



Empire on Horseback: Genghis Khan and the Mongols

*In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.*

—from Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *Kubla Khan, or a Vision in a Dream. A Fragment* (1797, published 1816), which describes Shangdu, the summer palace of Khubilai

FEBRUARY 22 AND 23, 2008
HERBST THEATRE
SAN FRANCISCO



Mongolian National Museum of History, Ulaanbaatar.

In the thirteenth century, Genghis Khan, “Universal Ruler,” led a nomadic East Asiatic people in the creation of the largest contiguous empire in the history of the world. Genghis Khan, his sons and grandsons (including Khubilai Khan) ruled a realm spanning from China to Europe for 150 years. His reputation as a brutal warrior is infamous. In recent years, the contribu-

tions of his Empire in art, science, religious tolerance, commerce and politics, as well as military strategy, have gained significant recognition.

Humanities West invites you to join scholars, performers, friends, and fellow lifelong learners at Herbst Theatre, February 22 and 23, 2008, for an unforgettable ride through history with GENGHIS KHAN.

FEATURED PRESENTERS

FRIDAY, 8:00 PM — KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The ‘Owl of Misfortune’ or the ‘Phoenix of Prosperity’? Reassessing Chingis Khan and The Mongol Empire

Humanities West welcomes **Daniel C. Waugh**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, Director of the Silk Road Project, and Editor of the journal of the Silk Road Foundation. Professor Waugh served as principal Advisor for this Humanities West program. His resource list may be found on page 5.

FRIDAY, 9:00 PM — LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION

From Steppe to Stage: An Exploration of 800 Years of Mongolian Music.

Peter K. Marsh (Assistant Professor of Music, CSU East Bay) holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University, where he specialized principally in the music and culture of Mongolia and Inner Asia. Prof. Marsh also coordinated the Saturday 1:30 PM Mongolian music performance.

SATURDAY, 10:00 AM — FEATURED PRESENTATION

On Culture and Commerce

Morris Rossabi, (Professor of History, Columbia University), was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and moved to the United States as a boy. His Ph.D. is in East and Inner Asian History from Columbia



PETER K. MARSH

SPECIAL FREE PRE- PROGRAM EVENT

Portraits of Chingis Khan And Art of the Mongol Empire

February 19, 2008
Mechanics’ Institute
57 Post St.

San Francisco

Details on page 2

University. He is the author of *Khubilai Khan* (University of California Press), and a number of books on history and art of Inner Asia; and has contributed to catalogs of exhibitions of Chinese, Iranian, and Mongolian art. Humanities West welcomes Prof. Rossabi, a favorite speaker at *MARCO POLO’S SILK ROAD* in 2001.

For full program schedule, please turn to page 4.

Free Pre-program Event

Portraits of Chingis Khan and Art of Mongol Empire

by Orna Uranchimeg-Tsultem

February 19, 2008; 5:30 pm, reception; 6:00 pm
Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco

Were the Mongols "barbarians" or patrons and creators of fine art? Did the Mongol rulers build cities or were they always ruined and destroyed? Art historian Orna Uranchimeg-Tsultem (ABD, Art History, UC Berkeley) will discuss portraits of Chingis (Genghis) Khan and selected works of Mongolian art during the imperial period and some contemporary images of Chingis Khan.

FREE to members of The Mechanics' Institute, Silkroad Foundation, Asia Society, San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society, and Humanities West contributors. General public \$10.

Contacts: info@humanitieswest.org. or www.milibrary.org

New Faces at Humanities West

Welcome new Board member **Douglas C. Grigsby**. Doug recently retired as Chief Financial Officer of Bank of the West Bankwest Corporation with thirty years experience in the banking industry.

Monika Juno Collins is now multi-tasking for HW as Assistant to the Executive Director. She also serves as Assistant Private Events Coordinator at the Swedish American Hall/Cafe Du Nord, in San Francisco. Welcome Monika!

SAVE THE DATES!

