

January 2016

17 West Mercury Street • Butte, Montana 59701 • 406.723.3231 • www.maiwah.org

MAI WAH NEWS

Chinese Visitors at Mai Wah Museum

The summer of 2015 was a busy year at the Mai Wah Museum, with visitors from various Chinese universities and educational programs. Most of our visitors were familiar with major Chinese history and cultural museums in large American cities such as New York City and San Francisco. Still, they were impressed by the unique mercantile and other collections at the Mai Wah, as well as the authenticity of the buildings.

A group of six faculty from Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU in Guangzhou) gifted the Mai Wah with a stunning new parade dragon as a sign of friendship between the people of Guangzhou and Butte. Our new friendship with SYSU is an example of Yuan Fen (缘分), or fate, coming full circle. SYSU now includes Lingnan University, the college where Margaret Woo Chinn studied during her year abroad

in 1936-37. (See the article about the Margaret Woo Chinn qipao collection on p. 5)

In a dedication ceremony, SYSU officially presented the dragon to our local college, Montana Tech, which in turn gifted it to the city of Butte which in turn gifted it to the Mai Wah. David Stonehocker, a Butte Central Catholic High School teacher and Mai Wah board member, was hosting a visiting group of Chinese middle school students at the time. David's students performed as our dragon dance team for the ceremony. Dragons are a key symbol of Chinese culture. They represent power, good luck, and the pursuit of wisdom. The Mai Wah is currently training our new dragon, which will make its first official appearance in our Chinese New Year parade on Saturday, February 13, 2016—the year of the Monkey. See you at the parade!

Other visitors of note included groups of faculty from Chinese University of Mining and Technology (CUMT, Beijing), Tsinghua University (Beijing), and Professor Wei of the Guangdong College of Business. Both the CUMT group and Professor Wei came to cement new partnerships between Chinese colleges and Montana Tech. A group of Chinese students from the Yellowstone Environmental Studies Program were in Butte for several days to study environmental restoration, and they too visited the Mai Wah.

—Pat Munday 猎人



Sun Yat-sen visitors. Photo by Pat Munday



Chinese New Year 2016 Year of the Monkey
Parade date: Saturday, February 13

Sponsored by the
Mai Wah Society

Membership

In 2012, the Mai Wah Society rejuvenated its membership program that had been languishing for some time. We have three calendar-year membership levels, \$25, \$50, and \$100. All levels are significant help in our operations and we hope you'll consider joining, using the membership form in this newsletter. All levels include free admission to the museum. We're thrilled to list here our members for 2015 as well as major donors—thanks! Your membership makes a difference!

\$100 level

Dee Antimisiaris & family
Julie Bushmaker
Ruben Chan & Ginger So
Christopher Chan
Jasmine Chan
Karen Davidson
Jim Griffin & Jana Faught
Richard Gibson
Laurence Huie
John & Judy Jacobson
Nancy Kiraly
Albert & Rhonda Mah
Greg and Honnay Chinn Molloy
and the descendants of Howard Yen Chinn in his memory
Tom Nance
James Masker & Kim Olson
Travis & Jacquie McAdam
Janet Sperry
David Stonehocker

Paid Members, 2015

\$50 level

Debbie Alt
Kathy Carlson
Judith Condren
Celine & Steve Fisher
Ruth and Lowell Luke
Tom & Laurie Michalek
Debbie Mueller
Pat & Jan Munday
Bill & Debbie Nokes
Kristen & James Rosa
Celia & Jeff Schahczenski
Toni & Paul Seccomb
Larry & Debbie Smith
Tom Susanj
Mark Syverson & Noor Parwana
Roger & Alice So
Betty & Steve Wing

\$25 level

Patricia Bik
Debbie Bishop
Gregory Bishop
Linda Borton
Judy Chadwick
Sandra Champlin
Cynthia Chin
Kathy Emmons-Norman
Peggy Guccione
Connie Kenney
Alexandra Koelle
David Koskenmaki
Marlene & Dan Langfeldt
Byron & Kay McAllister
Murray McCord
Mary McCormick
Bruce McKee
Emily Munday
Mary Murphy & Dale Martin
Pat Mohan
Lucy Pesanti
Fred & Melinda Quivik
Crystal Wong Shors
Brian Shovers & Jo Lace
Dori Skrukud
Bobbi Stauffer
Maryett Swafford
Sonny Thornborrow
Carol & Henry Tong
Susan Vuke
Gary Weisz
Steve & Lee Whitney

2015 donors (over \$50)

Dee Antimisiaris & family
Mitzi Rossillon
Ruben Chan & Ginger So
Christopher Chan
Jasmine Chan
Karen Davidson
in memory of Dr John Davidson
James Garris & Michael Hampton
in memory of Mary Crnich
Jim Griffin & Jana Faught
Richard Gibson
Laurence Huie
Albert & Rhonda Mah
Greg and Honnay Chinn Molloy
and the descendants of Howard Yen Chinn in his memory
Pat Munday
Tom Nance
James Masker & Kim Olson
Janet Sperry

Debbie Alt
Judith Condren
Celine & Steve Fisher
Tom & Laurie Michalek
Debbie Mueller
Pat & Jan Munday
Bill & Debbie Nokes
Roger & Alice So
Janet Sperry
David Stonehocker
to honor Chinese Students at Butte Central
Yuanbei Fan
Yihuan Gao
Yuhao He
Junlin Liu
Yulong Liu
Jinglin W
Dehao Zheng



Business Blessings –Thanks!

