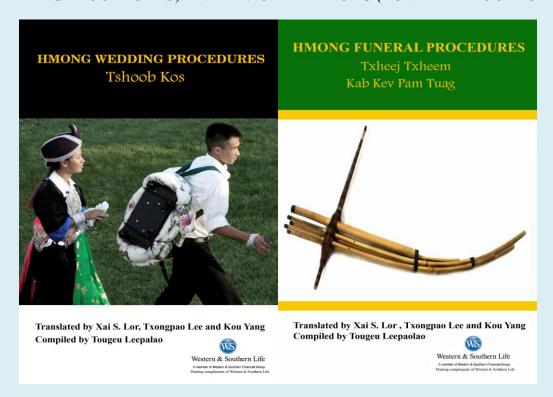


HMONG CULTURAL CENTER

Multicultural Resources, Adult Education, Cultural Education

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HMONG CULTURAL CENTER TRANSLATES AND PUBLISHES TSHOOB KOS (WEDDING PROCEDURES) AND KEV CAI PAM TUAG (FUNERAL PROCEDURES)



The Hmong Cultural Center has completed a major project initiative involving the translation into English and production of two books - Tshoob Kos (Wedding Procedures) and Kev Cai Pam Tuag (Funeral Procedures). Earlier versions of these books were compiled by Tougeu Leepalao, the Cultural Consultant of Hmong Cultural Center between 1995 and 2005. The procedures outlined in these books form much of the curriculum of the Wedding and Funeral Ceremony classes offered on the weekends at Hmong Cultural Center. The earlier versions of the books were available in the Hmong RPA script and printed in limited numbers for distribution by Hmong Cultural Center. Key personnel on the translation project were Xai Lor, Librarian and Txongpao Lee, Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center. The Tshoob Kos (Wedding Procedures) and Kev Cai Pam Tuag (Funeral Procedures) project was supported by a fiscal year 2012 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. This activity was funded, in part, by the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. Western & Southern Life's Saint Paul office provided generous financial support for the printing of these newly available publications. "Supporting the Hmong community is very important to Western & Southern Life and especially to me," explained Roger Soung, Western & Southern Life's agency manager in St. Paul. "Having a common pride in our Hmong heritage brings us all closer together as a community."

Hmong Cultural Center's goal with the Tshoob Kos (Wedding Procedures) and Kev Cai Pam Tuag (Funeral Procedures) Translation project is to help preserve and disseminate key elements of Hmong ceremonial culture to current and future generations of the Hmong community in Minnesota and beyond. The English language dissemination of detailed information about traditional Hmong Wedding Ceremony and Funeral Ceremony procedures in these two publications will make this information much more widely accessible for the first time to younger Hmong Americans who are not proficient in reading Hmong and whose primary reading and speaking language is English. The availability of the two newly translated books will also promote information and awareness of core Hmong cultural traditions to interested non-Hmong in Minnesota and beyond. An additional goal of this important project is to advance scholarly knowledge of Hmong ceremonial culture including the Hmong wedding and funeral ceremonies. Txongpao Lee, Executive Director of Hmong Cultural Center stated: "Hmong Cultural Center worked very hard on this project for more than a year. We are very excited that young Hmong and interested non-Hmong will now have access to detailed information about the traditional procedures associated with both the Hmong wedding and funeral ceremonies. The successful completion of this project will help Hmong Cultural Center better fulfill its mission of promoting knowledge of Hmong culture among both Hmong and in the wider society."

How to Order the Books: Visit http://www.hmongcc.org/hmong-weddingfuneral-books.html or the Hmong Cultural Center offices in Saint Paul to order copies of *Tshoob Kos (Wedding Procedures)* and *Kev Cai Pam Tuag (Funeral Procedures)*. Individual copies are \$12.00 a piece if picked up at the Hmong Cultural Center or \$15.00 if ordered online. A check in the amount of \$15.00 or \$30.00 for both books may also be mailed to Hmong Cultural Center, 995 University Avenue, Suite 214, Saint Paul, MN 55101. Institutional Purchase Orders are accepted and may be mailed or faxed to 651-917-9978. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery.

About Hmong Cultural Center: About Hmong Cultural Center: Founded in 1992, Hmong Cultural Center's mission is to promote the personal development of children, youth, and adults through Hmong cultural education while providing resources that enhance cross-cultural awareness and understanding between Hmong and non-Hmong persons. In early 2012, HCC earned "Meets Standards" Status from the Charities Review Council and is currently the only Hmong organization in Minnesota with this status. The center's website is at www.hmongcc.org/. The community is very welcome to visit HCC, enroll in our programs and use our Hmong Resource Center Library (www.hmonglibrary.org). To learn more about programs at Hmong Cultural Center call 651-917-9937 or stop by the center at 995 University Avenue, Suite 214 in Saint Paul.

About The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company (Western & Southern Life)

The Western and Southern Life Insurance Company (Western & Southern Life), and its wholly owned subsidiary Western-Southern Life Assurance Company, are both members of Western & Southern Financial Group and offer life insurance, interest-sensitive life insurance, fixed annuities, retirement strategies and personalized needs analysis for individuals, families and businesses in the middle-income market. With 181 field offices nationwide, plus www.WSLife.com and a state-of-the-art call center known as the Client Relationship Center, both companies are licensed in 43 states and the District of Columbia. For financial tools, career opportunities and product information, see www.WSLife.com.