

# December 2013

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

MAI WAH NEWS

## A year for connecting

**D**uring 2013 the Mai Wah made connections with the descendents of four different families from the historic Butte Chinatown.

Ginger and Roger So, daughter and son of Pearl Chinn So who was born in the Mai Wah in 1923, have been in contact with us over the years, but they returned to Butte for the June 15 rededication of the Wah Chong Tai Mercantile. Their visit renewed old ties and rejuvenated our dedication to reporting the history of the Chinn family in Butte—told through our newest exhibit which was on display most of the 2013 season. We plan to have a formal unveiling of the Chinn Family Exhibit, together with a computer research station, in June 2014.

After Dr. Huie Pock, Dr. Wah Jean Lamb was probably Butte's most prominent Chinese physician. He was the first Chinese to graduate from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, in 1896, and had his office in Butte from 1902-1929. We enjoyed separate visits last

summer from his granddaughter, Winnie Nishimine of Fresno and great-granddaughter Stephanie Matsunaga from Los Angeles. We have a collection of Lamb family photos from Butte, donated by Joseph Chung, Wah Jean's grandson.

Tina Huie visited us in August. She is the granddaughter of Sam Huie, probably a nephew of Dr. Huie Pock. Sam owned and operated a restaurant at 251 East Park Street. He and his wife Lily Chew Huie had 13 children in Butte. Tina donated a pair of her grandmother's chopine shoes to the Mai Wah, where they are now on display (see the article on New Acquisitions).

And finally, Joseph and Evelyn Chan visited the museum from Red Deer, Alberta. Joseph is the great-grandson of Chin Chun Hock, the Seattle entrepreneur who established the Wah Chong Tai Company in Butte and who had the 1899 Wah Chong Tai building erected.

To say that we are thrilled to be making all these connections with descendents of early Butte Chinese families would be an understatement. We are both honored and proud to preserve and interpret the histories of these families who were important to Butte.

Mai Wah board member Pat Munday visits with Ginger So in front of the museum, at the same location where Ginger's cousin Yvonne was photographed as a baby in 1950.



**Chinese New Year 2014 Year of the Horse  
Parade date: Saturday February 1**

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 2013-14 as well as major donors—thanks! Your membership makes a difference!

## Paid Members, 2013-14

### \$100 level

Julie Bushmaker  
Jim Griffin & Jane Faught  
Richard Gibson  
Pat & Jan Munday  
Richard Nelson & Kristi Dunks  
Paul & Toni Seccomb  
Toni's Art  
Janet Sperry

### \$50 level

Todd, Anne & Raina Baker  
Joseph & Evelyn Chan  
Nancy Kiraly  
Hua Li & Philip Williams  
Debbie Mueller  
Joyce Nowacki  
Celia & Jeff Schahczenski  
Victor Sloan & Sandra Gong  
Janet Sperry  
Elizabeth Sperry  
Sonny Thornborrow  
Butte Weekly  
Betty Wing

### \$25 level

Jeanette Barnes  
Linda Borton  
Kathy Carlson  
Cynthia Chin  
Bill Crane  
Leslie Doyle  
Lon Johnson & Ron Fournier  
Carlin Good  
Suiwen Huang  
Tina Huie  
Mike Huset  
Nola Johnson  
Connie Kenney  
Byron Jeong Lee  
Emma MacKenzie  
Byron & Kay McAllister  
Murray McCord  
Greg Nokes  
Lucy Pesanti  
Fred & Melinda Quivik  
Craig Reese  
Ginger So  
Bobbi Stauffer  
David Stonehocker  
Tom Susanj  
Maryett Swafford  
Lee & Steve Whitney  
Steve Wing  
Richard Young

## 2013 donors (over \$50)

**Janet Sperry (\$13,500)**  
**Ginger So**  
**Roger So**  
**Dr. Richard Buswell**  
**Butte Security**  
**Mainstreet Uptown Butte**  
**Butch Gerbrandt**  
**Director-General Andy Chin,**  
*(Taipei Economic & Cultural Office)*  
**Katherine Griffin**  
*in memory of Mick Faught*  
**Dori Skrukud**  
**Clena Gibson**  
**Nancy Kiraly**  
**Lon Johnson & Ron Fournier**

