
UPDATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE GREATER SEATTLE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

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Seattle Group Looks to Vietnam

The Greater Seattle Vietnam Association has begun a new phase of activity in pursuit of our mission to help people here create links with the people of Vietnam - business and trade links, humanitarian links, education links, cultural links or others.

While much of our own country has been refocused lately on the old war, we want to focus instead on a future that promises peace and reconciliation.

Our new projects include a series of breakfast programs on various aspects of life in Vietnam and our connections with Vietnam. We also are scheduling general meetings to give us a chance to explore new ways we can work together to help the people of Vietnam

General Meeting for Policies & Plans

GSVA will hold a general meeting on May 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at Port of Seattle Head Quarters, Pier 69, 2711 Alaskan Way to discuss among other things the possibility of working toward a Sister City relationship with a city in Vietnam

This is a prospect that many members in past years have found appealing. For one thing, the Sister bonding calls for person-to-person connections. Now several people in Seattle are raising the topic again, mentioning most frequently as a Sister the northern port city of Hai Phong.

San Francisco has already completed the merger with its own new Vietnamese Sister, Ho Chi Minh City. Hartford, Connecticut is now a Sister to Hue.

People have advised us that pursuing a Sister relationship is not easy, and the process is lengthy. (see page 2).

On the 24th, we hope to have a speaker with first hand experience in Sister Cities to tell us what to expect. We will also do our best to give everyone a chance to contribute and ask questions. Please try to join us.

There should be parking available on the streets during those hours.

June Breakfast Speaker is Boeing's Robert Laird

The second of the GSVA breakfast programs is scheduled for Tuesday morning, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., June 6, in the Seafirst Conference Room on the 24th floor of the Chamber of Commerce offices at Rainier Tower, 1301 5th Avenue. Mr. Laird is the Boeing Asia Pacific Sales Director. His topic of discussion will be "Doing Business in Vietnam - The Boeing Experience".

Vietnamese Guest Speaker

The speaker at the May 1 breakfast meeting of the GSVA was Dr. Nguyen Minh Thang. Dr. Thang is a demographer and senior officer of the National Committee of Population and Family Planning of Vietnam.

Dr. Thang has been in Seattle taking part in a post doctoral program sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Thang described his childhood in Hai Phong, the geographical setting of the northern port, and development programs in modern times. He also talked about population trends and policies in Vietnam.

Look for New Schedule

The GSVA Breakfast Series will take a summer recess after June and resume in September. We plan a fall series this year and a winter-spring series in 1996. Watch for details in the August edition of UPDATE.

Our goal is to give members the kind of speaker and information that they want. What's important to you? Learning more about Vietnam and the people? Understanding SE Asians political tensions? Hearing from folks just back from Vietnam? Keeping up with public trade policy?

We welcome new ideas.

Greetings from New Officers Who Took Over on April 1

The new officers of GSVA are deeply grateful to the membership for the opportunity to help pursue the goals we all share for creating new links between the people of Seattle and the people of Vietnam. We are especially grateful to Rosemary Kacoroski and her ad hoc committee for taking on the daunting task of organizing the nominations and selection process, thus making it possible for us to resume the tasks so conscientiously begun by our predecessors.

- Norma Mohr, president. Mohr is a founding member of GSVA and a retired international journalist who specializes in health education for the developing world.
- John Sutherland, vice president. Sutherland is a Vietnamese interpreter/translator, who has studied in Vietnam and who is active in the local Vietnamese community.
- Aaltje van Zoelen, secretary. Van Zoelen is a consultant on tourism and trade development specializing in the Vietnam and Russian markets. One of her main consulting jobs is for the tour company Far East Destinations.

We are in the process now of selecting a treasurer and assembling an advisory board.

City has Rules for Sisterhood

The City of Seattle has issued specific requirements for any group that wants to initiate a Sister City link with a city in another country.

The initiating group would have at least 30 active members, with a diverse and broad community base. The Sisters are expected to conduct a variety of activities like business, trade, cultural and educational exchanges.

The Seattle Sister group should be formally incorporated with officers and functioning subcommittees. It should submit a comprehensive work plan for its first year. The initiating group also is asked to furnish a budget and demonstrate how the money will be raised for its first year.

In addition, it is expected that the Seattle group will link with counterpart committees in the new partner overseas to participate together in the activities.

After the group here has done all its preliminary work it may apply to the Mayor's office for official recognition.

GSVA Officer Visits Capitol Hill

GSVA Vice President John Sutherland visited offices on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., when he was on temporary duty in March and April as a translator for the Department of Defense Office of Prisoner of War/Missing in Action. He delivered messages from GSVA to the offices of Senators Slade Gorton and Patty Murray and the offices of Rep. Randy Tate. He was able to speak with Murray and Tate, and he reports they were interested in addressing GSVA in person or through a staff member on various public issues we all are concerned with.

No Dues is Good News. Wait until Fall.

GSVA has declared a moratorium on membership dues. Our new schedule for dues will be announced in August. Meanwhile, we won't say "no" if friends put a donation on our contribution tray to help defray costs for the mailings and refreshments.

Community Events

The Wing Luke Asian Museum will be presenting "20 Years After the Fall of Saigon", an exhibit of photos, memorabilia, tapestries and artifacts donated by the local Vietnamese Community, until September 17, 1995.

A series of events is scheduled at the downtown library through June 16th including films, cultural events, panel discussions and lectures. Please call the museum at 623-5124 for information on either the exhibit or library events.

Greater Seattle Vietnam Association

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