

February 2010

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MAI WAH NEWS

## Grant for new exhibit awarded

The Mai Wah Society has received a grant from the Montana Historical Society's County History Initiative to research and display the most important of the 60,000 artifacts unearthed in the 2007 Chinatown archaeological dig. The \$2,000 grant will also support printing a brochure on the artifacts.

Janet Sperry and Dick Gibson are spearheading this effort, expected to culminate in an exhibit opening by next June.

Some of the artifacts that may be exhibited and interpreted include a pistol, a whole opium pipe bowl, and a tiny medicine bottle

made of clear glass with Chinese characters painted in gold on one side. Ink bottles, a gaming die, a marker button, a rusty alarm clock, even the 1900 silver dime can all contribute to our understanding of the Chinese experience in Butte.

We've also applied for a grant from the PPL Montana Community Fund to expand from this exhibit into a summer program focusing on Chinese heritage. Stay tuned—we expect an answer on our application by mid-April!

*Below: excavation in progress, Week 4, Summer 2007*



Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.  
**Montana**  
Historical Society

Montana Historical Society's support for the exhibit project is greatly appreciated. The dig itself was underwritten by support from the Butte-Silver Bow Urban Revitalization Agency.

Member of



*Chinese New Year 2010: Year of the Tiger  
Parade date: Saturday February 20*

Sponsored by the  
Mai Wah Society



# Mai Wah is on Facebook

**W**e're working on entering the 21st Century! In January the Mai Wah established a page on Facebook—and thanks largely to Robert Edwards and his connections, within a couple weeks we had more than 65 “fans”.

We see this as an element of our marketing, a way to reach interested people who we've been unable to connect with in the past. We also have Facebook connections with other organizations, including those in Butte and others such as the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle.

In addition to our website, the Facebook page serves as a way to provide timely announcements to that community.



To visit our Facebook page, go to our website, <http://www.maiwah.org> and click on the icon above.

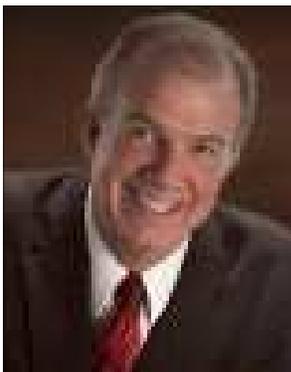


Tiger t-shirts available soon in the Mai Wah gift shop.

# New Board members elected

**M**ai Wah's Board of Directors now counts 13 members with a wide range of affiliations and backgrounds. Newest members are Noorjahan Parwana, Conservation Program Director with the Big Hole Watershed Committee, and Dan Rapkoch with NorthWestern Energy.

Mai Wah Board members serve two-year terms. Re-elected to the Board were Robert Edwards, who serves as Chair, and Todd Baker. Together with new members their terms expire in 2011. Robert is CEO of Silver Bow Properties, and Todd is an attorney.



*Steve Beck is one of Mai Wah's Board members.*

Members continuing in their 2-year terms are Steve Beck (Beck Seminars, providing motivational and educational programs from his base in Illinois), Debbie Bishop (Montana Developmental Center in Boulder, MT), Chuck Carrig (Archaeologist, US Bureau of Land Management, Dillon), Jana Faught (Butte-Silver Bow Arts Foundation), and Richard Gibson (Gibson Consulting, geology and history tours and freelance writer).

Also serving continuing terms on the Board are Jim Griffin, Co-Treasurer (Montana State University Educational Opportunity Center, Butte), Claudia Rapkoch, Vice-Chair (spokesperson, NorthWestern Energy), Dori Skrukud, Secretary-Treasurer (Community Development Dept., City & County of Butte-Silver Bow), and Janet Sperry (Montana Historical Society Registrar, retired).

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2010 is the Year of the Tiger  
(Chinese tiger character below)

