

# Book presents tour of Vietnam

Just for a second, imagine yourself stepping back in time by taking a 1,200-mile trip in a train powered by a 1930s-style locomotive through one of the most beautiful and exotic tropical regions of the world.

Consider also that it will take you anywhere from 48 to 58 hours to complete the trip in passenger cars crowded with people, pigs, produce and chickens.

Well, maybe not such a good idea. But that's all right. The fun in reading one of the newer releases from Insight Guides is the vicarious adventure it offers to those who may be reluctant to make the journey on the Reunification Train which travels from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.

A cult of admirers has grown up around the Insight publications, which are attuned for both the serious traveler and those interested in actually learning more about a region in which they have an interest.

Best known for their beautiful photography, the Insight Guides are also one of the best written guides in existence, verging nearly on the literary.

The Vietnam edition was crafted by a team of editors, photographers, scholars and writers who share a love for this beautiful land and its equally fascinating peoples.



books

Steve Barnaby

As the publishers explain, this reference guide reveals the "mystery of the unknown, the many gaps in our knowledge of the country... its captivating literature... its ancient past, the traditional hospitality of its people and the wonders of its varied landscape."

THOSE OF US who have traveled to Vietnam since the war's end can attest to the guide's importance to those who intend on making the trek. I only wish I had had this guide available when last traveling to Vietnam in 1989.

In those days, few westerners thought of making the trip and even fewer were welcome. Our entourage was "invited guests." But much has changed in those short years. Our government is gradually lifting its restrictions on relations with Vietnam, although we still withhold official diplomatic relations. The Viet-

namese government, for its part, is trying hard to foster deeper links with the west and is building a tourist industry around its exciting cities and beautiful beaches.

It is very obvious that the editors went out of their way to portray Vietnam in its entirety, that is, with as little emphasis as possible on America's military involvement. A sound decision, considering our brief tenure in that country's internal affairs.

As one who fought in the war and has since become deeply enmeshed in studying the culture and history of Vietnam, I can assure you that Vietnam stands very well on its own.

A short chapter is included on American involvement in Vietnam written by photographer Tim Page which is a bit gratuitous toward Vietnam vets. But perhaps that is to be expected. Few signs of our involvement remain and returning

veterans will most often only find empty fields and bare mountainsides over which to reflect.

THE INSIGHT GUIDE will provide you with a well-written history of this country which struggled for 1,000 years before garnering its independence, as well as a brief bibliography of further readings to enhance your knowledge. Although not comprehensive, the non-fiction list is well-rounded.

The authors take you from region to region, elaborating on the diversity of cultures and peoples in each. To understand Vietnam is to understand that it is the melting pot of Asia; with indigenous tribes mixing with Khmer, Chinese and those from the Pacific Isles.

And the country reflects that diversity in many ways today, from its food to its politics. Despite unification, southerners and northerners still don't trust each other very much.

Important to the book is its many maps, quite good, and its array of spectacular color photos. A more personal look at Saigon would have been appreciated by those of us who are held by that city's special fascination. But that is slight criticism considering the enormous task faced in publishing such a volume.

# Artists to conduct painting seminars

Heiner Hertling of West Bloomfield, an artist who was recently featured in the Michigan Wildlife Art Festival in Southfield, is conducting two painting seminars in Boyne Country in northern Michigan.

The seminars are May 17-22 and June 7-12, both at Boyne Mountain Resort. Limited to 20 participants each, they will feature daily painting sessions and instructions for the novice and accomplished artist alike.

Accommodations will be available at the Boyne Resorts. For more information, call the H'Art Gallery, 360-4430, or the Heiner Studio, 360-1068.

Costs are \$350 for the seminar only, including a box lunch, \$750 for the seminar and lodging, including breakfast and dinner, and \$400 for non-participants lodging, including breakfast and dinner. Lodging is based on double occupancy.

HERTLING and Mort Solberg of Sebastopol, Calif., will present a weekend painting seminar in Big Sky, Mont., this summer.

The classes will cover all media and offer a challenge to novice and accomplished artists. Painting on location will be the emphasis.

The Big Sky resort neighbors on Yellowstone National Park and offers golf, tennis, trout fishing, white water rafting and horseback riding, with luxury accommodations. The first session is planned for July 26-31. It is limited to 50 participants per session.

Costs are \$950 for participants, including the seminar, food and lodging, and \$450 for non-participants, including food and lodging. Lodging is based on double occupancy.

For information, write or call the H'Art Gallery, 2059 Union Lake Road, Commerce Township, Mich. 48382, 360-4430, or Solberg, 620 Vine Hill Road, Sebastopol, Calif. 95472, 825-9200.

# Artists springing into May 15 auction

The Point Creek Center for the Arts will present the "Spring Into Action" art auction Friday, May 15, at Rochester's Great Oaks Country Club.

The elegant PCCA fund-raiser, black tie optional, will feature exclusively art and art-related items in both silent and mini-live auctions. Reservation deadline is Friday, May 8. For more information, call the PCCA at 651-4110.