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April 17 and 18, 2009: Napoleon's European Union



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From the Board of Directors

December 2007

Dear Humanities West Family,

I am eager to share my excitement over our upcoming program, *EMPIRE ON HORSEBACK: GENGHIS KHAN and the MONGOLS*, February 22–23, 2008. Our first offering of the New Year will be quite a revelation to many of you. I have greatly enjoyed researching Genghis, learning about a man still revered as a hero in much of the Eastern world, although reviled for centuries in the West. In fact, he was a complex individual of many talents who left a legacy that endures today and underlies some of our most treasured western ideals.

Our program faculty is outstanding, and you will not want to miss our Q & A on Saturday. There are those who today claim to trace their ancestry back to Genghis himself. We will offer information as to how you can check your own genetic profile, if you think you may be a distant descendant. I hope to see many of you at Herbst Theater in February to revel in the myth busting as well as the truth telling of the gory and glorious Mongol Empire.

Sincerely,

Janice Dost

Member, Humanities West Board of Directors



Archery contestant, annual Naadam Festival, Karakorum, Mongolia, 2005.

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Remember Humanities West This Holiday Season: Use the envelope provided for your gift. Credit cards accepted. Thank you!

Humanities West is supported in part by Grants for the Arts /San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund; SFRi, LLC; Silkroad Foundation; the University of California; Alafi Family Foundation; Artisans of San Francisco; Leonardo DaVinci Society; San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society; and PK Art and Floral Design.

Audience Development News

The **Humanities West Audience Development Project** aims to promote our interdisciplinary approach, and foster a growing constituency for the arts and humanities, by direct outreach to educators and young scholars.

We are grateful to **The Institutes of East Asian Studies**, and of **Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies** and **Berkeley Post-Soviet Studies at UC Berkeley**, which have generously provided grants to purchase blocks of tickets to *GENGHIS KHAN*, to be distributed to regional teachers participating in the Berkeley ORIAS program. The **Office of Resources for International Area Studies (ORIAS) at UC Berkeley**, through a separate grant from the Institute of European Studies, connected 40 teachers to Humanities West for *CRUSADES* last February, and 56 experienced one or both days of the *VOLTAIRE* program in October.

Help expand the Humanities West Audience Development Project: if you are involved with--or know of--an educational program that might benefit from cooperation with Humanities West, please contact us at info@humanitieswest.org or 415/391-9700.

Join the HW Email Club to receive to Humanities West news updates, supplementary program resources and links, special offers and invitations. Sign up at www.humanitieswest.org. And please forward Humanities West E-News to a friend!

Purchase tickets with a group: your alumni association, club, class or cooperating institution group will receive a discount, as well as other privileges if the group includes a Friend of Humanities West. Phone 415/391-9700 or email info@humanitieswest.org. Students and Teachers always receive a discount for balcony seats: use the order form on page 7.

Cooperating Organizations For GENGHIS KHAN

■ One of the nation's pre-eminent educational and networking links between Americans and Asians, the **Asia Society in Northern California** is uniquely positioned on the edge of the Pacific and the entrance to Silicon Valley. It presents lectures, panel discussions, exhibitions, conferences, and cultural events. Contact: 500 Washington Street, Suite 350, San Francisco, CA 94111. Phone: 415/421-8707 or visit www.asiasociety.org/visit/sanfrancisco.

■ **The Institute of East Asian Studies (IEAS) at UC Berkeley** promotes teaching and research on East Asia in all disciplines and professional programs. Its mission is to foster interaction among the academic, business, and professional communities on issues related to East Asia. IEAS and its regional centers sponsor academic seminars and colloquia series, public lectures, cultural events, and other programs that facilitate appreciation of the multifaceted Pacific Rim. www.ieas.berkeley.edu.

