



Issue Highlights

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- Lantern Festival Celebration
- Soaring Dragon Highlights and Donor Recognition
- Garden Society News
- Peonies in Chinese Lore

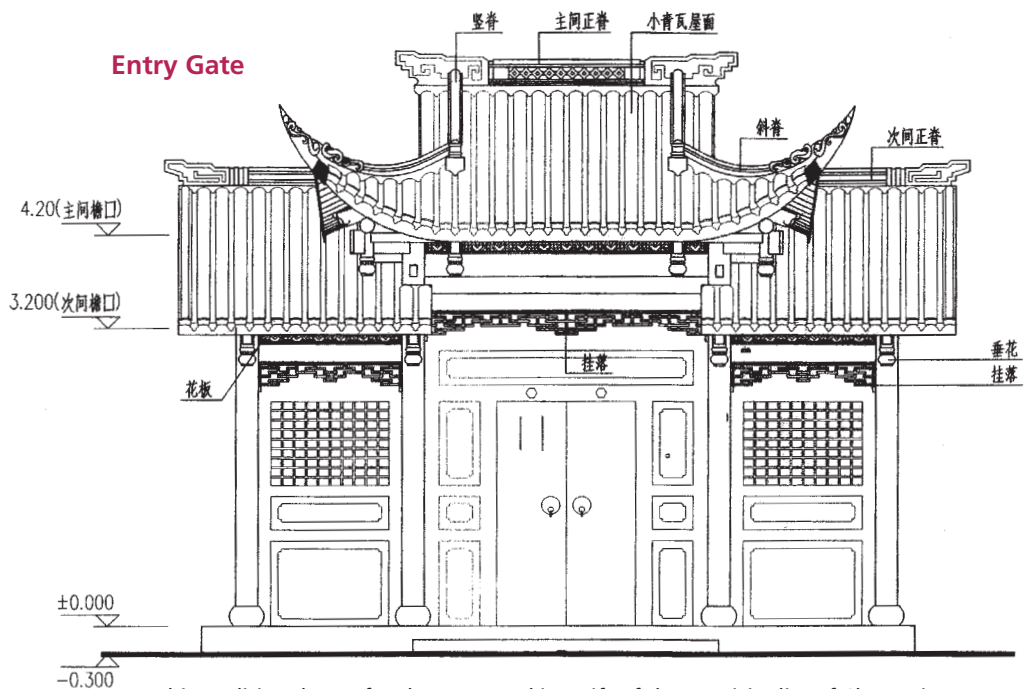
Funding from Washington State and Chongqing Galvanizes Construction Plans for First Courtyard

It's been a spring of great news for The Chinese Garden. First, Governor Gregoire's 2007-2009 capital budget allocated \$500,000 toward construction of Knowing the Spring Courtyard. That boost was followed by another from the Municipality of Chongqing — a commitment of \$1.2 million in materials, labor, and associated construction costs. The walled courtyard will feature all the elements found in a Chinese garden — a water feature, trees and shrubs native to China, rock formations, intricate paving stones, lattice-work windows, and an elaborate gatehouse.

"Such strong public support on both sides of the Pacific is important for all of us," said Jon Geiger, newly elected president of the Seattle Chinese Garden Society. "Here in Washington, it shows once again how the public, private, and business sectors can work together to improve our communities, education, and our future."

"Chongqing's major gift testifies to the importance of the garden as a symbol of the strong ties between our cities and between China and Washington State," said Mike Craig, executive director of the Garden Society and a past president of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association.

King County is another major public-sector contributor with funding of \$200,000. The Garden Society is now close to the 60 percent mark in its campaign to fund the \$3.46 million courtyard. Jim Dawson, vice president of *(continued on page 8)*



This traditional gate for the courtyard is a gift of the Municipality of Chongqing.

"We enter the entire culture of China through the moongate of the garden."
Edwin T. Morris



Honorees at Soaring Dragon Celebration

Left: Charles Royer congratulates Bill Stafford, while Paige Miller presents flowers to David Buck. Both classroom honorees were stunned and delighted.

Judge Warren and Nobie Chan Education Center



Education Center Construction Begins this Summer; Classroom Naming Honors Bill Stafford and David Buck

By early 2008, the Judge Warren and Nobie Chan Education Center will be abuzz with educational and cultural programs sponsored by the Garden Society and horticultural classes for South Seattle Community College students. Site preparation began in June, and December 2008 is the anticipated date for completion of construction.

