



Newsletter

MISSISSIPPI DELTA CHINESE HERITAGE MUSEUM, INC.

2020 Vol. 1

From the Editor

We apologize that this newsletter is so late in arriving to you, but factors beyond our control have caused this delay in presenting our "News" to you. Currently the Heritage Museum is closed to the public, but our archivist, Emily Jones, has made provisions to accommodate researchers and those seeking historical data by appointment. There is no time table as yet for the museum's re-opening.

In this issue Gilroy will touch on what had transpired in 2019 and news that had happened during the first half of 2020. Frieda Quon has chronicled the two reunion events of 2019, and I have included a written piece on the Legacy Wall. In addition, Board Member, Jean Joe Dunn is spotlighted with her mini-bios.

cont'd on Page 2

From the desk of the President

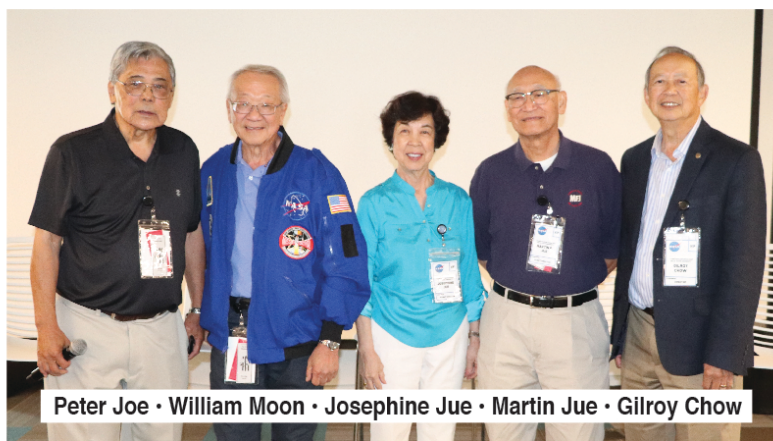
September 7, 2020

It's hard to believe how time has a way of slipping away from us. So much has happened in our lives, in the country and world since our last newsletter. Less than a few months ago you had never heard the words COVID-19, corona virus or the term pandemic, that have impacted us in so many ways. We are adjusting, learning and living, a new "normal" in our time. On a personal note, I am recovering from a 5 by-pass coronary surgery and recuperating fine for 6 months now. Many thanks for the prayers lifted during my recovery time.

The MDCHM Board and General Membership meeting has been completed as we wrapped up our 2019 season. What an exciting year to see the interest generated by the Mississippi Delta Chinese Museum and its activities and events'.

In July we had an extremely successful Summer 2019 Mini-Reunion featuring MS Delta folks that were part

cont'd on Page 2



Peter Joe • William Moon • Josephine Jue • Martin Jue • Gilroy Chow

Re-Entry ... Mississippi

A Delta Reunion was a heartwarming and joyous gathering of Delta Chinese celebrating their contributions to our country's great Space Race during the 1960 and '70s. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 Landing on the Moon was planned so school aged children could attend. The July 7-8, 2019 event started with a reception and exhibit at the Delta State University Capps Archives & Museum, a Rocket Launch on the Quadrangle then dinner at the newly remodeled Young-Mauldin Cafeteria.

Sunday afternoon MDCHM President
cont'd on Page 3



FROM MISSISSIPPI TO HOLLYWOOD, BROADWAY AND BACK

featured Virginia Wing, originally from Marks, MS as a part of the "Where Are They Now" project highlighting the stories of Mississippi Delta Chinese. On November 3, 2019 at the DSU Bologna Performing Arts Center family and friends were treated to the world premiere of the documentary film on Virginia's amazing career. Afterwards Virginia and daughter Jennifer Shotz, New York Times Best Selling Author entertained questions from the audience. A Welcome Reception was at the Capps Archives & Museum and on display in the Chinese Museum was the dress Virginia wore on "The Johnny Carson Show" and her formal gown when she placed in the "Miss Mississippi" Contest.

Frieda Quon

Our Legacy Wall

The idea of creating a "Legacy Wall" was birthed shortly after the 2017 Reunion. An illuminated stainless steel representation was established and installed in the stairwell between the second and third floor of the Capps Archives and Museum.

It was early 2019 that the idea of a Donor Wall Recognition was implemented. After the board's first meeting in January of this year, I was assigned the duty of researching those businesses that could bring our "idea" to fruition.

cont'd on Page 2





2020 Vol. 1
September
Page 2 of 3

cont'd from Page 1 - Editor

We thank you all for your membership and support of the Museum and its activities. Stay safe and well, and we will visit with you again soon.

Harry Gong, editor

cont'd from Page 1 - President
of the Apollo Missions 50 years ago. They spoke in a symposium format and visitors were treated to MDCHM's display of fascinating artifacts and personal mementos from the Apollo Project, sending men to the moon. Space Camp featured live model rocket launches!

