



# EXHIBIT GUIDE

Vietnamese Boat People Photographs:  
Les Bird

## PROGRAM GUIDE

Vietnamese Refugees:  
Stories of Courage, Hope and Resilience

January 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024

*Along the Southern Boundary:  
A Marine Police Officer's Frontline  
Account of the Vietnamese Boatpeople  
and their Arrival in Hong Kong*  
by Les Bird



Việt Nam



LAKESWOOD  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



## **THE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE**

The stories and experiences of the Vietnamese Boat People speak directly to a people's boundless courage, shared hope, and remarkable resilience. These stories and experiences are timeless—they are relevant now more than ever.

The Lakewood Public Library honors the Vietnamese Boat People by allowing their stories to be told and their experiences to be shared.

Through an exhibition and related programs involving literature, poetry, film, the study of faith traditions, art, and photography, we examine the lives and important stories of Vietnamese refugees, and we celebrate a people's history and culture.

In exploring and celebrating a people's humanities, we humanize a people and promote empathy and understanding.

The Lakewood Public Library is honored to exhibit a selection of photographs of Vietnamese Boat People taken by Les Bird, a former Commander of the Royal Hong Kong Marine Police.

These photographs, which were previously exhibited at the Chinese University in Hong Kong in 2021, and at the Wende Museum in Los Angeles in 2023, both anchor and center this programming, *Vietnamese Refugees: Stories of Courage, Hope and Resilience*.

## Vietnamese Boat People Photographs: Les Bird

January 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024

Main Library Second Floor Gallery

After the fall of Saigon, millions of people fled Vietnam. Many did so by the only means available to them, by sea. During this time, Royal Hong Kong Marine Police Commander Les Bird patrolled the South China Sea and witnessed first-hand the desperate struggles of those attempting to reach freedom. While some were successful, many others failed and were lost at sea.

When circumstances permitted, Les Bird took photographs of the unfolding humanitarian crisis.

A selection of these photographs is on display in the Main Library Second Floor Gallery. In an accompanying video, Bird explains the riveting story behind each photo.



AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER  
LES BIRD



AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER  
LES BIRD

EXHIBIT—VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



### ***Please Call Me By My True Names***

By Thich Nhat Hanh, October 2004

*Don't say that I will depart tomorrow—  
even today I am still arriving.*

*Look deeply: every second I am arriving  
to be a bud on a Spring branch,  
to be a tiny bird, with still-fragile wings,  
learning to sing in my new nest,  
to be a caterpillar in the heart of a flower,  
to be a jewel hiding itself in a stone.*

*I still arrive, in order to laugh and to cry,  
to fear and to hope.*

*The rhythm of my heart is the birth and death  
of all that is alive.*

*I am a mayfly metamorphosing  
on the surface of the river.  
And I am the bird  
that swoops down to swallow the mayfly.*

*I am a frog swimming happily  
in the clear water of a pond.  
And I am the grass-snake  
that silently feeds itself on the frog.*

*I am the child in Uganda, all skin and bones,  
my legs as thin as bamboo sticks.  
And I am the arms merchant,  
selling deadly weapons to Uganda.*

*I am the twelve-year-old girl,  
refugee on a small boat,  
who throws herself into the ocean  
after being raped by a sea pirate.*

*And I am also the pirate,  
my heart not yet capable  
of seeing and loving.*

*I am a member of the politburo,  
with plenty of power in my hands.  
And I am the man who has to pay  
his "debt of blood" to my people  
dying slowly in a forced-labor camp.*

*My joy is like Spring, so warm  
it makes flowers bloom all over the Earth.  
My pain is like a river of tears,  
so vast it fills the four oceans.*

*Please call me by my true names,  
so I can hear all my cries and laughter at once,  
so I can see that my joy and pain are one.*

*Please call me by my true names,  
so I can wake up  
and the door of my heart  
could be left open,  
the door of compassion.*

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## VIETNAM PROGRAMS

Explore the Vietnamese diaspora and the experiences of Vietnamese refugees, and celebrate Vietnamese literature, poetry, film, faith traditions, art and culture.



