

# UPDATE

Bi-monthly Membership Newsletter Reporting on US - Vietnamese Current Events and Culture  
Issue 1 January/February 2000



**Mission Statement:** Gsva is committed to promoting positive relationships and mutual understanding between the people of Greater Seattle and the people of Viet Nam. We will accomplish this by promoting contact and cooperation in the areas of education, humanitarian work, trade and the arts.

## THE GREATER SEATTLE VIET NAM ASSOCIATION

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## The Vietnamese Tradition of Tet

*We would like to dedicate this issue to the celebration of Tet, Viet Nam's most important holiday. Be sure to read the "Up & Coming Events" section for details of scheduled activities.*

*By Son Michael Pham*

The Lunar New Year Festival, or Tet Nguyen Dan, is the most important Vietnamese holiday. Tet, which means the first morning of the first day of the new year, is a family-oriented seven-day celebration. Tet is the time for family reunions, and no matter how far from home one may be, he or she must return home to be with the family and participate in the celebration of Tet with parents and relatives.

Preparation for Tet begins weeks before the first day of the new year. One must get rid of the old and start with the new: houses are painted and cleaned, debts are paid off, family and friends show forgiveness to each other, and markets and shops are open day and night to accommodate shoppers. Flowers play a special role during this time of the year. One of the Tet symbols is a flower called 'mai,' a yellow blossom with up to eight petals. Hoa Mai (hoa means flower) symbolizes prosperity and health in the coming year.

At the midnight hour on New Year's Eve, which is known as 'Giao Thua,' the family gathers to bid farewell to the spirits of the past, and offer welcome to the new year. With the exception of the years between 1969 and 1975 (\*), the midnight air is filled with loud explosions from firecrackers. These explosions are believed to scare off ghosts and evil spirits and replace old bad fortune with new good luck.

The Vietnamese people are very careful about their activities on New Year's Day. Everyone will wear the newest clothes and shoes, and families exchange visits. The first visitor(s) to the house on the first morning of the year is most important and is often arranged in advance to assure that prosperity and wealth are represented. Everything and everyone you are in touch with on the first day must symbolize good fortune.

As the celebration carries into the week, it is time for family reunions, exchanging gifts, best wishes and the start of a better year. Families visit the church, pagoda or temple to pray for prosperity, good health and happiness. Joss sticks (incense) are lit on family altars and offerings of food, fresh water and flowers are made in remembrance of late relatives and ancestors.

For children, the most cheerful and exciting time is the tradition of 'Mung Tuoi' or New Year Congratulation. Younger family members offer gifts of wine, fruit, cake, silk or clothes to old people with wishes of good health, longevity, and

*Continued on page 2*

## CORPORATE MEMBERS' CORNER

Now that our board introductions are complete, I would like to begin introducing you to our Corporate Members. If you'd like to have your organization featured, and you are already a corporate member, please contact the Editor. If you are not yet a member, simply send in the membership form on the back of this issue, along with appropriate dues, and we will be sure to feature your company in an upcoming issue. Thank you!

### CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

- **\$100 Level:** Receive GSVA's bimonthly newsletter, "The Update," and have a biography of your organization included in our Corporate Members' Corner.
- **\$500 Level:** In addition to the benefits cited above, you will receive two free seats at any exclusive GSVA function. This includes our business breakfast series, special membership functions, and two seats at our Annual Dinner & Benefit Auction.
- **\$1000 Level:** In addition to the above benefits, your organization will be given a Corporate Table, seating 10 guests of your choice, at our Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction.

I'd now like to introduce you to one of our newest Corporate Members, Americans Adopting Orphans:

### AMERICANS ADOPTING ORPHANS

Americans Adopting Orphans is a fully licensed adoption agency in Seattle, Washington. Since 1994 we have helped hundreds of married couples and single parents ethically adopt orphaned and abandoned children from Asia. We currently have programs for Viet Nam and China. It is our mission to allow and encourage parents to have choice and freedom in the adoption of their children, and to keep adoption affordable and available to a wide range of people. For more information about how you can bring a child into your home and heart, please call 1-800-4-ORPHANS, or visit us at [www.orphans.com](http://www.orphans.com).



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## The Vietnamese Tradition of Tet

*Continued from page 1*

happiness. In turn, children receive congratulation gifts called 'Li Xi,' which is money inside of a small red envelope with wishes of good behavior, good study and growth.