■ **Institute of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, UC Berkeley** serves as the focal point for students and faculty who conduct research and teaching on the geographic region of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. **The Berkeley Program in Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies (BPS)** is a multidis-

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Empire on Horseback: Genghis Khan and the Mongols

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue [At Mc Allister], San Francisco.
 Moderator: **Fred Astren** (Director, Jewish Studies Program, San Francisco State University)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 8:00 pm *Keynote Address* **THE ‘OWL OF MISFORTUNE’ OR THE ‘PHOENIX OF PROSPERITY’? REASSESSING CHINGIS KHAN AND THE MONGOL EMPIRE.** To some of their contemporaries, the conquest of Eurasia by Chingis (Genghis) Khan and his successors in the thirteenth century was the worst disaster ever to have befallen mankind. How did much of Eurasia come to be ruled from Mongolia? Were the Mongols uniquely destructive? **DANIEL WAUGH** (Emeritus Professor, University of Washington) attempts to separate myth from reality and provide a balanced picture of the Mongols’ impact on their contemporary world.
-
- 9:00 pm *Lecture/ Demonstration* **FROM STEPPE TO STAGE: AN EXPLORATION OF 800 YEARS OF MONGOLIAN MUSIC.** Mongolian music, song, and dance are closely tied to the traditional pastoral nomadic ways of life of the Mongol peoples, even the music that was performed in the refined and cosmopolitan courts of Khubilai Khan. **PETER K. MARSH** (Assistant Professor of Music, CSU East Bay), explores the history of Mongolian music from Imperial times to the present, paying particular attention to how traditional music, including the two-stringed fiddle and *khöömii* or ‘throat singing’ traditions, intersect the human, natural, and spiritual worlds.
- ORGILSAIKHAN CHIMEDDORJ** plays the *morin khuur* or ‘horse-head fiddle’ and **ULZIISAIKHAN LKHAGVADORJ** plays the *ever büree* or ‘Mongolian horn’ and sings *khöömii* or a ‘throat-singing’ style.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 10:00 am *Lecture* **ON CULTURE AND COMMERCE** The image of Chingis (Genghis) Khan and the Mongols as barbarians, intent on plunder and destruction, is still widely held. The brutality of their military campaigns should not be ignored, but this illustrated lecture by **MORRIS ROSSABI** (Professor of History, Columbia University), reveals that they promoted commerce and fostered some of the arts in the vast empire they subjugated.
-
- 11:00 am *Lecture* **THE WOMEN IN CHINGIS KHAN’S LIFE** In Chingis (Genghis) Khan’s era, Mongol women enjoyed higher position and greater recognition than those in China, the Arab world, or Europe, as commentators from those societies frequently noted. This was especially true of Mongol Katuns, the consorts of the khans, who played major political roles in the Mongol Empire and the various khanates that succeeded it. Surviving records reveal much about them and the society in which they wielded power. **JAMES D. RYAN** (Emeritus Professor, CUNY) focuses on several of these remarkable women, including Chingis’ mother, his chief wife and mother of the four sons who figured in succession to his empire, and several of his daughters-in-law.
-
- 12 noon–1:30 pm **BREAK FOR LUNCH** (Reserve your place at the Friends’ Luncheon: see page 7)
-
- 1:30 pm *Performance* **MONGOLIAN MUSIC** **ORGILSAIKHAN CHIMEDDORJ** *morin khuur* (‘horse-head fiddle’) **ULZIISAIKHAN LKHAGVADORJ** *ever büree* (‘Mongolian horn’) and *khöömii* (a ‘throat-singing’ style)
-
- 2:00 pm *Lecture* **THE MONGOL INFLUENCE ON ISLAMIC, ESPECIALLY PERSIAN, ART** During the century-long period of the unified Mongol confederacy, people, objects, and ideas moved with unprecedented freedom over the entire vast Asian territory. The confluence of previously distant cultures yielded a bold new visual aesthetic that would resonate in Islamic art for centuries to come. With rich illustrations, **STEFANO CARBONI** (Curator, Islamic Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York) explores the impact of China’s Yüan dynasty on the art and culture of Iran’s Ilkhanid dynasty, when local artists and artisans were introduced to previously unknown artistic traditions from East Asia, and attempted to respond to the tastes of their new royal patrons, the Mongol rulers.
-
- 3:00 pm *Panel* Moderator **FRED ASTREN** will lead a panel discussion with questions from the audience.