Việt Nam



ZEN MASTER  
THICH NHAT HANH

### VIETNAM PROGRAM—DOCUMENTARY *A Cloud Never Dies* (2022)

Produced by Plum Village

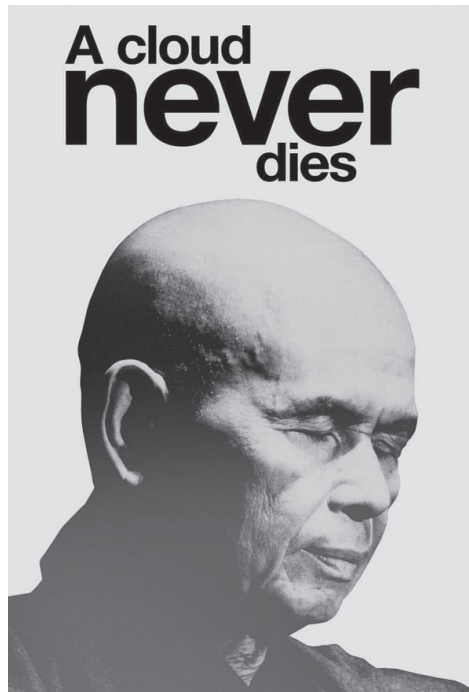
Continuous Screening

January 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024  
(27 minutes)

Main Library First Floor Lobby

A new biographical documentary of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh narrated by actor Peter Coyote, this film weaves together original film and photographic archives, telling the story of a humble young Vietnamese monk and poet whose wisdom and compassion were forged in the suffering of war.

In the face of violence, fear, and discrimination, Thich Nhat Hanh's courageous path of engaged action reveals how insight, community and a deep aspiration to serve the world can offer hope, peace and a way forward for millions.



## VIETNAM PROGRAMS



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—FAITH TRADITIONS **Vietnamese Faith Traditions: Vietnamese Catholicism and Vietnamese Buddhism**

Presented by Professor Ellen Posman  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.  
Main Library Auditorium

Vietnam is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic country made up of fifty-four ethnic groups, and Buddhism and Roman Catholicism are only two of the several faith traditions practiced in Vietnam and by Vietnamese emigrés.

St. Boniface Catholic Church, Quan Am Temple, and Chua Vien Quang Temple are among the churches and temples that have served Cleveland's Vietnamese community for years. Join Professor Ellen Posman, Chair of the Department of Religion at Baldwin Wallace University, in an exploration of Vietnamese Catholicism and Vietnamese Buddhism.



QUAN AM TEMPLE, CLEVELAND, OHIO



VIEN QUANG TEMPLE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

# VIETNAM PROGRAMS



ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO



ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO



ST. BONIFACE CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO



## VIETNAM PROGRAMS



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—ART

## Vietnamese Art: Its History, Traditions and Modern Flourishing

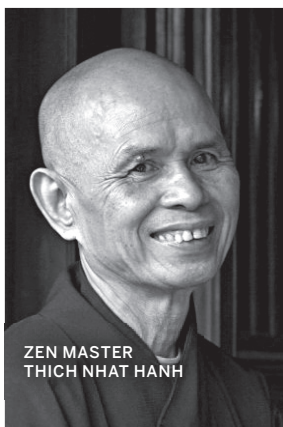
Presented by Katie Kilroy Blaser

Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Join Katie Kilroy Blaser of the Cleveland Museum of Art's Asian Art Department for a discussion of the beauty of Vietnamese art from its rich traditions to modern art scene. Learn more about Vietnamese art with a particular focus on blue-and-white ceramics and modern painting.

Image: Ewer in the Shape of a Dragon, 1400s. Vietnam. Porcelain with underglaze blue; overall: 28.3 x 15 cm (11 1/8 x 5 7/8 in.). The Cleveland Museum of Art, Bequest of Mrs. Severance A. Millikin 1989.359



ZEN MASTER  
THICH NHAT HANH

### VIETNAM PROGRAM—LITERATURE AND POETRY

## WordStage Performance— Call Me By My True Names: The Poetry of Thich Nhat Hanh

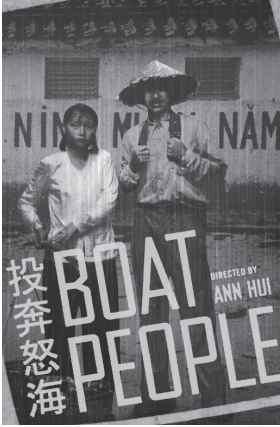
Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Main Library Auditorium

Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk and one of the most revered and influential spiritual teachers in the world, committed his life to spreading messages of compassion, mindfulness, and nonviolence. This kind, gentle monk was a prolific author, poet, teacher and peace activist who was exiled from Vietnam after opposing the war in the 1960s. Thich Nhat Hanh's instructive writing and inspiring poetry remain relevant in an ever turbulent world.



## VIETNAM PROGRAMS



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—FILM *The Boat People* (1982)

Directed by Ann Hui  
Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
(109 minutes)  
Main Library Auditorium

Three years after the Communist takeover, a Japanese photojournalist travels to Vietnam to document the country's seemingly triumphant rebirth. When he befriends a teenage girl and her destitute family, however, he begins to discover the brutal, often shocking reality of life in a repressive country.

