



Dear VMDT,

I hope those of you who were able to attend our 10th annual Tet celebration had a good time! Many thanks to all the volunteers and to Caroline Ticarro-Parker for chairing the big event!

Just in case you're interested in more opportunities to celebrate, I've included all the remaining upcoming New Year events in the first article.

Happy reading!

Included:

- Tet-O-Rama: Upcoming Tet Celebrations
- Offer extended to VMFC to Co-host Tet Trung Thu at Landmark Center
- Nacel International School
- Article: Coming of Age
- Theater Mu: The Walleye Kid
- Families in Vietnam: Non-profit Charitable Organization
- Recycled Vietnamese Rice Bags
- Vietnam With Kids Website

Tet-O-Rama: Upcoming 2008 Tet Celebrations



- Vietnamese Community of Minnesota: Sat Feb 2nd, Hopkins High School, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (www.vietnam-minnesota.org)
- University of Minnesota Vietnamese Student Association: Sat Feb 9th, Ted Man Concert Hall, 6:30 pm (www.vsamn.com)
- Vietnamese Community of Rochester: Sat, Feb 9th, Mayo High School Auditorium, 1:00 to 5:00 pm (contact Anh Dam, 507-289-5960 X115)
- Asian Media Access New Year Gala: Sun, Mar 2nd, Varsity Theater Dinkytown, Noon to 3:00 pm (contact Chanida, 612-376-7715 or chanida@amamedia.org, www.amamedia.org/)

Submitted by Caroline Ticarro-Parker

Offer extended to VMFC to Volunteer at Landmark Center Tet Trung Thu Event

Phuoc Tran (librarian who provides VN culture classes, craft activities, story telling at Culture Camp as well as around the Twin Cities) has asked if we're interested in doing a joint Tet Trung Thu event with her at the Landmark Center. This event is open to the public and would be Sunday, September 14th from 1:00 - 5:00. She would like help with the programming, activities, etc.

Editors note: If you are interested in this offer, please contact me, Nancy Rinn (rinn@charter.net). It would be lovely if the VMFC group would be able to give back to the community – please consider it!

Nacel International School

Is your child interested in attending school with students from around the world? If so, check out Nacel International School (grades 9-12) on the campus of Hamline University www.nacelinternationalschool.org/ Students come from many countries including Viet Nam, Brazil, Khazakstan, China and Germany, etc.

Submitted by Don Hickman:

Coming of Age

By Ric Kahn

Globe Staff / January 27, 2008

The Boston Globe

Vietnamese elders are looking to establish their own affordable burial ground in Boston. But city cemetery space is running out. And so is time.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/01/27/coming_of_age?mode=PF

Submitted by Jen Komatsu:

Theater Mu: The Walleye Kid

www.theatermu.org/

In this contemporary folk tale, Walleye Kid: The Musical tells the story of a modern day Minnesota couple who long for a child. One night while ice fishing, they reel in a colossal walleye, from which emerges a Korean baby girl. When the girl turns eight, she takes a magical journey to the land of her birth and back as she explores her life between two cultures. Songs, mask dance, and powerful drum rhythms create a timeless setting for this tale that conveys the unique challenges and rewards of adoption.

*January 19-February 3, 2008 at the McKnight Theater, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
345 Washington St, St Paul*

Families In Vietnam: Non-profit Charitable Organization

www.familiesinvietnam.org

Founded by adoptive families, Families in Vietnam provides assistance to children and families in Vietnam. You can sponsor children, families or provide funds for schools, etc.

Recycled Vietnamese Rice Bags

Going green? Maybe you would be interested in buying some fun bags from Gecko Traders (a fair trade company). The material used to make them was originally Vietnamese rice bags. Vietnamese wording covers these brightly colored totes: www.ecobags.com/Gecko-Recycled-Rice-Bag-Market-Bags?sc=2&category=91. The bags are manufactured in Cambodia by weavers or producers, typically female heads of household, many of whom have been disabled due to polio or landmine injury, or young women pulled from brothels and taught a trade.

Versions of these are also sold at the Minneapolis Institute of Art gift shop – but for a few more \$\$!

If you don't live in the Twin Cities and are looking for a local retailer carrying these bags, go to Gecko Traders website: www.geckotraders.com/buyourproducts.html to find out what's near you.

Vietnam With Kids Website

Thinking about traveling to Vietnam with your children? If so, you should check out this website: www.vietnamwithkids.com/. It was created by a single mom, Therese, who spent 7 months in Vietnam with her 14 yr old son and 12 yr old daughter. She offers information about northern and central cities and

places to visit including: Sa Pa, Ha Long Bay, Hà Nội, Ninh Bình, Phát Diệm, Tam Cốc, Hoa Lu, Thanh Hóa, Sầm Sơn, Huế, Hội An, Tam Kỳ, and Mỹ Lai . She also has a Vietnamese Culture page that with links to the following topics: food, language, holidays, traditions, folklore and history.

Even if you don't plan to travel but want to know what it was like, you may be interested in reading their blog (it's still being added to) www.teresaandkids.com/weblog/