The Vietnamese Tet is an occasion for people to celebrate family, love and peace. This year, the Year of the Dragon will start on February 5th, 2000. (See "Up & Coming Events" for scheduled events honoring this tradition.)

(\*) Firecrackers were banned in South Viet Nam following the 1968 Tet Offensive until the end of the war in 1975.

## \* UP & COMING EVENTS \*

**January 28:** The World Trade Club presents a skill session, "Practical Aspects of Setting Up An International Subsidiary." This program will focus on legal, financial and practical considerations of establishing a foreign subsidiary or joint venture. Call 283-9400 for information.

**February 5 & 6: Tet Celebration at Seattle Center: Details below**

**Saturday, February 5, 2000**

*Activities scheduled from 10:30 a.m. - 1 a.m.*

- Events include opening ceremony, cultural show, a live concert and a festival ball.

- **The Families with Children From Viet Nam Adoption Group** will meet at 10 a.m. at the Flag Pavilion, and then reconvene at the Center House. A member of the adoption group will host a gathering off the Center grounds later in the day. For information about the gathering call Lea Ann Kaplan at 425-489-2828 or email her at [leaannk@nwlinc.com](mailto:leaannk@nwlinc.com).

**Sunday, February 6, 2000**

*Activities scheduled from 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.*

- Events include Knowledge Bowl, live concert, essay contest, a martial arts show and a special millennium program.

- Both days will offer on-going exhibits, booths and activities, including cultural exhibits, authentic Vietnamese food booths, community-based service booths, and childrens' activities.

*Information gathered from [www.tetinseattle.org](http://www.tetinseattle.org) For information on Seattle Center, visit [www.seattlecenter.com](http://www.seattlecenter.com).*

**February 17:** The World Trade Club presents a luncheon, "Asia's Demand for U.S. Building Materials and Housing Products: A Sign of Recovery. For information call 283-9400.

**February 23:** GSVA board meeting. Open to members. Call Gary Johnson at 206-684-4812 for time and location.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- If we don't have your email address, please forward it to us at: [gsvawausa@aol.com](mailto:gsvawausa@aol.com). This is the most efficient way to contact you about additional events. Thank you!
- If you happened to see "Regret to Inform," which aired on KCTS on January 24, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts about the movie (see movie review on p.7). You can email us at: [gsvawausa@aol.com](mailto:gsvawausa@aol.com).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

We would like to thank  
**Washington Mutual  
Savings Bank** for their  
generous contribution of  
\$500.

# 1999: A Year in Retrospect

*By Jim Kern*

## **Orphanage Playground Project:**

1999 was a busy year for our association. It was the year we completed and dedicated the new playground at the Hoa Phuong orphanage in Hai Phong. This project has been the cornerstone project representing our commitment to the children of Viet Nam. It started with a Groundbreaking Ceremony in March, and ended with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in October. The new playground at the Hoa Phuong Orphanage is a symbolic gift of friendship from the people of Seattle to the children of Viet Nam. The total cost of building the playground came from funds raised at 'The Child's Dream,' GSVAs First Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction, and contributions from various local businesses and friends. The importance attributed to this project is indicated by the presence of US Ambassador Pete Peterson, and his wife, at the dedication ceremony, as well as Mimi Gan, John Curley, and Tom Voelk from KING 5's Evening Magazine. From our own Board, Son Michael Pham and Beth Whitman were present. Both have worked incessantly on fund raising and coordinating the project and the big gala fund raising event noted below.

In July, GSVAs Board members traveled to Viet Nam to research on a potential medical project. The trip was funded by the Seattle Rotary Clubs as the GSVAs Board has a total of four Rotarians from various Seattle clubs.

## **Medical Trek Project:**

The Medical Trek project will provide medical services to people in the hill tribe villages, often only accessible by foot. The results of this research trip received interest from numerous groups, media, and supporters of GSVAs. With contributions already in from some of our members, GSVAs is in the planning stage of the first Medical Trek in Viet Nam during the year 2000.

During the trip, board members received advice and support from US Ambassador Pete Peterson and the US Government Staff. Several other potential humanitarian projects were also discovered during this trip.