Exciting milestones of the past six months include achieving the fundraising goal, completion of detailed design plans by the architectural firm, and the naming of classrooms to honor two long-time Seattle Chinese Garden supporters, David Buck and Bill Stafford. The announcement at the November 5 Soaring Dragon Celebration & Auction was a well-kept secret revealed to the honorees as a surprise during the dinner.

David Buck served as the society’s president from 2003 through 2006, and led the organization through the challenging phases of redesigning the master plan and obtaining city construction permits. David continues to serve on the board of directors as co-chair of the Capital Campaign Committee.

Bill Stafford helped give birth to the plan to build a traditional Chinese garden while meeting with government leaders in Seattle’s sister city of Chongqing in the mid 1980s. He served on the society’s board of directors for several years and has remained an ardent cheerleader for the project. Bill is president of the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle and has been honored by the Chongqing government with the title of special economic advisor to the municipality.

The official name of the new facility honors the center’s lead private benefactors. Warren Chan is a retired King County Superior Court judge. Nobie Chan is a trustee of the Seattle Community College District whose diverse business and public service career has included community college teaching and leadership posts. While on the administrative staff at South Seattle CC in the early 1990s, Nobie was instrumental in bringing the Chinese Garden to the college site. She served on the society’s board for several years, and also co-chaired the society’s first capital campaign committee.

The Garden Society and the college are pleased that the new joint facility honors the leadership and inspiration of the Chans, Bill Stafford, David Buck. The center is a true public-private partnership, made possible through state funding and support from corporations, foundations, and individuals. The private benefactors recognized on page 3 have earned our deep appreciation. **Thank You ~ Xie Xie!**

Judge Warren and Nobie Chan Education Center

~ Private Benefactors ~

\$100,000 and above

Judge Warren and Nobie Chan

\$50,000 to \$99,000

The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation

\$20,000 to \$49,999

The Boeing Company

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Harry Pryde

Douglass and Katherine Raff

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Sidney Rittenberg*

Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association

Lorraine Toly

Jill Wakefield

Victor Kai Wang

Bob Watt

Steve and Jan Whitner



Photo courtesy of South Seattle CC

Judge Warren and Nobie Chan
at the Song Mei Pavillion

\$100 to \$999

Diane Aboulafia-D'Jaen

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Judy Tobin

David and Chris Towne

Scott Wilson

Frank Woodruff

Evelyn Yenson



EAST
ELEVATION

*Donations for Education Center at 2005
Soaring Dragon "Raise the Paddle"



Enchanting Dancing
The Melody Institute's graceful young women flowed through a dazzling spectrum of traditional dances and the wee ones were soooo endearingly cute!



High Spirits at 2007 Lantern Festival



Lion Dancers! Drums! Symbols! Sifu David Leong's Kung Fu Martial Arts Association dancers concluded the festival with rousing energy.



Photo by Susie Parrent

Nan Hu delighted the audience with his beautiful voice and traditional songs.

Excited kids, happy parents, and Garden members and friends celebrated the end of the Chinese New Year holiday in fine style on March 4. This popular event draws big crowds for colorful dance and martial arts performances, craft activities and demonstrations for all ages, and traditional treats such as dan dan noodles and yuanxiao dumplings. Kudos to festival chair Judy Koenig, emcees Conrad Lee and Annette Bernier, and legions of dedicated volunteers.

The Year of the Golden Pig evokes the inner artist . . . oink!

Attendees enjoyed an elegant **tea tasting** (below left) and a demonstration on making sweet **yuanxiao** (right).

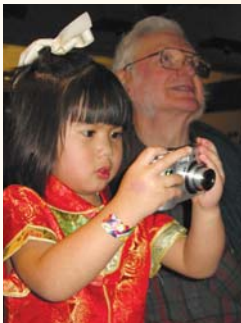


Photo by Susie Parrent

Photos by Sandy Marvinney



2006 Soaring Dragon Celebration & Auction

SPONSORS

\$5,000 Imperial Dragons

The Boeing Company
Bell Harbor International Conference
Center/Columbia Hospitality
Holland America Line
Riddell Williams
ShadowCatcher Entertainment

\$3,500 Celestial Dragon

Swedish Medical Center

\$2,500 Soaring Dragon

The Commerce Bank
Satchuk Resources, Inc.
TAU, LLC



More than 300 Garden friends gathered at Bell Harbor Conference Center on November 5 for a lively evening featuring an Old China Market, colorful entertainment, dinner, and a live auction. The event raised more than \$100,000. Society president David Buck presented 2006 honoree Mic Dinsmore (photo) with a copy of the painting given to China's president Hu Jintao on his visit to Seattle in April 2006. Thank you to all donors, attendees, and volunteers!