Business blessings, started in 2010, have become a popular part of the Chinese New Year celebration in Butte. We appreciate the support and hope that the Dragon Dance brought prosperity to the following businesses this year:

2015 Business Blessing Donors

- Quarry Brewing
- Butte Plaza Mall
- InstyPrints
- Montana Standard
- NorthWestern Energy
- Headframe Spirits
- Jade Studio
- Phoenix (IBRC/MainStreet)
- Bad Beaver Bikes
- Lisa Wareham Photography
- Metals Sports Bar
- Dancing Rainbow
- Pita Pit
- K-Mart
- Cavanaugh's
- BSB Court House
- BSB MIS Dept.
- Hadnagy Butte Frame Shop
- Gamers
- Venus Rising
- Main Stope Gallery
- ButteStuff
- Butte Labor History Center
- Silver Dollar

2015 Display Case Sponsors

Travis & Jacquie McAdam
Wah Chong Tai
Tom Nance
Wah Chong Tai
Richard Gibson
Wah Chong Tai
Tom Nance
Digging Butte's Chinatown
Tom Susanj
Digging Butte's Chinatown
Steve & Betty Wing
Digging Butte's Chinatown

Montana Shares

Montana Shares is a partnership of 40 statewide non-profit organizations and the Mai Wah is a proud member. Montana Shares and member groups are devoted to improving the quality of life for Montanans and their communities through workplace giving (payroll deduction) campaigns. You should also know that Shares will always honor donor choice and strive for strict fiscal accountability. Our annual campaign is underway at workplaces around the state.



You can participate in several ways: 1) contribute through your current workplace campaign or ask that Montana Shares be included in your workplace campaign, 2) contribute individually, and 3) if there is no campaign in your workplace, ask that Montana Shares be an option for all employees. For more information, please call Montana Shares at 1-800-2625 or in Helena 442-2218, or visit the Shares website at www.montanashares.org. In Butte, please call Deb Bishop at 782-4867 or email at info@maiwah.org. There is a Montana Shares link on our webpage at www.maiwah.org. Every contribution, small or large, is acknowledged and truly appreciated.

2016 paid memberships as of 1/15/2016

\$100 and more level

James Garris & Michael Hampton
Jon Roush & Joyce Chinn
Yvonne & Robert Oliger
Steve & Betty Wing
Jana Faight & Jim Griffin
Thomas Nance
Ginger So & Reuben Chan
Richard Gibson

\$50 level

Judith Condren
Edwin Dobb
Celine & Steve Fisher
Jim O'Brien
Victor Sloan & Sandra Gong

\$25 level

Byron & Kay McAllister
Murray McCord
Gary Weisz

谢谢 THANKS!

Tomb-sweeping Day

By Pat Munday 猎人

In April, the Mai Wah organized the first observance of Tomb-sweeping Day (Qingming Festival) held in Butte's recent history. A small crowd gathered at the Chinese section of Mount Moriah Cemetery, where the original funerary burner and ceremonial platform still mark the ancient rites once performed at this site.

The Qingming Festival is in part a solemn remembrance of our ancestors and in part a happy celebration of spring and the renewal of life. We marked the occasion by cleaning and sweeping the historic graves of Butte's Chinese population, making offerings of fruit and wine, burning incense and joss (fake) money, laying bundles of pussy willows on the graves, sharing traditional snacks such as tea-eggs, and flying kites.

We can only imagine the lively celebration of Qingming Festival in the late 1800s, when perhaps 2,000 Chinese lived in Butte. The funerary burner and ceremonial platform still hold these memories, as do the graves of those buried nearby. In Butte, we remember our heritage, and we are proud to honor the memory of the many Chinese merchants, restaurateurs, miners, and sundry laborers who made our city great.



Photos by Dick Gibson

Cheongsam Dress Exhibit

By Pat Munday 猎人

In September, the museum hosted a members-only exhibit of 27 *cheongsam* dresses. The dresses are from the Woo Chinn Collection donated by Elizabeth and Kathryn Molloy, granddaughters of Margaret Woo and Howard Chinn. Margaret Woo was American born and raised but visited China in 1936-37. She studied at Lingnan University, today part of the internationally prestigious Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou City, Guangdong Province (formerly, Canton).

The cheongsam, more commonly called a *qipao* (旗袍) in China today, emerged as part of the New Cultural Movement of the 1920s and by the 1930s became a uniquely national style. Always tailor-made, the style was marked by close-fitted tailoring and elaborate frog closures; it signified modernity, women's liberation, and national pride. It was worn by women of all social ranks, including school girls, middle class women, and prostitutes.

