

Nov. 18 Commemorative Discussion Meetings Ballard District, Bellevue, Wash.

It was pouring down rain, and I had been crawling in traffic for an hour and a half — on a trip that normally takes a half hour — and wondering why. I could have been at home sitting in front of the fire with a full stomach. But Ballard District's Nov. 18 commemorative meeting on Nov. 19 was worth the trouble. The theme was right up my alley: "Art As a Weapon for Peace." The meeting started with a display of masks representing the 10 worlds or states of life. Others shared their students' artwork, their paintings, an experience from the recent Culture Department conference at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, and a participatory percussion performance. New Pacific Northwest Region Leader Tom Eddy, who just returned from Japan, shared his experience from the Chubu World Peace Youth Culture Festival and of watching the meteor shower from a 747. I found myself wishing everyone in Seattle could be here. This was the perfect remedy for the gray, damp winter, and I am sure the 40+ guests and members would agree. Then came the food, lots of it. My grumbling stomach was very appreciative.

Everyone lingered after the meeting ended, and finally, with full stomachs and spirits, we took off into the night ready to take on any darkness in the night — or in our lives.

— *DIXON HAMBY*

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