Photos by Team Photogenic.

AUCTION DONORS

5th Avenue Theater
Alaska Airlines
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Anthony's Restaurants
Associate Travel
Stanley and Alta Barer
Shelly Dobyns Benton
Marilyn Blitz
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Patricia Garrison
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Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Assn.
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Washington Public Ports
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Yuen Lui Studio, Inc.

With Appreciation to:

Bob Watt, Vice President,
The Boeing Company
(Auctioneer)
Charles Royer, Former Mayor
of Seattle (Emcee)

Special Thanks to: Soaring Dragon Co-Chairs Paige Miller & Stan and Alta Barer, and Honorary Co-chairs Mic Dinsmore & Jan Hendrickson

President's Message

Jon Geiger



Introduce friends to the Garden at the monthly docent tour

The docent program on the role of gardens in Chinese culture has drawn many visitors and much enthusiasm this spring. It's a great way to introduce friends to the Garden project. The 90-minute program includes a slide presentation, a walk through the SSCC Arboretum, and a visit to Song Mei.

Second Saturdays:
August 11
September 8
October 13


10 am at the
SSCC Horticulture Bldg.

It is my pleasure and a great honor to be elected president of The Seattle Chinese Garden. I am excited to help lead this wonderful project through its next phases. Our project has a long and rich history and I am proud to follow in the footsteps of our past presidents, donors, and all the volunteers who have brought us this far. Thanks to all of you, and especially to several key people. Our most recent past president, David Buck, ably led the team through completion of the master plan, securing of building permits, and fundraising for the Education Center. Thanks also to Paige Miller, who was a long-term board member. Paige's success in fundraising early on, and again recently, helped gain us the recognition and supporters needed to build Song Mei and the Education Center, and to secure much of the funding for Knowing The Spring Court. Evelyn Yensen, our past executive director, earned our appreciation for helping us re-establish our office operations and refocus our fundraising efforts. I especially want to thank our donors, volunteers, board members, staff, and other community supporters. Without all of you we would not be looking forward to dedicating our first major courtyard next summer.

I am pleased to welcome our new executive director, Mike Craig. Mike is a founding board member and past president of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association. He participated in the first discussions with Chongqing government leaders to build a Chinese garden in Seattle, so he has long and close ties with our project. His experience and expertise have proven invaluable.

I want to use my own experience as an operations director at Boeing to help our project in several ways. The first priority is to help accelerate the transition from project development to implementation and launch of construction. Another key goal is to improve donor stewardship and recognition — our public, corporate, and individual donors are the foundation of the Garden. Our recent fundraising successes give us much to celebrate. But not for long, as we have another \$1.45 million to raise for the courtyard and then we set our sights on the next major structure, Gathering Together Hall, which will open the Garden for use by large groups for educational, social, and business events.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you at our groundbreaking, ribbon cutting, recognition, and fundraising events. Please don't hesitate to call me and offer your ideas and support to carry us forward.

Thank you,  高

Garden Welcomes Jan Whitner to Board of Directors

A volunteer with the Garden since 1998, Jan chairs the Horticulture Committee and is a docent. She lectures on gardens and has authored four books: *Stonescaping, A Guide to Using Stone in Your Garden* (1992); *Garden Touring in the Pacific Northwest* (1993); *Northwest Garden Style, Ideas, Designs, and Methods for the Creative Gardener* (1996); and *Gardening with Stone* (2000). She is currently writing a book on Chinese gardens. Jan earned her MA in history at the University of Washington and has lectured at South Seattle Community College, the UW, Seattle Center for Urban Horticulture, and Pratt Institute for Fine Arts. Jan led a SCGS garden tour of China in 2000.

Meet Mike Craig, Executive Director

Mike is a civic volunteer who serves on the executive committee of the Washington State China Relations Council and the advisory board of the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle. Mike is a founding member of the Seattle-Chongqing Sister City Association and has served three different terms as president since 1983. In his professional career Mike counts more than 30 years experience as a sales and marketing executive and a consultant to private corporations and government agencies. He holds a BS in biology and chemistry from Arizona State University and has extensive expertise in the fields of pollution control, hazardous waste management, and international business.

Peonies

in Chinese Lore

Song for the Peony

Han Yü (768–824 AD)

What a marvellous
flower, cries Han Yü
no other

makes spring seem
so splendid
red petals green

stem too unearthly
to bloom just
because it's the season.