The prints, fabric, and stylistic details of Margaret Woo's dresses demonstrate the diverse nature of the *qipao*. Some are everyday fabrics and colors; others are of elegant fabrics intended for formal



wear; and some reflect the influence of the international Art Deco movement with their bold colors printed in geometric patterns.

In our summer 2016 season, the Cheongsam Dress Exhibit will open as a regular part of the Chinn Family Room.

Photos by Pat Munday



Visitors



Tsinghua University visitors toured a south-west Montana ranch.

Photos courtesy Pat Munday

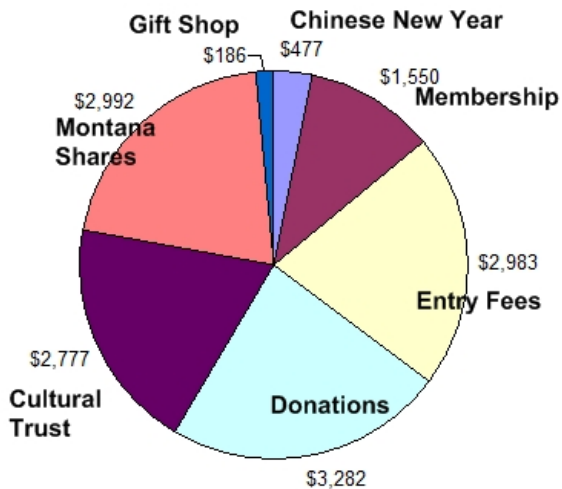


Professor Wei meets the Mai Wah Buddha.

Finances

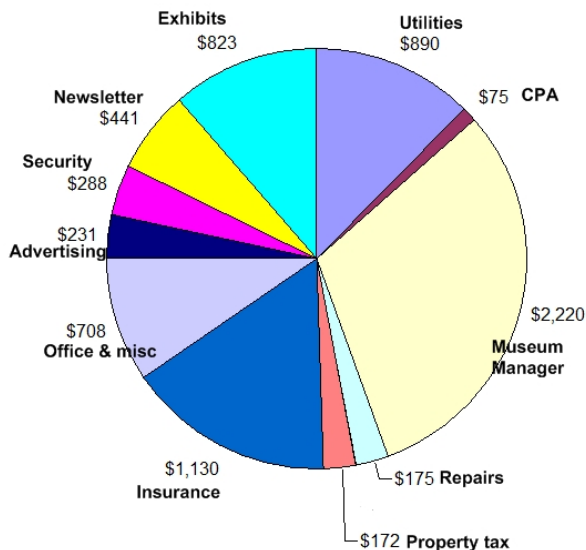
Mai Wah 2015 Unencumbered Revenue

TOTAL: \$14,247



Mai Wah 2015 Unencumbered Expenses

Total: \$7,153



The Mai Wah is deeply appreciative of the memberships, sponsorships, and donations listed earlier in this newsletter. We also value donations in the form of time—sometimes the most valuable commodity.

The charts at left do not reflect income and expenses related to specific, encumbered accounts such as our curator and some exhibits.

If you are interested in helping the Mai Wah as a volunteer docent, someone who staffs the front desk during the summer and provides guests with their introduction to the Museum, we'd love to have you. If you would like to do a day here and there, or some more regular schedule, we'll train you in what you need to know.

谢谢 THANKS!





Mai Wah Society

MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

Memberships and donations to the Mai Wah help make possible all the programs we have—from tours to special educational programs to new exhibits. The Mai Wah Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit, so donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

**For calendar
year 2016**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Membership levels (check one)

- \$25 (free museum admission, 2 guest passes)
- \$50 (free museum admission, 2 guest passes, \$5 discount on t-shirt)
- \$100 (free museum admission, 2 guest passes, \$5 discount on t-shirt, 15% gift shop discount, private tour for up to 10 people)

Amount enclosed for donation above membership: _____

**Please make check payable to Mai Wah Society
and send to
P.O. Box 404, Butte, MT 59703**

Thanks very much!



Mai Wah Society
 P.O. Box 404
 Butte, MT 59703
 www.maiwah.org

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**Regular season:
 June-September.
 Off-season tours can be
 arranged with advance
 notice.**



*Mai Wah Society Newsletter
 January 2016*

**Chinese New Year 2016
 Year of the Monkey**

**Parade date: Saturday
 February 13
 Starts 3:00 p.m.
 At the Court House**

PLEASE NOTE:
 Our insurance and Butte-Silver Bow Ordinances **DO NOT ALLOW** fireworks. By arrangement with Butte-Silver Bow (THANKS!) we will have the usual firecrackers at the Mai Wah at the end of the Chinese New Year Parade, but please help us honor our needs by refraining from using personal fireworks during the parade.

**MONTANA
 CULTURAL
 TRUST**



Partial funding for the Mai Wah's operations was provided by Montana's Cultural Trust

MAI WAH SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Munday, Jim Griffin
 Dick Gibson, David Stonehocker,
 Sonny Thornborrow, Tom Nance
 Mary McCormick, Travis McAdam