Resource Materials for GENGHIS KHAN AND THE MONGOLS

This program exposes us to history and culture that may be less familiar than other recent HW topics. This short list of recommendations has been compiled with the help of our keynote speaker, **Daniel Waugh**: the much more comprehensive list of resources is available through www.humanitieswest.org. The Resource Materials tab will lead to the materials below with active web links.

“The Mongols in World History” (<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols>) is a Columbia University web site intended as a very quick survey for educators and students, produced under the expert supervision of Professor **Morris Rossabi**, Saturday’s leadoff speaker.

“The Pax Mongolica,” by **Daniel Waugh**, is on the website of the Silkroad Foundation <http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/artl/paxmongolica.shtml>. It provides a quick, balanced assessment of the Mongol impact.

David O. Morgan, *The Mongols* (Second Edition, Blackwell, 2007, paperback). This is the best overview of the history of the Mongol Empire. Note that as a Persia specialist Morgan has good reasons rather to dislike the Mongols, since some areas of the Middle East never recovered from their invasion.

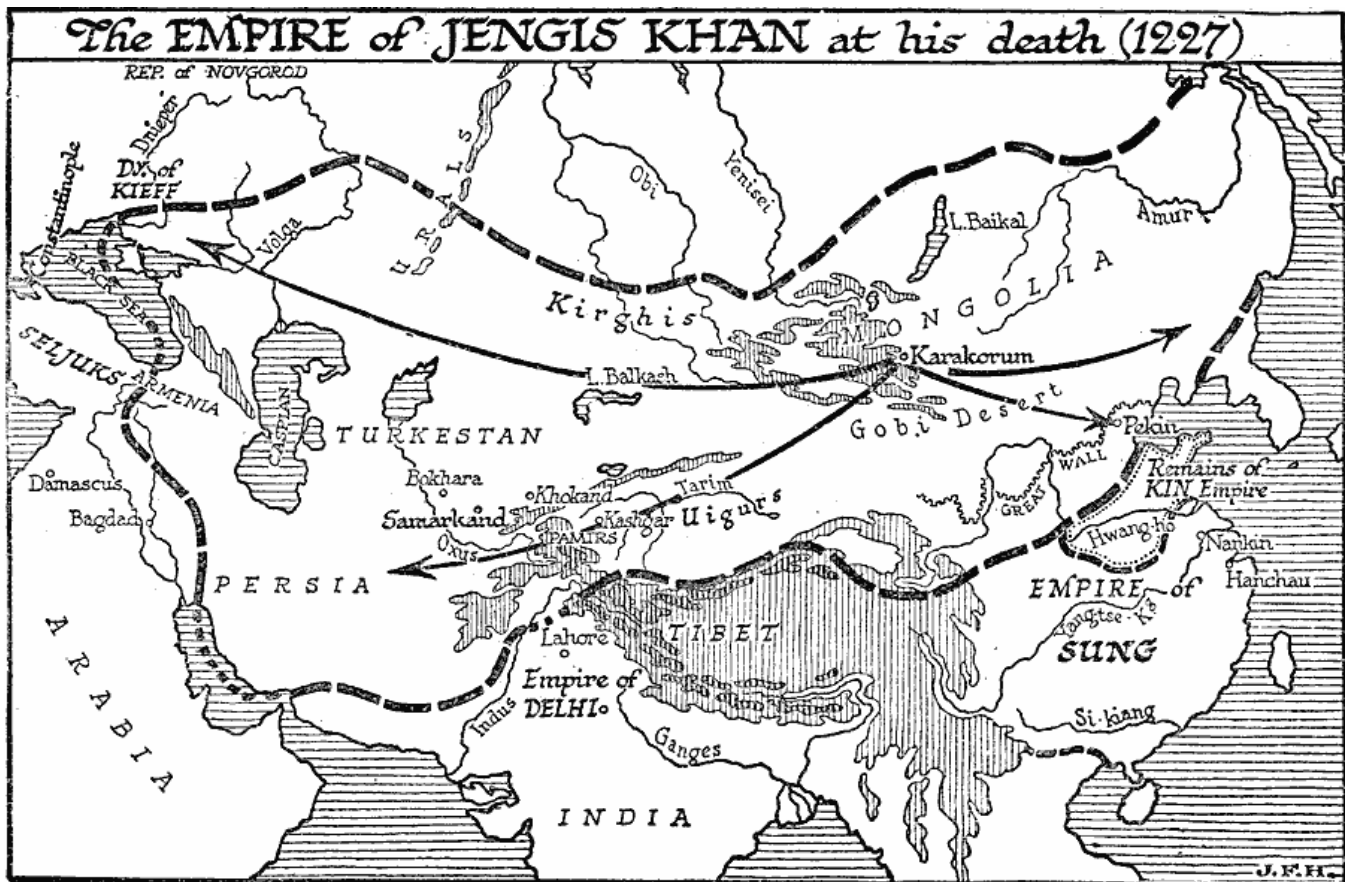
Do not miss the beautifully designed Internet exhibit, “The Legacy of Genghis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256-1353,” created in conjunction with a museum exhibition mounted first at the Metropolitan Museum in New York and then the LA County Museum (<http://www.lacma.org/khan>). Additional material compiled by another of our speakers, **Stefano Carboni**, may be found on the Met’s web site: http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/khan1/hd_khan1.htm.