During the mini-reunion the new MDCHM LEGACY WALL was unveiled. It is a beautiful rendering of a way to honor and remember our donors and supporters in an inspiring, tasteful, and meaningful way. Our many thanks to Harry Gong, Jeannie Dunn, Frieda Quon, and Jean Maskas for their insight to design and execute this lasting tribute and honor for all to enjoy. We are grateful to the many who have chosen to support the Museum in remembering their loved ones. MDCHM has received over \$6,000 in Memorial Donations in 2020. The updated donation form is available on the MDCHM website.

Then in September, our "Where Are They Now" series featured the life and stellar Hollywood, Broadway, and media career of Virginia Faye Wing. A film clip showcasing and honoring her life and times was shown at BPAC followed by a

forum for Questions and Answers from her and her family. This forum gave wonderful insight into her illustrious career on stage.

As plans were laid for the 2020 MDCHM year, we looked forward to paying tribute to others who have contributed to the MS Delta Chinese history in so many venues and aspects of life. Please give your suggestions to Board members in the days ahead.

In spite of COVID we continue to get inquiries as to Chinese life in the MS Delta current and in the past. Most recent aired was a visit by PBS' Vivian Howard for an episode on "Chinese Dumplings" featuring Carol Chinn, and then Sean Callebs from CGTV (China) discussing COVID's effect on current MS Chinese. The link for this is <https://youtu.be/aBexGOu.FCU>. It featured Taylor Pang's farming in Marks, and Emily Jones at the MDCHM.

The WWII Congressional Gold Medal award ceremonies and presentations are postponed indefinitely for Washington and other locations due to COVID protocols. Please be aware that you can still get veterans registered or buy memorial pages for the award books online at www.caww2.org.

The Pink Palace Museum in Memphis has postponed their Chinese Exhibit indefinitely. Nur Abdulla was heading up this exhibit but has been furloughed.

Thanks for taking the time to support your museum even in this pandemic environment and let us know what you would like to see in and around it. We want to add, enhance, enlarge, even create virtual exhibits and displays in keeping with our mission of honoring our predecessors. Please stay safe, stay in touch!

Gilroy Chow

cont'd from Page 1 - Legacy Wall

With the help of board members who volunteered many hours of dedicated service, we were able to achieve placement of a sleek modern design that adorns the premises of the Museum, honoring those individuals who so graciously donated either as a gift or as a memorial. Special thanks go to Frieda Quon, Jeannie Dunn, and Jean Maskas for their contributions in the success of this project.

The largest task in creating our "Donor Wall" was gathering the data. It was an enormous task in researching and attaining the proper figures that each individual had donated. The largest hurdle we encountered was attaining records of donations from the Museum's inception, as many of the donations were presented to Delta State University before the Museum became a tax exempt entity.

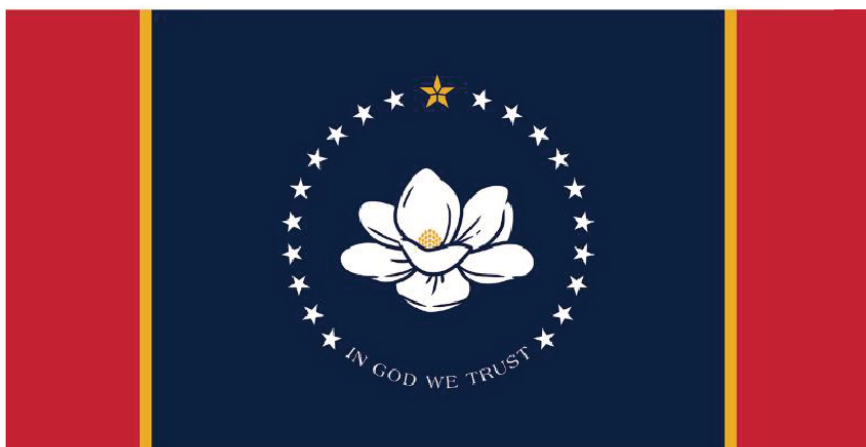
As you recall, in the "Donor Forms" that you filled out, we had five categories of "Giving": PEARL, IVORY, JADE, SILVER and GOLD MOUNTAIN. Representation would be cumulative with regards to timely giving, and this allows individuals to climb the "Donor Ladder", so you can be Pearl at the end of one year but progress to Ivory or above with subsequent years of giving.

Within the planning stage, there was a change in the Wall's categories, as two additional designations were incorporated. Because there was such a wide gap between Jade and Silver (from \$1000 to \$5000) the category of BRONZE \$2,500 was created. Also, after all the monetary data was accumulated, it was noted that some individuals had give over \$20,000, so the category of DIAMOND \$20,000 was also created, thus seven categories of giving would be



News concerning the Mississippi state flag has embraced the contribution Anna Sue Joe, a native of Greenwood who now resides in San Francisco. She collaborated in designing of the flag with her artistic rendering of the magnolia blossom depicted on its center. The acceptance of the design as the state flag of Mississippi will be voted on in November.

