events)  
3 T-shirts (Sizes \_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_)

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Receives: 40 passes (all events)  
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In addition, all donors will receive listing in the Festival Program and on the website.

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Mail to: Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497  
Donations received after June 15, 2009 may not be listed in the Festival Program. Fair market value of items received may not be deducted from your Federal Income Tax.