



### DANCE & DREAMS

Read about the guys behind Dance & Dreams, and join us for their biggest event of the summer @ Myth in St. Paul, MN. Featuring: DJ Overgold, DJ Journey, DJ Scooby, DJ Skyy, Future, DJ Hottboy



**Compelling Stories.  
Amazing People.**

**Celebrating  
The One Year  
Anniversary**

18  
XM  
FREE  
NEWSLETTER

Dear Readers,

First, I want to thank you for all of your support. This past year wouldn't have been possible without the help of 18XEEM contributing writers, artists, photographers, friends, family and readers. This month we are celebrating the official one year anniversary of 18XEEM with our launch party in Warren, Michigan on June 13, 2008. As you might have noticed our office is located in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, but our content spans across states, countries and continents. 18XEEM was conceived here in Michigan, and has since expanded in all directions. This expansion has a deeper significance: our roots as nomadic people is influential in the way that the Hmong people have settled and continue to evolve. We now live all over the world and are represented in all aspects of public life. Our history has allowed our culture to branch out and our people to adapt to changes. Likewise, 18XEEM continues to evolve with our culture, continually expanding and growing in richness and diversity to reach our global audience.

In an effort to reach more youth, educators and entrepreneurs, we've attended as many events (big and small) as possible like the CHAT (Center for Hmong Arts & Talent) Annual Art & Music Festival, HNC (Hmong National Conference), and several student-run cultural shows across the country; created relationships with numerous organizations including Hmong National Development, Great Lakes Hmong Association, Inc., Hmong Wisconsin Radio, and APIAVote-Michigan; and most recently, sponsored two volleyball teams from the men's and women's divisions for the annual Hmong Michigan Soccer Tournament & Festival.

This newsletter highlights some of the stories for what's ahead. In our next issue, we'll be featuring more new content on amazing people and events happening around our communities. **In an effort to bring you the content-rich stories and editorials, the 18XEEM team has collectively agreed to publish 18XEEM magazine as a quarterly publication instead of bi-monthly as stated previously. All subscribers will still receive the 6 issues for the \$20, which can rollover into the next year when applicable.** Our decision to extend the publication dates, will allow us to bring you more compelling stories and images, which will ultimately give you more value for your important commitment in us.

As always, I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Sincerely,



Hlee Xiong

# A look into what's ahead

Cover Photo & Asian Fashion Show Photos by Caroline Vang



## ASIAN FASHION SHOW @ FLEMING ACADEMY

An amazing experience accompanied by extravagant and traditional cultural clothing from all parts of the world, with a twist. Most of the models and participants from the fashion show were students who attend Fleming Academy.

## SPLendor OF THE EAST

Splendor of the East is an annual event hosted by CAPA (Council of Asian Pacific Americans) and filled with spectacular performances celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May.

## INTERVIEW WITH NKAUJ HMOOB MICHIGAN A STORY ABOUT DANCING

They travel far and near to showcase their amazing talent and love for dancing (plus they make their own clothes and choreograph their own dance moves!). Mixing traditional with modern styles, Nkauj Hmoob Michigan has been dancing together for over five years.

They are: Song Vue (age 21) Bao Vue (17), Mali Vue (17), KaBao Vue (17), Zoua Vue (19), Yer Vue (14)



A favorite among all ages: Thai entertainer, Sornram "Noom" Teppitak and 18XEEM interviewer, Maykao backstage. An exclusive backstage interview with Thai entertainer, Sornram will be featured in the next issue.

## DAB NEEG

by Madie Xiong

Stories. They fill the voids in our hearts with the child-like freedom to visualize a world other than the one we're living in. They allow us to imagine ourselves in a field harvested with possibilities. Stories are an essential part of our Hmong culture, the oral part of our culture. Folktales, real instances, spiritual experiences, and the like all passed down from generation to generation and person to person to say simply this:

Somewhere between such a place as this and such a time as far back as a memory can retrieve, WE WERE HERE. And if that can be realized, then we know that we, the Hmong, really do exist.

*Read the rest of this Dab Neeg in the next issue!*

## AUTISM, THE UNSPEAKABLE

By Becky Moua, Paula Moua, and Mai Sia Lor

Disbelief, anger, shock, denial, confusion, powerlessness, depression, guilt, shame, embarrassment, fear, panic, hope, isolation, and finally acceptance are all the emotions that parents experience when faced with the news that their child has Autism. They are exactly what my parents felt when they were given the news that my brother, at the age of 3, had been diagnosed with Autism.

What is Autism?

Read more about this topic in the next issue. Written by Becky Moua, Paula Moua, and Mai Sia Lor –students who have a concern and a passion to build awareness about Autism within the Hmong community.

Fleming Academy's student Rashida Percy, posing in a traditional Hmong outfit for the Asian Fashion Show.