The *National Geographic* published a two-part series: “Lord of the Mongols: Genghis Khan” (Dec. 1996, with a Map Supplement: Mongol Khans and their Legacy) and “The Great Khans: Sons of Genghis” (Feb. 1997). Unfortunately, these articles are not available on-line.

In a lighter vein, a must-see film (available from Netflix) is *The Story of the Weeping Camel* (2004), written and directed by Luigi Falorni and Bayambasuren Davaa and distributed by the *National Geographic*. One can learn something here about contemporary herders in a world where none can be isolated from modern life.

Humanities West has produced a special edition 35-page education resource/reader with the assistance of **Daniel Waugh** and Chuck Sieloff “The Mongol Empire Through the Eyes of Contemporaries.” It is available upon request to ticket purchasers to *GENGHIS KHAN* via email in a 2 MB file in PDF, from info@humanitieswest.org.

GIVE PAINLESSLY: Humanities West is an Amazon affiliate, with a direct link to **Amazon.com** from the HW home page. If you shop at Amazon.com through the HW website link, Humanities West receives from Amazon a contribution of 4-6% of your purchase, at no cost to you. For more info about the HW Amazon Affiliate Program, visit www.humanitieswest.org



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ciplinary graduate training and research program. <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~iseees/index.html> or iseees@berkeley.edu.

■ The **Office of Resources for International Area Studies (ORIAS)** is a joint program of the Title VI Area Centers at UC Berkeley. Since 1996, ORIAS has been dedicated to providing scholarly resources and supporting professional development for K-12 and community college teachers addressing international studies. Free workshops on international studies and world history topics are presented throughout the year, three of which are in conjunction with **Humanities West** programs. Visit www.ias.berkeley.edu/orias.

■ **The Silkroad Foundation**, "*The Bridge between Eastern and Western Cultures*," is a non-profit organization, established in 1996, to promote the study and preservation of cultures and art on Inner Asia and the Silk Road. Visit silkroadfoundation.org.