**Cantonese and Japanese with English subtitles.**



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[youtu.be/PjSUOqr9ZSg](https://youtu.be/PjSUOqr9ZSg)



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—DOCUMENTARY *Finding the Virgo* (2018)

Directed by Barre Fong  
Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
(49 minutes)  
Main Library Auditorium

*Finding the Virgo*—Brave seven-year-old Lauren Vuong escaped Vietnam with her family and fifty-seven other refugees on a small wooden fishing boat. After ten days at sea, they were lost and depleted of food, water and fuel. Death seemed imminent. A U.S. flagged cargo ship, the *Virgo*, spotted them and the captain ordered their rescue. Lauren Vuong's decades-long search for the heroic captain and crew of the *Virgo* is a moving story of compassion, gratitude and humanity at its best.



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[vimeo.com/ondemand/findingthevirgo](https://vimeo.com/ondemand/findingthevirgo)

## VIETNAM PROGRAMS



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—FILM

#### *The Scent of Green Papaya* (1993)

Directed by Tran Anh Hung

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(104 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

Winner of the 1993 Cannes Caméra d'Or award, this film captures the beauty of Vietnam and its people. Set in the 1940s and 1960s, this film follows the life of an innocent, keenly observant young child named Mui. Highly reviewed by Roger Ebert, this film "is of great visual beauty; watching it is like a poem for the eyes."

**Vietnamese with English subtitles.**



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[youtu.be/xe9DorMzpEw](https://youtu.be/xe9DorMzpEw)



VAAN NGUYEN

### VIETNAM PROGRAM—DOCUMENTARY

#### *The Journey of Vaan Nguyen* (2005)

Directed by Duki Dror

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(90 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

This internationally acclaimed Israeli documentary follows Vaan Nguyen and her life and struggles as an Israeli-born, Hebrew-speaking Vietnamese. Her father was one of the many boat people who fled Vietnam and one of only a few who found asylum in Israel. When the family returns to Vietnam hoping they can reclaim their confiscated lands, their journey becomes a parable on the loss of identity and the fate of refugees.

**English, Hebrew and Vietnamese with English subtitles.**



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[youtu.be/MwFTbiwVmWY](https://youtu.be/MwFTbiwVmWY)

## VIETNAM PROGRAMS



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—FILM

#### *Journey from the Fall* (2006)

Directed by Ham Tran

Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(135 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

After her South Vietnamese Army husband Long is imprisoned in a North Vietnamese re-education camp, Mai, her son Lai, and her mother-in-law escape Vietnam by boat in the hopes of starting a new life in Southern California. While Mai struggles under the pressures of life in a new country, Long learns his family is alive in America and is reinvigorated and decides he must join them at any cost.

**Vietnamese with English subtitles.**



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[youtu.be/e84IOfQHOFM](https://youtu.be/e84IOfQHOFM)



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—DOCUMENTARY

#### *Bolinao 52* (2007)

Directed by Duc Nguyen

Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(57 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

A Vietnamese ship with refugees was stranded in the Pacific Ocean in 1988. During their thirty-seven days at sea, the group encountered violent storms, engine failures and abject hunger and thirst. The fifty-two out of the one-hundred-and-ten boat people who survived were rescued by Filipino fishermen who brought them to Bolinao in the Philippines.

**English and Vietnamese with English subtitles.**



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[youtu.be/q2PANXwBY8Y](https://youtu.be/q2PANXwBY8Y)

## VIETNAM PROGRAMS



### VIETNAM PROGRAM—FILM

#### ***Story of Pao* (2006)**

Directed by Quang Hai Ngo

Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(88 minutes)

Main Library Auditorium

Vietnam is a multi-ethnic country made up of fifty-four ethnic groups. Set in the breath-taking landscapes of the mountainous provinces of Vietnam, this film tells the story of a beautiful Hmong girl named Pao and her quest to find family, happiness and love. A graceful, poetic film that reveals Vietnam's and its peoples' beauty.

**Vietnamese with English subtitles.**



scan QR code  
to view trailer

Available online at  
[youtu.be/H3IBDvj\\_\\_Xs](https://youtu.be/H3IBDvj__Xs)



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### ENGAGING YOUNG READERS AND SCHOLARS

Reading the narratives and stories of the lives and struggles of others, including refugees, promotes understanding and empathy. Acclaimed Vietnamese American authors, Doan Phuong Nguyen and Thi Bui, will be sharing their experiences and stories with Lakewood students.

Thi Bui will be engaging St. Edward High School students in a discussion of her graphic novel, *The Best We Could Do*, a beautifully illustrated and moving memoir about her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s, and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves.