## **Viet Nam Revealed:**

In October, King 5 Evening Magazine hosts, John Curley and Mimi Gan, traveled to Viet Nam on an 11-day trip. They visited 9 cities, filming a special program on Viet Nam, which aired in November. One of the segments featured Hai Phong, Seattle's Sister City, and the work of GSVAs in this region. GSVAs Board members traveled with the television crew throughout the trip, providing in country assistance. An interview with US Ambassador Pete Peterson was arranged for the program, which emphasized improving relationships between Viet Nam and the US through organizations such as GSVAs.

## **Second Annual Dinner and Benefit Auction:**

1999 also witnessed our Special Benefit Gala Event, "The Children's Angel," at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. For the second year in a row, Mimi Gan from King 5 was the Master of Ceremonies. The evening honored Betty Tisdale, the "Angel of Saigon," who is credited with evacuating over 200 orphans from An Lac Orphanage before the fall of Sai Gon in 1975. Proclamations were received from Seattle's Mayor Schell and King County Executive Ron

*Continued on page 4*

## Vietnamese Recipes to Celebrate Tet

*Recipe Supplied by Bites of Asia*

### Vietnamese Hot Pot (Bo Nhung Dam)

Hot Pot, a Vietnamese dish typically reserved for holidays and special occasions, is quickly pushing its way up to becoming one of the most popular Asian dishes in America. Originating in Mongolia, where the cold climate favored hot dishes, this dish has been adopted in many Asian cuisines around the world.

For comparison, it is similar to that of Fondue in the West. However, Hot Pot contains special Asian ingredients found only in Asia or local Asian markets.

A typical Hot Pot meal consists of a rather large pot heated either by propane or electricity, filled with broth and set in the middle of each table. Diners sit circling around the hot boiling pot of richly seasoned broth as they select from various dishes of well arranged raw seafood, meats, tofu and/or vegetables to submerge in the broth for cooking. After the food is cooked, it may be placed on spring roll wrappers and rolled, then dipped into dipping sauce especially prepared for this purpose.

Since some meals can last for up to 2-3 hours, Hot Pots are considered a great family gathering meal. Not only is it fun to eat, but it is an ideal dish for people watching their diet, as the ingredients used are poached rather than fried.

This is a truly fun meal for the holiday gathering. So, during this holiday season, prepare an Asian Hot Pot meal for your family and friends. Set the table, light the candles, pour out some good wine, and sit down to partake in a wonderfully social dining experience.

*Continued on next page*

## A Year in Retrospect

*Continued from page 3*

Sims, honoring Betty in our city and county. The event, as well as our honoree, received coverage from King 5, KOMO, KIRO Radio, the Seattle Times, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Northwest Asian Weekly News, and many other local publications. Record donations were raised from this event for future children's projects in Viet Nam.

### **World Trade Organization:**

1999 also brought the WTO to Seattle, and our organization was involved in the excitement and numerous activities. Our organization was invited by the Port to participate in hosting the Vietnamese delegation at the World Trade Center on November 29. The Port is anxious to build relationships with the Port of Hai Phong and the people of Viet Nam. We hope to work with the Port in the coming year in fostering these relationships. Present at the reception from Viet Nam were the Minister of Trade, Truong Dinh Tuyen; Ambassador to the US, Le Van Bang; Deputy Minister of Trade, Bui Viet Cuong; Commercial Attaché, Huy Giam Dao, and other delegates. The Port was represented by Mic Dinsmore, Executive Director of the Port of Seattle as well as Paige Miller, Jack Block, Don Lorenz, and David Dean from the Port, and Hung DuLam from Community Trade and Economic Development (Emerging Markets Program Manager).

At the end of WTO week, GSVa sponsored an information booth at the Grand Finale reception at the Westin Hotel on December 3, a project coordinated by Khue Dang, Betty Tisdale, and Sally Schultz. This was an exciting event, made even more exciting by being locked into the hotel due to the numerous street demonstrations outside.

### **Flood Recovery Fund:**

Central Viet Nam was hit with terrible floods last fall. In response, GSVa joined three other Seattle organizations to raise funds to help flood victims. GSVa donated our portion of the total contribution to UpLift International, a non-profit organization based in Virginia. In mid-December, UpLift International brought 9.5 tons of medicines to the flood damaged areas in and around Hue and Quang Tri. Before the end of December, an additional 25 tons of medicines were sent to Viet Nam.

