

Directors and the Development team will be soliciting your good ideas in an informal brainstorming session on Friday April 20, immediately following Dr. Joseph Elder's keynote address.

START AND FINISH OF THE CONFERENCE

Registration begins at 4 p.m. in the lobby of the Cleveland East/Beachwood Hilton. The conference will begin with a banquet at 6:30, followed by the keynote address by Dr. Joseph Elder. It will conclude at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, after the closing lunch.

PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR

As has been the case for the previous two years, the conference will be preceded by a pre-conference trip to Asia-related sites in the Cleveland area, including a Hindu temple, the Vietnamese Buddhist Association, the Asia Plaza, and the Cleveland Chinese Senior Citizens Association. Complete cost for the trip, including lunch, will be \$25 per person. An additional and even more unusual opportunity is the chance to attend a performance by the Cleveland Orchestra on Thursday evening, April 19 (the cost for which will depend on the price of the ticket). For more detailed information on this exciting opportunity, please see the article by Dr. Susan Long in this newsletter.

ACCOMODATIONS

Room rates at the Hilton Cleveland East/Beachwood are \$89 per night for a single or double. The rate is not inclusive of local taxes, which are currently 11.75%. Individuals are responsible for making their own reservations by calling 1-877-865-5324, or directly to the hotel at (216) 464-5950. Rooms will be guaranteed either with a first night advance deposit, or an accepted major credit card number.

Reservations should be made no later than Sunday, April 1, 2001. Any rooms remaining in the ASIANetwork block after this date will be released for normal sale. Any reservations requested after this date may not be eligible for the group discount, and are subject to availability. **Hotel room reservations must be made by Sunday, April 1, 2001.**

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration must be received by Friday, March 30, 2001. The registration rate for attendees from ASIANetwork member institutions is \$150 per person, and \$160 for Non-ASIANetwork members. For those registering after this date, there will be a \$10 surcharge.

The conference registration fee is inclusive, and must be paid in full. The registration fee includes the following meals: the Friday night banquet on April 20; continental breakfast, lunch and banquet dinner on Saturday, April 21; continental breakfast and lunch on Sunday, April 22, and beverages for mid-morning breaks on both Saturday and Sunday.

Conference Registration fees must be received by Friday, March 30, 2001. Please make checks payable to ASIANetwork, and mail to the Executive Director, Dr. Van Symons, 638 38th St., Rock Island, IL 612-01-2296. For fur-

ther information, contact either Dr. Symons (hisymons@augustana.edu), tel. 309-794-7413, or Prof. James Lochtefeld (jgl@carthage.edu), ASIANetwork Board Chair, at 262-551-5913.

Pre-Conference Tour of Asian Sites in Cleveland Friday, April 20

Cleveland is a characteristically Midwestern city, known for its segregated residential neighborhoods, its Eastern European heritage, and its recent revival of its downtown riverfront and lakefront areas. By 1996, it was home to approximately 25,000 Asians, a small but visible presence in the community. This year's pre-conference field trip will center around the questions: What institutions have developed in this setting to deal with the variety of contemporary issues facing Asians? How do culturally different groups attempt to balance ethnic identity with the reality of their American daily lives?

Field trip participants will depart from the hotel at 8:45 am by university bus. The tour begins in Parma, an inner-ring suburb stereotyped as a bastion of white, middle class culture. After driving past old storefronts and Christian churches of every imaginable denomination, we will arrive at a contemporary building of red and white stone blocks, set spectacularly overlooking a ravine. The Shiva Vishnu Temple was founded in 1983, the result of the post-1965 immigration of numerous highly educated, English-speaking professionals from India. The current building, dedicated in 1997, serves as a focus for an Indian community otherwise divided by regional and language differences. The temple is the site of worship, religious study, participation in the area food bank, and classical music and dance classes and performances. One of its three priests, Shri Venkatachalapathi Samudrala, was the first clergy person outside of the Judeo-Christian tradition to offer an opening session prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington on September 14, 2000. The dedication plaque on the dramatic bridge to the temple's main entrance suggests the institution's sense of purpose: "The Bridge to our Heritage is the link between our modern western lifestyle and rich religious and cultural roots of a time and place whence we came."

From the Shiva Vishnu Temple, our bus will travel through Cleveland city neighborhoods where we might find a Korean grocery right next to a gyros restaurant. Passing Cleveland's landmark Westside Market, a public housing project, and the revitalized Ohio City neighborhood, we will arrive at the Chua Vien Quang, the Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Cleveland. Refugees who arrived in the 1970s, and family members who have subsequently joined them, make up the approximately 3,000-person Vietnamese community in Cleveland. Most of the adults have obtained work in factories, restaurants or hotels, saving to bring family

to the U.S. and to send children to college. The Association was founded in 1981 to meet not only the spiritual but also the practical needs of this growing community. In 1987 Vietnamese Buddhists dedicated a converted storefront, painted yellow and red, to serve as its temple and community center. Regular Sunday services are supplemented by visiting Vietnamese Buddhist teachers from all over the U.S. The temple also serves as a social and educational center which helps newer immigrants to adjust to their lives in the U.S. and older immigrants and their children to maintain a sense of ethnic community.

