

Huntington Chinese Garden E- Letter

Issue No. 7, January – February 2006

Dear donors and friends,

Gong Xi Fa Cai and Happy Year of the Dog!

This new year has brought wonderful developments to the Chinese Garden. You may have heard all the recent publicity surrounding the Garden from sources as varied as KNBC, the Los Angeles Times, Chinese Daily News, and a number of other English and Chinese language media sources.

The latest news is that the Department of Homeland Security has granted our visa application to bring 12 stonemasons and their supervisor from Suzhou on a cultural exchange visa. They will be arriving in the next month and will be here for two months assembling the bridges and laying the stonework surrounding the lake. Once the stonemasons have completed their work, we will fill the lake with water and open the lake and bridges to the public.

Currently, though, we are still lining the lake and finishing all the surrounding footings and foundations. We have also received our complete shipment (50 twenty foot containers) of rocks, including three large Taihu rocks, from China.

We've had a number of visiting groups and delegations lately, from local neighbors to overseas visitors. Recent visitors include: the #161 Middle School from Xicheng, Beijing, 17 government officials also from Xicheng, Beijing, the poet Yu Kwang-chung and a delegation from The Way, a literary association, as well as Chinese Daily News, and soon, twenty businessmen from Xinjiang Province, as well as a number of donors and prospective donors.

Fundraising Update:

2005 was a wonderful year in terms of new gifts and pledges to the Chinese Garden. To date, we have raised \$10.2 million with a fundraising goal of an additional \$5 million to fund the Pavilions Stage of Phase One. That's 67% of our fundraising goal for Phase One!

Since early December, we've had a number of new gifts and pledges: \$245,000 from Judith Mong Gwai Fong, \$10,000 from The Milo W. Bekins Foundation, \$10,000 in memory of Professor Yow-Min R. Lee, \$10,000 from Mr. Irving Rosenbluth and Mrs. Hilde Shubin Rosenbluth, \$10,000 from Robert W. Tam and Julie Wong Tam, \$10,000 from Phillip T. Pi, \$7,000 from Henry and Myriam Hu, and \$5,000 from David and Yun-Ping Chang Mi. We also received over \$401,000 in pledge payments.

We will have a revised honor roll on the Chinese Garden donor wall by February 18, in time for our Chinese New Year Festival. Please stop by both to see the list of our major donors and to check up on the progress of the site.

Curator's Choice:

Chinese New Year Festival

As many of you may have heard, we are having our second Chinese New Year Festival on Saturday, February 18. The program is free for Huntington members and included with general admission for non-members. This event is made possible through the generosity of East West Bank and Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.

The program for the day is as follows:

11a.m. Lion Dance
11:30am Book Reading/Signing
12 noon Chinese Music
1:30 p.m. Folk Dances
2 p.m. Lion Dance
2:30 p.m. Chinese Music

Children's Activities:

11-2:30 p.m. Dough Doll Making
Chinese Knotting
Chinese Lantern Craft
Calligraphy

ALL DAY

Flower Mart
Chinese Garden Information Pavilion
Year of the Dog Scavenger Hunt

New this year is a Chinese Garden information pavilion, which will be located on the Brown Lawn in front of the Erburu Gallery. Stop by to see some of Jin Chen's original concept drawings for the Chinese Garden, to pick up an updated red folder, or to say hello and to hear about the progress of the Garden. There will be frequent presentations throughout the day and staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions and to lead groups down to the Chinese Garden site.

Lecture Series

The third in our lecture series is also fast approaching. I hope you will join us on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 as Philip K. Hu of the Department of Fine Arts at New York University speaks about "Visiting a 17th century Garden through a Painting – Mi Wanzhong's Shao Yuan" (working title).

Please also mark your calendars for the last in the lecture series, which will be on Tuesday, May 9, 2006. Professor Jerome Silbergeld, P.Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Professor of Chinese Art History at Princeton University will lecture on "Beyond Suzhou: Region and Memory in the Gardens of Sichuan" (working title).

All lectures begin at 7:30pm in Friends' Hall and are free and open to the public. A coffee reception follows each.

Please stop by on Saturday, February 18 to say hello, learn more about the Garden, and to see the site and its progress. I hope to see many of you on that day and to chat with you and thank you for your advice, insight, guidance, and support thus far.

Until then, best regards,

Suzy Moser

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