### **Our Board of Directors:**

We are fortunate to have a Board - officers and directors - so committed to our organization. Doug Irvine, Tyler Loc Dulam, and Judith Henchy, our officers, all play crucial roles - Doug with his valuable advice, Tyler with his insistence on perfect record keeping (I believe our meticulous financial records would be the envy of any non-profit organization), and Judith, with her accurate recording of events and her focus on critical issues. Our other Board members all make their own critical contributions. Earlier, the vital roles of Son Pham and Beth Whitman in organizing and administering last year's major project and yearly event were noted. In addition, a note of appreciation to Teri Conti, who has done a remarkable job as our *Update* Editor, writing and reporting the important activities of our organization. Other Board Members, Khue Dang, Al Davignon, Daniel Goldsmith, Karl Hutterer, Jessica Nguyen, Sally Schultz, Betty Tisdale, and Khan Tran have all made important contributions, some of them previously noted.

*Continued on page 6*

**Recipes to Celebrate Tet***Continued from previous page***Vietnamese Hot Pot  
(Bo Nhung Dam)***Yield: 6 Servings***Ingredients:**

- 3 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups water
- 3 tbsps vinegar (or sour shrimp paste Tom Yum)
- 1 lb top sirloin (sliced thin)
- 1 lb mushroom (straw mushrooms or oyster mushrooms)
- 1 1/2 lb med. shrimps (shelled & deveined)
- 1/2 lb meatballs
- 1 lb bean sprouts
- 1 cup fish sauce
- 1 bundle cilantro
- 1 package rice vermicelli
- 1 hear green lettuce
- 1 Med. crock pot

**Preparation:**

1. Cook the rice vermicelli in boiling water for 5 minutes. Drain and immediately rinse in cold water and set aside and allow water to drain. Clean lettuce, cilantro, and bean sprouts. Divide vegetables equally in two separate plates.

2. Divide the beef into 2 separate plates. Do the same for the shrimps.

3. In a crock pot, combine the chicken broth, meat balls, and water and bring to boil. Add vinegar and reduce heat to medium. Place the hot pot in the middle surrounded by the beef, shrimps, and vegetable plates. Serve.

**\*\*\*What's New at Bites of Asia:  
Cooking Forum.\*\*\***

Come visit the Bites Of Asia cooking forum for a fun and friendly chat about cooking from around the world. Share your cooking experience with other cooks, food lovers, and food experts on your favorite topics, or just come and read what these people are saying.

You can locate this creative organization at: [www.bitesofasia.com](http://www.bitesofasia.com)

**Tet: An American's Memory***By Daniel Goldsmith*

Sometimes I dream of my first Tet in 1969 at Pleiku, on Artillery Hill. I was a lifeguard in the army. My chaise lounge on the deck of the swimming pool overlooked the entire alley. Behind me, a small monument and plaque memorialized the French soldiers over run here by the Viet Minh. I watched surreal fireworks that night, provided by "puff the magic dragon," a DC-3 fitted with 50 caliber machine guns that rained destruction in a spiraling pattern of tracers. Reality in war includes life, alongside killing and dying.

If not for Sammy, a ten-year-old Vietnamese "kitchen rat" who washed pots and pans for headquarters battery, I might not have understood Tet. Sammy did. Tet was the time to be thankful, to be generous. He was thankful to work all day for \$1 and the extra food he could take home. Tet was Christmas, New Years and birthdays all rolled into one. The US soldiers on Artillery Hill were afraid, but that night Sammy was ecstatic.

Now, 30 years later, February 1999, I'm in Hue on the eve of Tet. Roger Ferrill, the Kids First crew and I have been in Dong Ha to give scholarships and to join in festivities. The kids laugh, ooh and ahh over zip-lock bags full of pens, paper and chewing gum. Every Vietnamese I salute with the words *Chuc Mung Na Moi* responds as if I have known them a lifetime. To understand this feeling of Tet is to feel its heart beat.

The fireworks in Hue remind me that 31 years ago my friends fought for their lives. Many died on both sides. Part of what I do prevents this from ever happening again. This Tet I have brought back a Buddhist bell, a trophy from a bombed monastery along the Ho Chi Minh trail. An American Indian from Port Angeles found it while on long-range patrol. Before he died, his last request was to return the bowl. Tomorrow is an auspicious day.

The most auspicious day of the year is Tet. Not only do you give beyond your means to your friends, it is time to pay respects to your ancestors. My own daily prayer consists of thanks to those who went before me. I understand. Its Tet morning and a cyclo driver wants to help. He believes that the first transactions of the year set the tone. He takes me on the temple rounds. The first temple is vacant, except for early risers. I light incense.

