



Fountain Valley author's children's books are rich in Asian culture

By **CURT SEEDEN**  
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This is an exciting time of the year for Roseanne Thong.

The Fountain Valley children's author, who spent 14 years teaching in Asia, loves to visit local classrooms and talk to children about the Lunar New Year, which this year falls on Feb. 14.

Thong, who attended Tamura School and who graduated from Fountain Valley High in 1978, ventured into the world of writing children's novels while teaching English in Hong Kong. While her books are set in Asia they have universal themes about hope, making wishes and relations with grandparents.

In January, her newest book, "Fly Free," was published. The book is one of the first English language children's books set in Vietnam, she said.

"It is a story about a chain of kindness that gets passed on from one

person to the next," Thong said.

Incidentally, Houng Dao, Fountain Valley "Teacher of the Year" in 2003 (at Tamura Elementary), was a manuscript consultant on the book.

In previous interviews posted on her Web site, Thong noted that one of the challenges of writing Asian-themed books is being culturally accurate. So she makes sure three or four "expert" proofers, including teachers, librarians and others, assure that she is accurate and the text sounds authentic. Huong Do was Thong's "cultural consultant" for the newest book.

Thong's previous books have been well received.

Her book, "Wish," was recently awarded Best of the Best 2009 by the Chicago Public Library and was recognized by *Smithsonian Magazine*.

"The Wishing Tree," about a special Chinese wishing tradition, won a multicultural award from *Skipping Stones Magazine*.

Readers can purchase personally



autographed books by mail, contacting Roseanne through her Web site ([www.greenfield-thong.com](http://www.greenfield-thong.com)). Books are also available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and all local bookstores.

### **Meet Roseanne Thong**

- Family: Husband Frank, daughter Maya

- Learned to speak, read and write Mandarin Chinese while studying and teaching in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

- Available for community and school presentations about writing, authoring and Asian culture. Contact her through her Web site.

- Readers can purchase personally autographed books by contacting the author through through her Web site [www.greenfield-thong.com](http://www.greenfield-thong.com).

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