Harry Gong





cont'd from Page 1 - Re-Entry

Gilroy Chow welcomed members and friends to the Opening Reception at the Capps Archives. It was a fun reunion time and place where folks with ties to the Mississippi Delta Chinese could reconnect, and attendees came from Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas and even from Texas, California, Virginia and Washington.

Emily Jones, Curator of the Chinese Museum and DSU Archivist revealed her masterpiece Space Themed installation in the Museum Gallery - highlighting Delta Chinese involved with NASA and the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Program. A special part of the exhibit was a Space Time Line showing exactly what our Delta Chinese were doing at their respective jobs during the Space era. Further enhancing the exhibit were personal space memorabilia from the participants.

Monday morning "A Delta Reunion" resumed in the meeting room of the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. DSU President William LaForge and City of Cleveland Mayor gave welcome remarks. Harry Gong presented a virtual dedication of the Legacy Wall honoring contributors to The Chinese Museum. The sleek Lucite design is located in the stairwell between second and third floor of the Archives.

Apollo: 50 Years Later - A five member panel featuring Mississippi Delta Chinese men and women with the NASA Space Program and STEM shared their individual experiences relative to their contributions to the Space program.

Peter Joe - Moderator - Boyle/Anaheim, CA - Rocket Engineer - With Rockwell International for 35 years, working on the Intercontinental Ballistic Module and satellite hardening programs.

Gilroy Chow - Cleveland/Clarksdale, MS - Lunar Module Engineer - With Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation as a contractor for NASA on lunar modules from 1966 through 1973. Chow was on the team of engineers who figured out to retrofit a CO2 filter to

filter out deadly gas in the Apollo13 module.

Josephine Jue- Vance/Houston, TX - Software Development - Joined Johnson Space Center in Texas in 1963 working with NASA for 40 plus years holding three different Chief positions from software development to information systems.

Martin Jue -Hollandale/Starkville, MS - Founded MFJ Enterprises, Inc. - Majority stakeholder in Amateur Radio Market - the world's largest manufacturer of HAM radio accessories. William Moon - Cleveland/Houston, TX - NASA Mission Control - Started at McDonnell Aircraft Corporation before joining NASA at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston Texas in 1965. He was part of the Apollo Program as a Flight Controller in Mission Control for more than 35 years.

A closing Reception was held at the Martin & Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum. The presentations were well received and portrayed the valuable contributions these Delta Chinese individuals made towards our country's Space program. Frieda Quon

cont'd from Page 2 - Legacy Wall represented.

There are 93 representations of Donors indicated at their levels of giving. Thanks to Jeannie Dunn's efforts in tracking donations for 2019, we can inform you that over \$27,000 have been received for the 2019 year.

The Legacy Wall would also represent any and all individuals who served on our Board of Directors since inception. It must be noted that these individuals give of their time, efforts, ideas and talents, primarily at their own expense. We've had 26 members who have served on the Board.

There is representation on the Wall "In Loving Memory", which pays tribute to those lives in passing, those who came before us, and many who were the foundation to which our Museum represents. The last item in creating our Legacy Wall display was choosing an "Everlasting Caption" for our Wall. Thanks to Carolyn Chan, who submitted several captions for consideration. The Board recognized the following caption, simplistic and encompasses our thoughts and meaning in just a few words: "HONORING OUR PAST, INSPIRING THE FUTURE".

The Legacy Wall was unveiled July 8, 2019 during the "Re-Entry Mississippi" Reunion. It has been a long road in such a short period of time in attaining this "Our Legacy Wall". We hope you will be pleased with its creation and representation, as we the members of the Board of Directors are.

Harry Gong, Treasurer



Spotlighting a Board Member...



Jean Joe Dunn, Cordova, TN newest member to the MDCHM Board. My husband of 53 years is Joe W. (Jimmy) Dunn, Jr. originally from Pace, Mississippi. We have two daughters and five grandchildren. Our daughter has been on the frontline combating COVID 19 as Critical Care Nurse at the Memphis Veteran's Hospital. During these very uncertain times we are all staying in, masked up with faith that a new normal is coming soon. Growing up Chinese in Tennessee taught me the same work ethics as the Mississippi Delta Chinese - meaning except for school or church we were always helping our parents in the store. Our close-knit family instilled in us the value of hard work and a good education.

I look forward to spending time with our family, gardening, cooking, and volunteering for Church and our Memphis Chinese organizations, Lung Kong Tin Yee and the Mid-South Chinese Association which provided an avenue for social gatherings and support for the Chinese businesses in the Memphis area. I have enjoyed working these past few years on various projects for MDCHM, such as making available the art prints of local artist, Steve Yee and organization, applying my expertise in data assimilation, and development of the Legacy Wall recognizing donors to MDCHM. It is a privilege to serve on the Board and as a senior member it is important that we preserve our history for the future generations. I am proud to be an American, Southerner and Chinese!