## 2013 Display Case Sponsors

Todd, Anne & Raina Baker  
*Butte Chinese Experience*

**Richard Gibson**  
*Wah Chong Tai*

**Tom Susanj**  
*Digging Butte's Chinatown*



## The Mai Wah Society

*"Preserving and Interpreting  
Butte's Asian Heritage"*

# Business Blessings –Thanks!

**B**usiness 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:

## 2013 Business Blessing Donors

**Quarry Brewing**  
**NorthWestern Energy**  
**Butte Plaza Mall**  
**Silver Dollar**  
**InstyPrints**  
**Butte Weekly**  
**Jade Studio**  
**Lisa Wareham Photography**  
**Cavanaugh's**  
**Headframe Spirits**  
**BSB Court House**  
**BSB MIS Dept.**  
**Bad Beaver**  
**Hadnagy frame shop**  
**Butte Library**  
**Main Stope**  
**Hilltop Marketplace**  
**HillTop Flea Mkt**  
**Gamers**  
**Jenny Peterson**  
**Phoenix**  
**Julian's**  
**Hennessey Market**

We'll be organizing the parade and the business blessings for 2014 in January. Mai Wah volunteer Sonny Thornborrow plans to visit with most uptown businesses. If you are interested in a business blessing, you can also contact Sonny at [mt1595@yahoo.com](mailto:mt1595@yahoo.com). It is not always possible to accommodate all requests, because of constraints on the parade route, but we try to also arrange for off-route blessings.



## Montana Shares

**M**ontana 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](http://www.montanashares.org). In Butte, please call Deb Bishop at 782-4867 or email at [info@maiwah.org](mailto:info@maiwah.org). There is a Montana Shares link on our webpage at [www.maiwah.org](http://www.maiwah.org). Every contribution, small or large is acknowledged and truly appreciated.



## New acquisitions

**A**mong our new acquisitions in 2013 was a pair of chopines, high platform-soled shoes used by Chinese ladies of distinction. Tina Huie (see page 1) donated these embroidered shoes used by her grandmother, Lily Huie, in Butte.

Chopines were developed by the Manchus in China, perhaps as an alternative to foot binding. Like bound feet, these shoes indicated a woman of high class, who would not be expected to walk far, or sometimes at all.

Lily Chew Huie was born in San Francisco about 1890, and lived in Butte with her husband Sam Huie. Sam managed a restaurant at 251 East Park Street in 1927-28, and the family lived at 341 East Park and at 639 Utah. The family continued to live in Butte into the 1940s.



## Social Connections

**A**s this is written, the Mai Wah Facebook page has 336 fans. This year, we also developed a new blog, a place for a bit more information, news, and the opportunity for interaction. The blog has posts for the Artifact of the Month, New Acquisitions (more information about the shoes above), Inside the Box (about some of the amazing items in the Wah Chong Tai Mercantile collection), and news events.

The blog has received about 1500 pageviews and you can access it through the Mai Wah web site. Just click on the tab for Blog in the navigation menu.

[www.maiwah.org](http://www.maiwah.org)



Pangolin scales, featured in one of the Mai Wah Museum's blog posts.

# Bathroom Dedication

Our long-awaited accessible rest room was formally dedicated on June 15. Years in coming, this excellent asset to the Museum was made possible by donors listed on a Scroll of Honor, unveiled at the June 15 event. Their names are inscribed in English and transliterated into Chinese.

Travis and Jacque McAdam

特拉維斯•麥克亞當 and 成龍•麥克亞當

Janet Sperry and Family

珍妮特•斯佩里 家庭

Homer, Louise, and Debbie Bishop

荷馬 and 路易斯 and 德比•比肖普

Al and Bev Skrukruud

阿尔 and 贝夫•斯克鲁克鲁德

Dori Skrukruud

多里•斯克鲁克鲁德

James Dorr Johnson and Diane Kimball

詹姆斯•多尔•姜森 and 迪安埃•金伯尔

Jim Griffin and Family

吉姆•格里芬 家庭

Jana Faught

甲纳•福特

Randy Baril

蘭迪•巴里爾

Silver Bow Properties

西尔弗•鲍•属性

Mark Reavis

馬克•雷維斯

Urban Revitalization Agency

城市复兴机构

Herb Keating and Karen Girardot

赫布•基廷 and 卡伦•吉拉多特

Pearl Chinn Family

珍珠欽 家庭

Montana Cultural Trust

蒙大拿州文化信托

# Interpretive banners

**W**e are proud of the nine new interpretive banners throughout the Museum. The new Chinn Family Exhibit has four, paid for by a grant from the Montana Cultural Trust. We also have two banners in the Digging Butte's Chinatown exhibit, one in the Noodle Parlor display, one in the Wah Chong Tai Mercantile, and one that serves as a descriptive banner for the Museum.

These 72-inch-high banners are highly portable, which will make it easier for us to share our displays with other museums.