Doan Phuong Nguyen will be visiting Lakewood City Schools middle school-aged students for a discussion of her novel, *Mèo and Bé*, a young adult novel about eleven-year-old Bé and her three-footed kitten Mèo who must rise above the injustices of war to find the comfort, safety and love of a found family.

## VIETNAM PROGRAMS—YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Join us as Vietnamese culture, folklore and tradition come to life with fascinating programs, projects and activities for children of all ages.



**Registration is required unless noted.**

**Register online at [lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth](https://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/youth) or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### **Learn About Vietnam Scavenger Hunt**

**Thursday, February 1, 2024 -**

**Monday, March 25, 2024**

**Main Library and Madison Branch**

Did you know that water buffalo are common in Vietnam? Did you know that Vietnamese people eat using chopsticks? Did you know that you should always take off your shoes when entering a temple, holy site or private home? Discover many different aspects of everyday life in Vietnam by hunting for signs throughout the children's area of the Library. Enter your scavenger hunt sheet into a drawing to win a prize.

**No registration required.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### **Let's Make A Dragon Puppet: For Students in First through Fifth Grade**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Main Library Activity Room**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Madison Branch Youth Program Room**

The dragon is a very important mythical creature in Vietnamese culture. It is regarded as a symbol of power and nobility and it does not represent evil. Create this long, slinky and colorful paper dragon. Have fun with your dragon in a dragon parade

**Registration is required.**

## VIETNAM PROGRAMS—YOUTH PROGRAMMING



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### Create a Paper Jumping Fish: For Students in Third through Fifth Grade

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Main Library Activity Room

Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Madison Branch Youth Program Room

There is a popular Vietnamese tale about a carp who turns into a dragon. The story teaches students about patience and hard work. Patience and persistence will be needed to make your own jumping fish with paper, cutting with scissors, folding and glue.

**Registration is required.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### Henna Art: For Students in Sixth through Twelfth Grade

Friday, February 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Main Library Activity Room

Friday, February 16, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Madison Branch Meeting Room

Made from the leaves of the Henna plant, this dye has been used throughout history to color hair, fingernails, and fabrics and to create temporary body art. Learn about the significance and traditional designs of Henna body art and get a small (temporary) tattoo!

**Registration is required.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### Celebrate the Vietnamese New Year! Family Weekend Wonders Drop-In Story Time for the Whole Family

Friday, February 9, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Main Library Activity Room

Friday, February 9, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Madison Branch Youth Program Room

Celebrate the Vietnamese New Year, also known as Tet Nguyên Đán, or Festival of the First Morning of the First Day, during this special Family Weekend Wonders with Vietnamese stories for children and a craft.

**No registration required.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### **Make a Paper “Palm Leaf” Hat: For Students in First through Fifth Grade**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Madison Branch Youth Program Room**

**Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Main Library Activity Room**

A leaf hat is made of palm leaves and held on the head by a silk ribbon. These hats are worn by farmers, fishermen and Vietnamese women of all ages. They have many uses including protection from the rain, a basket for carrying fruits and vegetables, as a container for water, as a fan on hot days and more. Make your own “Palm Leaf” hat out of paper and think of how you could use it.

**Registration is required.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### **Let’s Make a Beaded Dragonfly: For Students in Third through Fifth Grade**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Main Library Activity Room**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Madison Branch Youth Program Room**

Dragonflies, also known as dragons that fly, are a common sight in Vietnam where water lilies are found. Make your own dragonfly from pipe cleaners and beads.

**Registration is required.**





### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### **“Grow” Your Own Paper Lotus: For Students in Kindergarten through Second Grade**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.  
Main Library Activity Room**

**Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.  
Madison Branch Youth Program Room**

The lotus can be found throughout Vietnam floating in ponds and blooming along deltas. Every part of the blossom is used either as medicine or food. The lotus has a life cycle unlike any other plant. With its roots latched in mud, it submerges every night into river water and miraculously re-blooms the next morning, sparklingly clean. Create your own beautiful lotus to take home.

**Registration is required.**



### VIETNAM PROGRAM

#### **The Story of Tấm and Cám: A Vietnamese Cinderella Story and Craft: For Students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.  
Main Library Activity Room**

Did you know that the story of Cinderella is told all over the world and each country tells it a little differently? Listen to the Cinderella story the way it is told to children in Vietnam and make a Cinderella craft to take home.

**Registration is required.**



### **Main Library**

15425 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3829  
(216) 226-8275

#### **Hours**

##### **Monday through Saturday**

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

##### **Sunday**

1:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



### **Madison Branch**

13229 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-4898  
(216) 228-7428

#### **Hours**

##### **Monday through Thursday**

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

##### **Friday through Saturday**

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.