"Spring Into Action gives patrons a chance to purchase original art by Michigan artists and help the Point Creek Center at the same time," said event co-chair Annette Italian of Rochester.

The fund-raising party at the center will also celebrate the center's 10th birthday.

"All the artists who are generously donating their work to this auction are part of the PCCA family," said Betty Ruedisuel, PCCA executive director. "They are past or present exhibitors, faculty members or volunteers."

SPRING INTO ACTION will begin at 7 p.m. with a preview of silent auction during an informal cocktail hour featuring hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine and a cash bar. Dinner will be served at 8 p.m.

After dinner, Ruedisuel will lead the PCCA birthday celebration. Then auctioneer Thomas Schaden, Rochester will start the bidding for the mini-live auction treasures.

The Wayne State University Moving Theatre will close the evening festivities with a rousing performance.

ance of "Ragtime Remembrances," a nostalgic return to the music of turn-of-the-century America.

General chairperson for Spring Into Action is Sherry McCremon, Executive Director of the PCCA. Other exhibitors and branch group leaders, Rochester Community Group.

"Being involved with organizations like the Point Creek Center gives the bank and its employees an opportunity to give something back to the community we serve," she said.

MICHIGAN ARTISTS donating to Spring Into Action include: Carl Angevine, Ross Arkell, Robert Barrett, Veronica Bel Schaden, George Boehlig, Bill Castner, Lorraine Chambers McCarty, Mary Clark, Yoriko Crainin, Rose DeSlo-

ver, Laurie Domaleski, Belinda Durrie, Kathleen English, M. Saffell Gardner, Peter Gilloran, Peter Hackett, Carole Hadley, Jack Juratovic, Rob Kangas, Joan Lashley, Brenda Lawrence, Jean MacKnight, Sandy Mooney, John Murphy, Elise Pedersen, Aaron Ian Porl Pitts, Chris Reising, Daniel Robar, Ben Salvatore, Bill Sanders, Isobel Schiller, Karan Spilaberg (Rochester), Darryl Stawinski, Kristi Steward, Lois Teicher, Bruce Thayer, Marcia Tournay, Vita Valdez, Deborah White, John Wood and Carol Zak.

Spring Into Action announcements were underwritten by Royal Oak P.D.Q. Printing Inc. and Shelton Pontiac, Buick Inc. of Rochester Hills.

# Workshops help write grants

Any Oakland County non-profit organization is eligible to apply for a mini-grant for an arts project to take place in the county.

The next deadline for the completed applications is June 12. For applications, call the Oakland County Cultural Affairs Office at 858-0415. Grants of up to \$2,000 on a matching basis are awarded.

To help in writing for a mini-grant, the Oakland County Cultural Council is offering two grants workshops.

ONE WILL take place 7-9 p.m. Monday, May 4, at the Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac. The other will take place 7-9 p.m. Monday, May 11, at the Oak-Park Public Library, 1200 Oak Park Blvd. Call 858-0415 to attend either session.

Representatives from the Oakland County Cultural Council will be present. The Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs provides funding.

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# DIA sets activities for Museum Month

May is Museum Month across the country, and activities abound at the Detroit Institute of Arts in celebration.

In addition to the regular lineup of exhibitions, lectures, films and programs scheduled in May, special Museum Month offerings include:

• A free shuttle between the DIA and Mexican Town, plus tours of Mexican Town businesses and arts and crafts demonstrations, will take place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Also offered that day will be an authentic Latin American brunch at the DIA at 115 E. Jackson, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. by reservation only (call 833-1855); performances of Mariachi Nuevo Zapopan, noon to 3 p.m.; gallery talks of Diego Rivera's "Detroit Industry" frescoes, 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.; tours of the museum in English and Spanish, 1 and 2 p.m.; and continuous showing of the 35-minute video "Los Frescos de Diego Rivera" in the Prentiss Court screening room.

• Family Day at the DIA is scheduled for Sunday, May 17. The admission to will be free that day, courtesy of the Detroit Edison Foundation. Artists' demonstrations of creative techniques will take place throughout the day.

Also SCHEDULED are magic, mime and puppetry with the Amazing Clark, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; children's treasure hunt and drawing activities, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; storytelling and singing with the Fabricators, noon, 12:45 and 1:30 p.m.; turn-of-the-century music of Footloose, early music of Good Neighbors All and performances by the Cass Tech High School Jazz band, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Family tours of the collection will take place at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The 2:30 p.m. tour will be signed for the hearing impaired. Adult tours of the collection will take place at 1 and 2:30 p.m. The 1 p.m. tour will be signed.

A program for families, "Cranes, Peace and Children," will feature a talk in the Asian galleries at 1 p.m., a film at 2 p.m. and a participatory origami demonstration.

ALL Museum Month activities are free with museum admission except where otherwise noted. Regular signed admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children. Founders Society members have free admission.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. For more information on Museum Month events or Founders Society membership, call 833-1717.

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