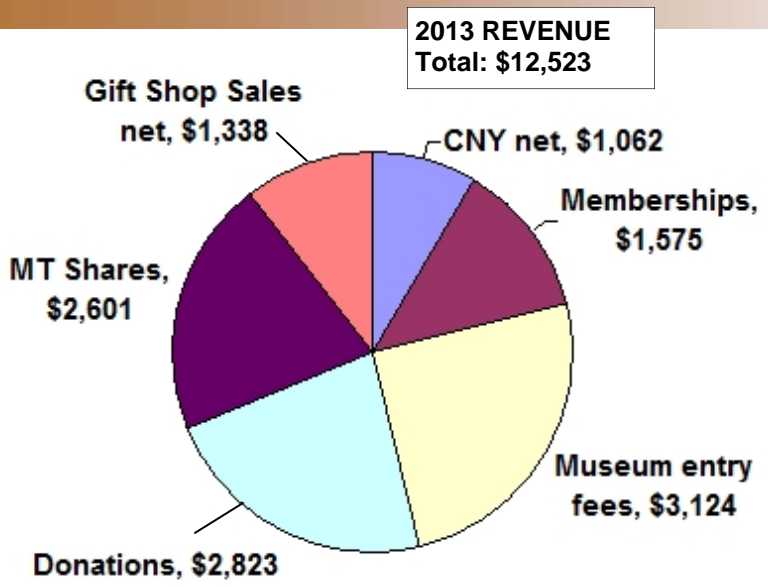
# Visitors

**J**ohn Little was this season's museum and gift shop manager. He was there every day we were open this year, providing orientation and tours, and answering questions from our visitors. John is a historian with a recent degree from the Montana Tech Professional & Technical Communications Department, and he also serves on the Mai Wah Board of Directors.

In 2013 we saw about 720 visitors at the museum, nearly a 50% increase over our recent record visitation, 499 in 2010.



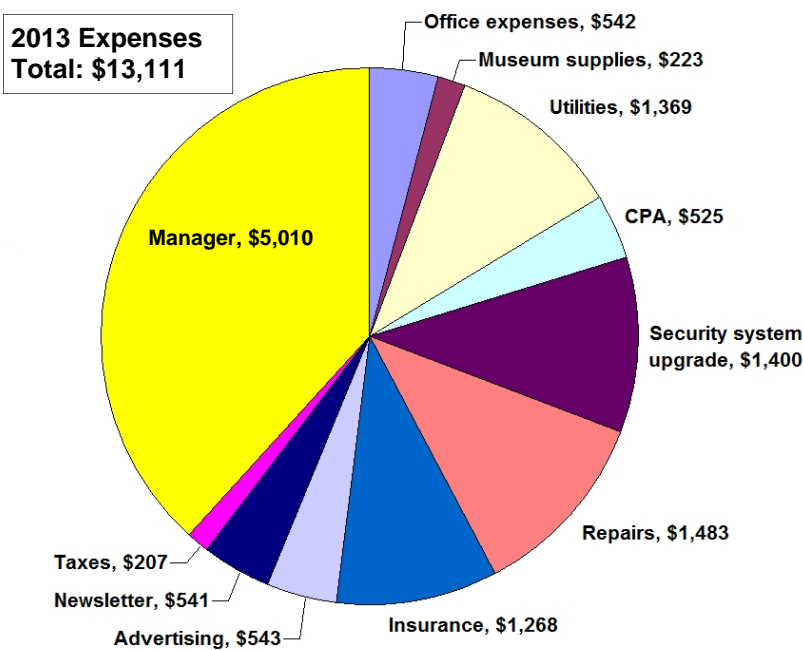
# Finances



**T**he Mai Wah runs a tight ship, financially, which also means that we really appreciate the support we receive from memberships and donations—every dollar means a lot to us! Thank you!

In late October a wind storm broke our Museum banner loose. Its metal bracket broke about 25 panes of window glass, some large and some small (see below). Insurance covers about two-thirds of this cost, but depreciation and our deductible means that we'll have to cover about \$700 for these repairs from our general operations account.

If you'd like to donate to help pay for the window repair, you can use the donor form on the next page. Designate your donation for the Windows Repair. Thank you!



The charts at left do not include income (from donations and grants) and associated expenses that are for specified purposes, including our curator and specific exhibits.





# 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 2014**

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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## *Mai Wah Society Newsletter December 2013*

***Chinese New Year 2014  
Year of the Horse***

***Parade date: Saturday  
February 1  
Starts 3:00 p.m.  
At the Court House***

### MAI WAH SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Jim Griffin  
VICE PRESIDENT: John Little  
SECRETARY: Debbie Bishop  
TREASURER: Dick Gibson (Newsletter editor)  
MEMBERS: Robert Edwards, Jana Faught, Janet Sperry, Pat Munday, Sonny Thornborrow