Upcoming events at Silk Road House, 1944 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705:

- February 24, Sunday, 1 to 3 PM (Lecture begins at 1:30 PM). "New perspectives on early Inner Asian nomads." Dr. Daniel Waugh, University of Washington, Seattle.
- Screenings of Central Asian films, made possible through a generous gift of the Open Society Institute (Budapest, Hungary). The compiler of DVD-collection is Gulnara Abikeyeva, Director of the Center of Central Asian Cinematography. All movies take place on Saturdays, 5:00 to 7:00 pm, have English subtitles and will be introduced and commented on by Alma Kunanbaeva:
- January 12, "The Land of the Fathers" (Kazakhstan).
- January 26, "White Mountains" (Kyrgyzstan).
- February 9, "You're Not an Orphan" (Uzbekistan).
- February 23, "Hassan-Arbakesh" (Tajikistan).

■ **San Francisco Bay Area Rug Society.** Visit www.Sfbars.org.

- January 12, 2008: At the DeYoung Museum's Koret Auditorium: lecture by Peter Poullada, President, SF Bay Area Rug Society, on Turkmen and Central Asian Weavings, presented under the auspices of the Textile Arts Council.
- January 16 or 17 [check for details]: Richard Issacson's talk about his Textile Museum (Washington) show on Turkmen Tent bands, perhaps in conjunction with a small exhibit.
- [date TBA] "Good-Better-Best" by Fred Ingham of the Seattle Rug Society, with a panel of expert judges comparing their views on a selection of carpets.

■ **American Decorative Arts Forum** is an educational support group of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The Forum presents monthly slide lectures in the Koret Auditorium of the de Young Museum. Doors open at 7:15 p.m.; admission is \$15 for non-forum members. www.adafca.org or telephone 415-249-9234.

■ **The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning** is an educational program for retired persons. Located at its own building at the University of San Francisco, the program offers daytime, non-credit, college level-courses, in a wide range of academic subjects. www.usfca.edu/fromm.

Enjoy Fine Dining at the Presenters Dinner

We invite Contributors to Humanities West of \$250 or more annually to join the distinguished program presenters Friday evening, February 22, 2008, at the private dining room at **Ovation**. This intimate restaurant is in the Inn at the Opera, right behind Herbst Theatre at 333 Fulton Street. We will convene at the restaurant at 5:30 pm.

Meet Presenters and Friends at the Friends Luncheon

All Friends of Humanities West are invited to join us for luncheon on Saturday, February 23, 2008, between morning and afternoon sessions of the program, at **Indigo** Restaurant. Indigo is at 687 McAllister Street, a short walk from the theatre. Reserve early, as space is limited! See order form, opposite page.

■ **Leonardo da Vinci Society** meets monthly from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at UCSF, California and Walnut Streets, entrance at Walnut. Guests are always welcome. For upcoming events, contact Gerry Wright, president: 415/388-8683.

■ **Mechanics' Institute**, 57 Post Street in San Francisco's business district, is a library and chess room that also offers events with authors and a film series. For a current calendar of events, visit www.milibrary.org.

■ The mission of **San Francisco Classical Voice (SFCV)** is to enrich and support the diverse classical-music community in the Bay Area. The online magazine offers reviews and previews; features from leading writers; news about the music scene; and the most complete calendar of events. www.sfcv.org.

■ **The Stanford Humanities Center** is a premier research center at the heart of the Stanford University campus, dedicated to the advanced study of human history and culture. Programs stress work of a multidisciplinary and collaborative nature, and seek to support the professional development of graduate students and engage with the public. Research workshops, fellowships, and public programs strengthen the intellectual and creative life of the University, and enrich our understanding of our common humanity. For events, visit www.shc.stanford.edu.

Tickets on Sale Now!

ATHENS IN THE GOLDEN AGE THE TIME OF PERICLES

Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3, 2008
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

During the 5th Century BCE, citizens of the tiny city-state of Athens, despite political turmoil at home and constant threats from abroad, achieved levels of accomplishment in art, architecture, philosophy and theatre not previously recorded. They also established a working democracy. The influence of their achievements on the development of human civilization continues to this day.