The second temple has an outside altar. I light my incense again and weep for Jimmy, my childhood friend and hero who was killed in Qui Nhon, and for Sammy, who a few weeks after Tet of '69, was run down by a careless American GI. The young monk who takes me in for tea examines my beat-up bell and tries to lighten my spirits. He conks the bowl on its side and listens to its mournful sound. "It's not a very pretty bell," he says.

At the third temple, I'm led through a side door into the sanctuary, where a man prays. Two women are ringing the bell and clacking a large wooden frog knocker in concert with his prayers. I hold my incense eye level between pressed hands as tears of sorrow stream down my cheeks. Only then do I realize that the room is full of worshippers.

Tet is an auspicious time to remember those who went before and give thanks to those precious to you. Fourth temple. A woman monk takes me in, takes the bell and says a prayer, feeds me, thanks me and relieves me of my trust. As I walk through the streets of Hue on my way back home, children shriek with laughter, people smile and talk with each other, and life seems normal for a special day when dreams and reality meet.

## Celebrating Tet: A Time to Remember

By Son Michael Pham

Almost twenty-five years have gone by and I can still recall the anticipation and excitement of every Tet celebration that I experienced during my years living in Sai Gon.

Celebrating the most important festival of the year, children would be rewarded with a full week's vacation from school. Families would get loans which enabled them to celebrate this important occasion. I Remember the numerous trips my family took to the Ben Thanh Market to shop for new clothes, shoes, food, and gifts weeks before Tet. Ben Thanh Market, in downtown Sai Gon would stay open day and night. I recall the bright neon lights and billboards, the blaring loudspeakers and the smell of food from all the shops and stands. The streets were jammed with people coming or going to the market in a frenzy. And for a few moments, we took our mind off the ongoing war.

Our house would be immaculately cleaned, with colorful flowers and planters decorating both inside and out. Flowers are a big part of the Tet celebration. One of the major streets in downtown Sai Gon, Nguyen Hue Street, would turn into the city flower market, with flowers and plants stretched for blocks clear down to the riverfront. This was quite an impressive and colorful sight to see, especially if viewed from the rooftop lounge of the Rex Hotel.

In our house, the night before the first day of the new year, new clothes were laid out and shoes were shined in preparation for the next morning. As midnight approached, the sounds of firecrackers from neighbors' houses raised the level of excitement. Family members and soldiers arrived home from far away, and you could hear the cry of joy in the homes around you. Typically, a truce would be in place, and for this important festival war would cease for all sides. During my younger years, I would lay in bed the night before Tet and dream of the red envelopes, and the money inside that my elders would give me, and fantasize how I would spend it. I would smell the array of candies, cookies and cakes in our house waiting to be eaten the next morning.

As a teenager in 1968, I remember the sound of firecrackers mixed with the sound of guns when the truce was broken. Laughter and excitement were replaced with confusion and fear. I remember my father's new suit was replaced with his army uniform as he was called to go on duty. I remember that instead of visiting my grandparents and relatives, we helped them get to safer places. I remember as we took cover in our home, the smell of the holiday food and treats were not as attractive any more. Instead of playing holiday traditional songs and plays, the television showed our cities and country damaged by the fighting. I remember that since then, firecrackers were banned from being used for any holiday (at least until I left in 1975). The most sacred celebration of the year when people offered each other wishes for health, happiness and forgiveness, instead turned into the most violent display of war and distrust.

It is quite hard for the Vietnamese immigrants in America to maintain the traditions and customs for the younger generation. With families and friends spread out all over the country, (including my own), the older generation finds sadness and loneliness during this time of the year as they try to celebrate Tet without their children and families. My family celebrated our first Tet in America in 1976 with a small group of Vietnamese friends. We gathered together for a holiday feast, had our prayers and spent the rest of the time reliving the holiday with our memories. The group got smaller and smaller in the coming years, but our

memories remain stronger than ever.

For the last ten years, Tet has been the busiest time of the year for travel between the US and Viet Nam. Thousands of Vietnamese Americans jam flights to Viet Nam, and the hotels are filled throughout the country. I look forward to having the opportunity, in the near future, to once again experience this special time.

