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It's the New Year Baby!

February 9, 2009 · [1 Comment](#)

Last year, students and staff had the opportunity to watch the documentary, [New Year Baby](#), at Lowell High School. The director, Socheata Poeuv, told the story and secrets of her Cambodian family in the present and during Pol Pot time. The movie was part of the POV series on PBS and has been shown in various venues around the country.

A promotional poster for the documentary 'New Year Baby'. On the left, a woman (Socheata Poeuv) is shown from the waist up, wearing a red short-sleeved shirt and a green patterned skirt. She is smiling and resting her chin on her hand. The background of the poster features a sunset over a cityscape with several pagoda-like structures. Text on the poster includes the title 'NEW YEAR BABY' in large green letters, the subtitle 'LOVE JOY PARDON' below it, and a paragraph of text: 'Born in a Thai refugee camp on Cambodian New Year, filmmaker Socheata Poeuv grew up in the United States without knowing of her mother and father's experiences in surviving the Khmer Rouge genocide. After a startling family revelation, Socheata travels to Cambodia in search of the truth about her parents' secret past.' There are three call-to-action buttons: 'WATCH PREVIEW >>' at the top right, 'Read more about the film >>' at the bottom left, and 'Check local listings >>' at the bottom right.

Socheata Poeuv and her film, New Year Baby

The New Year has brought a new opportunity for me and my students. On Sunday, a middle school colleague (and fellow traveler to SE Asia) and I, met with Socheata Poeuv at Starbucks in Westford. Ms.

Peouv, who drove to Westford from New Haven, CT, wanted to meet with us because of her newest venture [Khmer Legacies](#). She would like to have high school-aged students interview their parents who survived the Khmer Rouge. As part of the process, Ms. Peouv has offered to come to Lowell High School to train the students in interviewing techniques and then to arrange for the interviews to be filmed. The purpose of the interviews is to create historical legacy; the interviews can be used by students and researchers for years to come. My job is to find the students who would be willing to commit to the project.

JFMS: (just for my students) Are you interested in getting involved with this project? Just let me know!

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- [Grapefruit - Why You Should Make It Part of Your New Year](#)
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1 response so far ↓



rightleftletright // [February 10, 2009 at 2:14 pm](#)

What an amazing project. Having visited several Holocaust museums, I am always moved to tears when I watch the video of the stories of survivors or hear the stories from them in person. More than the wall of shoes, the eternal flame or looking at a gas chamber, the real stories from real survivors is always the most memorable. I hope you get some of your students and their parents to participate, even if it may be difficult.

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