Moderator: Erich Gruen, Emeritus Professor, UC Berkeley

Full program description available at www.humanitieswest.org

Presenters Dinner and Friends Luncheon Reservation Form

- Yes, I am a contributor of \$250 or more annually to Humanities West and would like to attend the Presenters Dinner. Please reserve ___ place(s) in my name for **Friday, February 22 Presenters Dinner at Ovation** at 333 Fulton Street at **5:30 pm**, for \$75 per person. Reservations must be prepaid.

Entree choice/s: ___ steak ___ chicken ___ salmon.

- Yes, I am a Friend, Patron, Fellow, or Benefactor of Humanities West and would like to attend the Friends of Humanities West Luncheon. Please reserve ___ place(s) in my name for **Saturday, February 23, Friends Luncheon at Indigo**, 687 McAllister Street for \$45 per person

Enclosed is my check, payable to Humanities West. Total: \$ _____

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Return this **form and your check** to Humanities West, P.O. Box 546, San Francisco, CA 94104. (You may include this form in the donor envelope provided).

For more information, phone 415/391-9700 or email info@humanitieswest.org

PRIORITY TICKET ORDER FORMS

Contributors to Humanities West: orders will receive priority seating.

HUMANITIES WEST presents Genghis Khan, February 22 and 23, 2008

ALL SEATING IS RESERVED	ORCHESTRA/DRESS CIRCLE/GRAND TIER QTY	BALCONY QTY	TOTAL
Friday and Saturday, February 22-23	\$90 x	\$50 x	= \$
handling fee per combo ticket	\$5 x	\$5 x	= \$
Friday, February 22 only	\$40 x	\$25 x	= \$
Saturday, February 23 only	\$60 x	\$35 x	= \$
handling fee per ticket	\$2.50 x	\$2.50 x	= \$
Student/Teacher (Balcony only), Friday, February 22		\$20 x	= \$
Student/Teacher (Balcony only), Saturday, February 23		\$20 x	= \$
handling fee per ticket		\$2.50 x	= \$
GRAND TOTAL			\$

Tickets Now Available: ATHENS in the Golden Age, May 2 and 3, 2008

ALL SEATING IS RESERVED	ORCHESTRA/DRESS CIRCLE/GRAND TIER QTY	BALCONY QTY	TOTAL
Friday and Saturday, May 2-3	\$90 x	\$50 x	= \$
handling fee per combo ticket	\$5 x	\$5 x	= \$
Friday, May 2 only	\$40 x	\$25 x	= \$
Saturday, May 3 only	\$60 x	\$35 x	= \$
handling fee per ticket	\$2.50 x	\$2.50 x	= \$
Student/Teacher (Balcony only), Friday, May 2		\$20 x	= \$
Student/Teacher (Balcony only), Saturday, May 3		\$20 x	= \$
handling fee per ticket		\$2.50 x	= \$
GRAND TOTAL			\$

Tickets are not refundable. Luncheon is not included.

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PLACE YOUR ORDER WITH CITY BOX OFFICE

MAIL: (include a self-addressed-stamped envelope) 180 Redwood St., Suite 100, San Francisco, CA 94102 (at Van Ness)

PHONE: 415/392-4400 **FAX:** 415/986-0411 **ONLINE:** cityboxoffice.com

PLEASE NOTE: mail ticket orders to City Box Office in your own envelope. (The envelope in the newsletter goes to the Humanities West Post Office Box and is for donations and meal reservations only).

“With Heaven’s aid I have
conquered for you a huge
empire. But my life was
too short to achieve the
conquest of the world. That
task is left for you.”
— GENGHIS KHAN



HUMANITIES WEST
P.O. Box 546
San Francisco, CA 94104

Inside

GENGHIS' KHAN

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2008 · HERBST THEATRE, SF

A T H E N S

MAY 2-3, 2008 · TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Audience Development News

www.humanitieswest.org