An Asian Diaspora:

Diverse Responses to American Life
Indian Diaspora:

• Educated, professional

• Activities for students: annual Volunteers for Service in India (VSEI) dance, music and cultural performances

• Hindi instruction

• Contact: Dr. K. Raman, West Hartford
Tibetan Diaspora

- Middle/lower middle class; many have jobs related to ones in Tibet, Nepal, India; numbers swelled in 1990s due to Congressional ruling; Old Saybrook & Norwich

- Activities for students: mandala making, tangka painting, Tibetan language instruction

- Contact: Jampu Tsondue, tangka painter
Cambodian Diaspora

- Middle/lower middle class; most refugees do not work at well-paying jobs; PTS, diabetes, and TB; juvenile delinquency and gang membership
- Activities for students: work with Khmer Health Advocates to improve refugee mental health; help interview refugees under the “Breaking the Silence” program; Yale Genocide Program
- Contact: Theanvy Kuouch, KHA, W. Hartford
Vietnamese Diaspora

• Middle/lower middle class

• Activities for students: at the Buddhist Hai An Pagoda, in New Britain; weekly meditations, seasonal festivals such as Chinese and Vietnamese New years; and activist work under the tutelage of the current abbot (Note support given the crisis in Burma last fall)

• Contact: Ven. Thay Loi, Hai An Pagoda
Lao Diaspora

• Middle class, in Enfield and New Britain; Contact: Thavone / David Washer, TC grads

• Activities for students: local Lao festivals, Lao language classes in New Britain

• Two groups:
  • Hmong - assoc. with CIA in the fight against Pathet Lao; middle class & professional; cont. strong ties to Vang Po
  • Hill Tribes - belong to Pathet Lao, lower middle class
Burmese Diaspora

• Lower Class, in Hartford’s northend; Continuing influx of refugees in the wake of last falls’ political uprising in Burma

• Activities for Students: clothing drives, tutoring in language and the arts; raising money for Dr. Cynthia’s clinic on the Thai-Burmese border; “Boogie for Burma” concert

• Contact: Bo Bo Nge, Lah Di, and Khin Lay
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