*This article is dedicated to all the Vietnamese Americans who will celebrate the upcoming Year of the Dragon in America. Chuc Mung Nam Moi.*

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## Year in Review

*Continued from page 4*

Last of all a special note of thanks from myself and our organization, to Gary Johnson, past president, who has worked so hard in leading our organization to become a dynamic and recognized part of the local Vietnamese community, and in fostering new and exciting relationships between our city and the people of Viet Nam. Without his able and focused leadership, we could not have achieved what we did. Thanks Gary. You are a tough act to follow, and a worthy role model. I look forward to working with you in the years to come.

### **What's Next?:**

We have exciting projects and events on the tentative drawing board, including rural development, education, and children's projects. Look for news about these projects in future issues.



Ideas for articles may be submitted to Teri Conti at P.O. Box 27545, Seattle, WA 98125 or at: angelheart2@earthlink.net

**ADVERTISING RATES:**

NUMBER OF ISSUES	RATE
1	\$ 60
2	\$ 120
3	\$ 171
4	\$ 219
5	\$ 259
6	\$ 287

DEADLINES FOR ARTWORK ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Jan/Feb	January 17
Mar/Apr	March 17
May/June	May 17
July/Aug	July 14
Sept/Oct	September 16
Nov/Dec	November 16

Artwork must be black and white and camera ready. Original artwork, laser copies, a diskette or business card can be submitted.

Questions: Call Teri at (206) 525-3650 or email her at: angelheart2@earthlink.net

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**Movie Review: "Regret to Inform"**

By Judith Henchy

Barbara Sonneberg's film, "Regret to Inform," was recently previewed at a program sponsored by KCTS Channel 9 and the University of Washington's Departments of Women Studies and Southeast Asian Studies. Sonneberg's film speaks eloquently to the consequences of war through the voices of Vietnamese and American war widows. Through the film's moving and powerful portrayal of pain and loss, Sonneberg hopes to speak out against the ease with which national governments can resort to war, and the even greater ease with which they can be forced into war by big-power politics. The film tries to address universal issues of human suffering, and to do so without reference to the particular political circumstances of the war in Viet Nam, cleverly weaving together the stories of women's suffering in ways which make them speak with one voice which portrays the enemy as war itself. Much of the film's impact can be attributed to the shocking testimony of Xuan Ngoc Nguyen, an Army of the Republic of Viet Nam war widow whose experiences are mostly those of American atrocities in the South. As Sonneberg has stated, the only women from the South whom she was able to interview had worked for the National Liberation Front; so, despite the powerful voice of Xuan, who speaks for one Southern experience, the film leaves a silence where those other Southern voices ought to be heard. Sonneberg argues in the film that recognition of a common suffering is a first step towards reconciliation, but we feel that true reconciliation can only take place within the context of a conversation which includes all voices — a conversation which honestly addresses the social and political complexities of the war, as well as the pain suffered by the victims on all of its many sides.

GSVA would like to recognize the 25th anniversary of the end of the war by inviting our Vietnamese American readers to contribute to this process by writing short essays which describe their own path to reconciliation...

**Microsoft Matching Funds**

By Beth Whitman

We are proud to announce that recent donations have been committed from GSVA members and nonmembers that qualify for Microsoft's Matching Gift Program. This program allows Microsoft employees to request that their employer match donations that are given to nonprofit organizations on a one-to-one basis. The donations can be made either in one payment or taken out of the employee's paycheck on a regular basis.

We received one donation in the amount of \$500 (totaling \$1000 with the Microsoft Match) that is to be specifically used for a Medical Trek in a hill tribe region of Viet Nam. The donation was made by a couple who recently adopted a child from an ethnic hill tribe.

The second donation of \$1200 (\$100 per month for the year 2000), has been committed from a non-member using the employee paycheck program. This totals \$2400 for the year with the Microsoft Match.

An enormous THANK YOU from our Board to those who have contributed utilizing the matching gift program. Your donations will be greatly appreciated!!

If your employer has a matching gift program, please keep GSVA in mind.

**Membership Benefits**

- Receive our bimonthly newsletter to stay informed about happenings here, and abroad, regarding issues pertaining to Viet Nam.
- Attend our popular Business Breakfast Series, where guest speakers share their experiences of working with, and in, Viet Nam.
- Attend events like barbecues with people interested in Viet Nam.
- Learn how you can contribute and participate in GSVa projects.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

**Individual member:** Student/low income...\$10  
 Friend of the Association...\$25 Philanthropist...\$100  
**Corporate member:** Associate partner...\$100  
 Senior Partner...\$500 Executive partner...\$1,000

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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