Friends of Mongolia Newsletter

WINTER 2020

Developing partnerships with the people of Mongolia in furtherance of cultural exchange and education opportunities since 1999.

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**Coming Up: Mongolian Cultural Film Fundraiser**

Friends of Mongolia is honored to partner with renowned film director Robert H. Lieberman for a special viewing of his new film, 'Echoes of the Empire: Beyond Genghis Khan.' The film offers a stunning cinematic exploration of Mongolia's landscape and people, as it traces the country's development through its history to the present day. Intimate conversations with Mongolians, academic scholars, development workers, and other professionals provide rare and revealing insights into the minds of the former warriors and nomads and the challenges they face in a post-Soviet world.

Your $18 donation will go towards supporting the film and Friends of Mongolia's educational and cultural projects. It will also grant exclusive access to an expert Q&A discussion panel in January, featuring director/producer Robert H. Liberman, co-producer Deborah C. Hoard, and former Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, Brian Goldbeck. The specific date and link to the panel will be announced following ticket purchase. Tickets can be purchased now through December 31st. Once purchased, the film can be watched and re-watched over a 48-hour period.

Cultural Spotlight: Tsolmon Art in DC's Winter Market

For those of you in the DC/VA/MD area, head on down to the DC Downtown Holiday Market to meet the internationally well-known Mongolian artist Tsolmon Damba, and view some of his beautiful and unique works of art!

Born in Darkhan City of northern Mongolia, Tsolmon's childhood spent in the idyllic countryside of Mongolia is seen through his art, which combines traditional Mongolian painting techniques with a modern twist. He studied Monumental Art at the College of Fine Art in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and upon graduation, taught Studio Art at the College for two years. He has had a number of live demonstrations at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

News: FOM Ulaanbaatar Team Welcomes New Scholarship Recipients

For the 2020-21 academic year, ten Mongolian youth are receiving scholarships to study at Mongolian universities through the continued generosity of the Matthew Girvin Scholarship Fund and Innovia Foundation.

The scholarship fund was created in memory of Matthew Girvin, a UNICEF program officer who worked for the development of Mongolia's children, health, and future. In January of 2001, Matthew was killed in a tragic helicopter crash in Mongolia, and in 2003, UNICEF established a scholarship in Matthew's honor. In 2006, Friends of Mongolia began administering the scholarship. Over the past 15 years, we have been honored to have the chance to assist the Girvin family with this important initiative, and the FOM team in Ulaanbaatar has worked hard to build partnerships and opportunities for internships, work preparation and professional development for students, leading to greater future opportunities.

On December 5th, the FOM team held a virtual event with all current scholar recipients, some members of the Friends of Mongolia team, as well as former recipients and volunteers to congratulate the new scholars as well as encourage networking. We look forward to following their academic and professional success and wish them the best of luck!
As recognition for the universal appeal of his art, Tsolmon was chosen to paint a mural for the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut. He has also been spotlighted in the media in many countries and invited to participate in various prestigious exhibits and art shows. In the past, Tsolmon has donated paintings to support Friends of Mongolia’s Education and Cultural projects in Mongolia.

Tsolmon’s fully original artwork can be purchased at the DC Downtown Holiday Market from now through December 23rd, Monday through Sunday, noon to 8 pm.

Website:  https://www.tsolmonart.com
DC Holiday Market:  http://downtownholidaymarket.com/exhibitors.html

Friends of Mongolia is recruiting volunteers!

Friends of Mongolia was founded by returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and it has remained a volunteer-operated organization ever since. Membership was and still remains open to all people with an interest in cultural and educational exchange between the United States and Mongolia.

Current members include returned Peace Corps Volunteers, individuals from the private sector, people who have served in the diplomatic corps, and those who have an interest in or family connections to Mongolia.

Friends of Mongolia has great potential, but as is the case for every organization, we are only as good as our people. If you are looking for professional development volunteer opportunities and have an interest in what we do, get in touch with us!

Consider supporting Friends of Mongolia this holiday season!

Friends of Mongolia depends on the support of people like you to make our programs happen. Our projects and programs are designed with the goal of having maximum impact with lasting, sustainable outcomes. Your volunteer support or donation will help our programs in Mongolia continue to effectively improve the lives of those who are most vulnerable. Please remember you can support our work by donating through Paypal http://friendsofmongolia.org/donatenow/, and automatically through Amazon purchases when you purchase on smile.amazon.com. Bayarlalaa!

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