Your fragrance is
slight as a
nobleman's smile—what

a sharp pair of scissors
it must take to
fashion you

nothing
to hang your head modestly
for, as the peach

and the plum blossom do.
Giggling girls
holding onto

each other's sleeves
come here
to compare themselves

with you—red
petals red cheeks after
hidden

consulting
bronze mirrors
behind their green shutters

Spring wine
sweet as honey we
drink to you

nobody
else knows our secret
delight—who's this

singing drunk
in front of the peony?
only

Han Yü, the crazy—
old
madman of Ch'u!



Tree peonies (*Paeonia suffruticosa*, in pinyin, *mudan*) serve as the Chinese flower of spring. Their sumptuous colors and ruffled petals symbolize opulence, while their period of bloom is as fleeting as the season itself. Emblems of beauty, wealth, and accomplishment, tree peonies play a significant role in Chinese flower lore. Sui and Tang dynasty emperors propagated numerous varieties in their imperial gardens, where they spent warm spring nights enjoying the blooms as they glowed under flaring torches.

One anecdote says the Tang emperor Xuangzong summoned the great poet

Li Bai to a pavilion where Xuangzong was observing peonies with a favored concubine, the infamous Yang Guifei. The emperor asked the poet to compare in poetry the charms of Lady Yang to those of a peony. The poet composed three pieces on the spot, but Xuangzong deemed them insufficiently flattering—whether to the peony or to the lady, the story doesn't say—and he banished Li Bai from court. Several decades earlier, the peonies themselves were banished from court, for refusing the commands of Empress Wu Zetian to bloom, against their nature, in winter. In later centuries poets sometimes used peonies as symbols of political dissent or resistance to tyranny.

The tree peony's cousin, the herbaceous peony (*Paeonia lactiflora*, in pinyin, *shaoyao*), appeared as a token of love and remembrance in the ninth century BCE *Book of Odes*, China's earliest collection of poetry. Its root is used in traditional Chinese medicine to reduce blood pressure and stem fevers, while the entire plant is considered one of the "starvation plants" to be consumed by peasants in times of famine. The tree peony is termed "King of Flowers," while the useful but less glamorous herbaceous peony ranks as "Prime Minister."

Although Luoyang in Henan Province reigns as China's premier city of peony cultivation, Pengzhou in Sichuan Province is considered a strong second in developing new varieties. Its 260 varieties are on display at an annual spring peony festival and in public gardens on nearby Danjing Mountain. With the assistance of Chongqing's horticulture experts, a collection of tree and herbaceous peonies will grace the Seattle Chinese Garden.

芍药歌

丈人庭中开好花

更无凡木争春华

翠茎红蕊天力与

此恩不属黄钟家

温馨熟美鲜香起

似笑无言习君子

霜刀翦汝天女劳

何事低头学桃李

娇痴婢子无灵性

竞挽春衫来比并

欲将双颊一睇红

绿窗磨遍青铜镜

一尊春酒干若饴

From: *Growing Old Alive: Poems by Han Yü*, ©1978. Trans. by Kenneth O. Hanson, Port Townsend: Copper Canyon Press.

Han Yü was an influential Tang Dynasty essayist, poet, administrator, and social reformer. An ardent Confucianist, he revived interest in the neglected classics and advocated a clear, concise writing style.

Thank you to Chunman Gissing for suggesting this delightful poem.

by Jan Whitner, Chair, SCG Horticulture Committee

Funding for First Courtyard *(from page 1)*

the board and chair of the Facilities Committee, will visit Chongqing in early July to meet with Garden Bureau architects to finalize design plans. Site preparation and foundation work will begin this fall. By next spring the Garden will expand its schedule of public docent tours and educational programs for schools and community groups so visitors can learn about and observe the traditional methods used to construct a Chinese garden, including stone carving by skilled artisans.

Knowing the Spring Court will welcome its first visitors in fall 2008 for the 25th anniversary of the Seattle-Chongqing sister city relationship. In a letter informing Mayor Greg Nickels of Chongqing's \$1.2 million commitment, Mayor Wang Hongju noted that the courtyard "will commemorate the tangible outcome from President Hu Jintao's successful visit to Seattle in 2006" and that the garden project "reflects the history and progress of our friendly exchanges in the past 25 years."

In a news release announcing the gift, Mayor Nickels thanked Mayor Wang for "this incredibly generous contribution" and noted that completion of the courtyard "will take us a long way toward realizing the vision for this unique sister city partnership."

When completed, the courtyard and the nearby Education Center will provide venues for many more programs focusing on Chinese culture, society, and the art of gardens.

SEATTLE CHINESE GARDEN

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