In contrast to the relatively recent arrival of Vietnamese is the small but dynamic Chinese-American population of Cleveland. On the way to Cleveland's old Chinatown, our bus will pass through downtown Cleveland, providing views of the new Cleveland Browns Stadium, the Great Lakes Science Center, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, designed by cosmopolitan Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei. At the eastern edge of downtown is Cleveland's original Chinatown. Among a small row of Chinese restaurants is a sign in gold lettering, "On Leong Chinese Merchants Assn" over an arched doorway leading to an upstairs Chinese temple and meeting hall. Sun Yat-Sen is reported to have spoken here on a fund-raising tour just days before the 1911 Chinese Revolution.

Our lunch will be a dim sum feast of dumplings and noodles at the ten-year-old Bo Loong Restaurant several blocks away. Laura Taxel, author of a local restaurant guide, describes "the first impression is of something between a cafeteria and a university dining hall with a funky red-and-gold oriental motif. But the fact that the decor lacks a slick look (part of its unique charm) does not keep this restaurant from being a hands-down favorite among Cleveland's Chinese families, and their regular, visible presence is a measure of the authentic quality of the food."

As in other American cities, Cleveland's contemporary Chinese community is not really a community at all, despite the existence of a local chapter of the umbrella Organization of Chinese Americans. The earliest Cantonese settlers arrived in the late 19th century and their descendants are often successful business and professional people, educated in American universities and living in the suburbs. Post-1965 immigrants from Taiwan have joined them in suburban living and white collar jobs, while others, often from the mainland, have come in recent years as laborers or students and continue to rely on Chinatown ties to help them survive. Held together by neither geographical origins nor current residence, language, culture, or religion, what brings them together, explains the property manager of Asia Plaza development, is food and traditional medicine.

The Asia Plaza mini-mall is the anchor of Cleveland's "new Chinatown," a \$2.3 million renovation of an old warehouse which opened in 1990. It contains a large Chinese grocery store, restaurant, insurance agency, travel agency, gift shops, herbal pharmacies, a video shop, and offices. The project received state and city economic development funds and was envisioned as the anchor of major

urban redevelopment of the area. This has been slow to happen. But in addition to its economic functions, Asia Plaza incorporates a meal program at the restaurant for elderly Chinese residents of the area and houses a branch clinic of the county hospital.

Going outside of the community for aid in solving Chinese-American problems has a short history in America's Chinatowns, but in Cleveland it has proved an effective way to meet traditional obligations. Just down the street from Asia Plaza, we will visit a new apartment building for Chinatown's senior citizens. The Cleveland Chinese Senior Citizens Association identified the need for low-cost urban housing for the elderly, and worked with a local non-profit developer and a \$2.8 million grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development on the project. The 43-unit independent living facility, Asian Evergreen Apartments, opened in 1998.

Leaving the "new Chinatown" area, our bus will pass through the Hough area, which in the 1950s and 1960s was home to many of Cleveland's Japanese-American residents. It was also the scene of the violent and destructive urban riots of the late 1960s, leaving the area largely African American and poor. In the past few years, however, Cleveland has encouraged neighborhood re-development and our view will be of deteriorated apartments next to large, beautiful new homes. The children and grandchildren of the Japanese-Americans who lived there are now scattered throughout the suburban areas where they are joined by business people and professionals from Japan who often stay only a few years in Cleveland.

Our final stop, time and weather permitting, will be a brief visit to the Japanese Garden of the Cleveland Botanical Gardens in University Circle, Cleveland's cultural hub. The small garden, designed by Clevelander David Slawson and completed in 1975, will offer a moment of quiet repose before the bus returns us to the hotel at 5:00.

The cost of the field trip, including lunch, is \$25. For the additional price of the ticket, arrangements will be made for anyone wishing to attend the Cleveland Orchestra concert on April 19. The orchestra, thought to be among the world's best classical symphony orchestras, will perform Varese's *Octandre*, Manoury's *Sound and Fury*, Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*, and Berg's *Three Pieces for Orchestra, Op. 6*, conducted by Pierre Boulez. The cost will be between \$20 and \$46, depending on the number of people and the location of the seats. For further information about the field trip or the Cleveland Orchestra concert, please contact Susan Long, Professor of Anthropology, John Carroll University, University Hts., OH 44118, Tel. 216-397-1685, or e-mail at long@jcu.edu.