



## September 2023 Newsletter

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### 28th Anniversary Luncheon Preview!

Get ready to embark on a special journey as we honor 28 years of PeaceTrees Vietnam's mission of peace and reconciliation. We are thrilled to present our anniversary luncheon teaser trailer, giving you an exclusive look into the extraordinary stories, milestones, and dreams that have defined our work.

[Watch the trailer here](#)

We invite you to join us at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seattle on November 9th. Our keynote speaker, Rebecca Rusch, will share her inspiring story of biking the Ho Chi Minh Trail to find the final resting place of her father, a U.S. Air Force pilot. PeaceTrees Executive Director, Claire Yunker and In-Country Director, Ha Pham, will also deliver important updates on our work and programs and the [Path with Art's Veteran's Choir](#) will perform throughout the event. As in past years, opportunities to support our work with a donation will be part of the event. We hope you will join us!

**RSVP Today!**

If you can't attend the luncheon, we hope you will still be moved to support PeaceTrees Vietnam with a [donation!](#)

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### Updates from Vietnam

#### Indigenous Banana Planting Project Thrives

The Indigenous Banana Planting Project supports 10 ethnic minority households in Ta Lao village, Đakrông district. It includes training, fertilizers, and seedlings for banana farming, with support from PeaceTrees Vietnam for land clearance and safety. The first 1,000 seedlings were planted in 2022 and we are elated to share that number has grown to 2,700 banana trees! First harvests have also taken place and the first bananas have been sold at market, helping local communities to improve their livelihoods. A pilot program to provide piglets to

complement the banana project efforts will be moving forward in the near future (baby piglet photos soon to follow!).



Project participants with bananas ready to harvest



PeaceTrees Citizen Diplomats assisting in banana tree planting in Tao Lao Village March 2023

## Revolving Goat Project Advances

PeaceTrees' goat husbandry project established in 2022 in Vietnam's Hương Hóa district, benefits 30 ethnic minority households across three communes. It was created in response to the 2020 floods and landslides, aiming to enhance livelihoods by teaching goat raising. As of July 2022, 53 baby goats have been born into the project and an additional 8 adult goats have been brought into the herd. Participating households continue to improve and refine livestock husbandry techniques, which provide knowledge, skills, and sustainable income opportunities.



Project participants receive their new goats in Hương Hóa district July 2023



Project goats graze on foliage in Hương Hóa district

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## Pack Your Bags for Our Next Citizen Diplomacy Trip!



[View Our Brochure & Learn More!](#)

If you have wanted to join PeaceTrees on a Citizen Diplomacy trip to Vietnam, now is your chance! We are currently seeking participants to join a trip which will run January 19-February 2, 2024.

This trip will have two leaders: **Tracy Garland**, who studied Vietnamese language and history at Cornell University and served on the PeaceTrees Board of Directors for nine years, and **Daniel Nguyen**—a current PeaceTrees Board Member whose parents immigrated from Saigon after the end of the U.S.-Vietnam War and arrived in Seattle as refugees in 1980. Tracy and Daniel's diverse perspectives, lived experiences, and knowledge of PeaceTrees' programs and guiding values will make this trip a truly transformative experience.

As a Citizen Diplomacy participant, you will have the opportunity to engage in activities that promote reconciliation, peacebuilding, and friendship between all people impacted by the U.S.-Vietnam War and its legacies. If you have questions, or want to join this trip, please email Natalie ([natalie@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:natalie@peacetreesvietnam.org)) to confirm your interest.

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## A Recipe from Chef Thoa Nyugen



Former Board Member and longtime friend of PeaceTrees Vietnam, Chef Thoa Nguyen has been owning and operating her own restaurants since 1996. In this cooking demonstration, Thoa graciously shares her recipe for chả giò, Vietnamese fried egg rolls! With Thoa's excellent instructions and know-how, you too can craft

restaurant quality chả giò in your own kitchen. Watch the cooking demonstration [here](#) and view [the recipe](#) on our website.

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## What We're...

### Eating: **Bánh mì at Thien Phat**

[3330 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144](#)

Thien Phat, a beloved Vietnamese restaurant on Rainier Ave, faces closure due to pandemic-related financial struggles. Owned by the Nguyen family for 13 years, this restaurant boasts an extensive menu of affordable and generously portioned Vietnamese & Chinese dishes; their bánh mì is a hidden gem. If a visit isn't in your plans, you can still support Thien Phat by visiting their [GoFundMe page](#).



### Reading: **["A dive into 'Vietnam War' music and how it became part of history"](#)**

Explore the powerful music of the late 1960s and early 1970s that addressed the U.S.-Vietnam War. In this article by Reveille, songs like "Fortunate Son" and "Eve of Destruction" are explored as capturing the diverse perspectives of those who opposed the war. Dive into this unique era of music and learn how musicians inspired change.



### Exploring: **[Vietnamese lacquer paintings virtual exhibition](#)**

Connect with Vietnamese art globally by experiencing Vietnamese lacquer masterpieces in this virtual exhibition. Presented in 3D with content in English and Vietnamese, this exhibition is a collaboration between the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry and the Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum. Highlight: "Binh Phong" (Folding Screen) by Nguyen Gia Tri, a national treasure.



## Other Ways to Support PeaceTrees

Make your tax-deductible gift to PeaceTrees by donating your unwanted vehicle! We partner with [CARS](#), a nonprofit organization that facilitates vehicle donations. All vehicles are eligible for donation, even if they are not running! We also gladly and gratefully accept gifts of stock. Download our [stock delivery instructions](#) to give to your financial advisor or institution.

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