



CHINATOWN RENEWAL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010

“CREATING A THRIVING COMMUNITY”

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SDCB

SISTER CITY FORUM- HUNAN PROVINCE, PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

On June 22, 2010, Salinas sent a delegation of 12 people to attend the Hunan Province Sister City Forum, held in the capital city of Changsha. The State Dinner celebrated past cooperative relationships in the Province between cities and educational institutions and featured 41 newly organized sister cities distributed among 24 nations. Mayor Donohue presented a video during the dinner expressing gratitude for this opportunity. On June 23rd, the Forum began with speeches from various international delegates and Xu Shousheng, the Acting Governor of Hunan. During the tea break, our Mayor exchanged gifts with Mayor



Mayor Donahue and other dignitaries at the Sister City Forum in Changsha.

Shousheng and after the break he presented our slide show and signed the cooperative agreement with Yueyang, Salinas’s new sister city. The Salinas delegation toured the newly created economic development

zone and business park, including two manufacturing plants, then reunited with the rest of the Forum for a tree planting ceremony, where all 41 partnerships planted trees. A celebratory dinner followed where Salinas delegates met important contacts including the Mayor of Changsha, a Berkeley graduate. On June 27, after a three-day tour of Hunan’s historic and natural wonders, four of the Salinas delegates stayed at Dongtin Lake in Yueyang. The Mayors traded speeches of gratitude and hope for mutual economic and cultural exchange, followed by lunch. That afternoon our delegates toured

(Sister City on page 2)

NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION FORUM

This historic gathering of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans working on historic preservation met to share unique and diverse stories, inspire one another as we seek to preserve heritage, culture and communities. It was a time of insight and education about historic preservation. The Salinas Chinatown story had a strong presence. Friday morning Wally Ahtye was one of thirteen presenters at the plenary session and in the afternoon Larry Hirahara presented the ACE experience as one of five sites in the “Shared Histories, Shared Stories” session.

(Preservation Forum on page 2)



Ken Feske, Larry Hirahara, and Wally Ahtye at the National Asian Pacific Islander American Historic Preservation Forum.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER: AN ENERGETIC COMMUNITY MEMBER

By 1920 Salinas Valley agriculture went from focusing on sugar beets and beans to the "green gold" of lettuce. As the Japanese labor force had succeeded the Chinese with the advent of the sugar beet, so now the Filipinos superseded the Japanese as the labor force for new row crops, and the Filipino population of Salinas expanded east of Chinatown. A close knit people by national character, with strong family and community ties, the Filipinos formed a local *barangay*. This functional social concept is the backbone of

Filipino community action. Initiated in 1906 as the Caballeros de Dimas-Alang, a Salinas lodge was formed in 1920 with its center in the Filipino community church. The Caballeros' organization funded a newspaper in 1928, the *Philippino Independent News*, which by 1930 was the oldest continuing Filipino newspaper in the U. S. Prior to World War II, the *Philippines Mail* was "a rallying point of Filipino opinion, inspiration and decision" taking on such

(Filipino Community on page 2)

FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER

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national issues as the Federal Repatriation Act of 1932 and supporting the position of Filipino labor during their strike against agri-industrial business in 1934.

Here's a testimony from a recent "visitor" to the Center during the Third Annual Asian Festival in April 2010:

When I was a teen, I went to the Filipino dances in the Salinas Filipino Community Center. What set the Filipino dances apart from any other is the fact that there would be a band that played music for the older folks, and a band for the teens, which, during my youth would play R&B, Motown, or Rock. So coming back into the Filipino Community Hall after decades to find a Filipino band playing music for the older folks first, followed by an Indie band



Local Filipino band playing at the Filipino Community Center.

called Hero Shots playing music for the younger set (I'm talking post-punk Pixie's style burning guitar) was a kick for me. The teens loved it. The older Filipinos nearby were gritting their teeth in aural pain. However, some were also trying to get into it, and were actually nodding in time to the drumming. After it was over they clapped politely and sighed with relief. I love the fact that at Filipino events the different generations are so inclusive.

From "Local Nomads" Facebook 🌸

PRESERVATION FORUM

(Continued from page 1)

Historic preservation includes a broad scope of efforts—protecting buildings, landscapes, and places of historical significance to diverse groups of people; cultural art forms; traditions; language; associations; businesses; stories; food; festivals; and all the

other activities that help to define these place-based ethnic communities. What we do is much more than preserving a building, it is about people and the places they care about—where they live, work, shop, worship and celebrate. 🌸

SISTER CITY FORUM

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Symbol of the Sister City event in Yueyang.

Yueyang, the newly constructed international port, and Yueyang Vocational Technical College, where Salinas resident Yoajin Peng taught for twenty years. Salinas looks forward to this promising relationship and hosting the next delegation following this successful trip. This opportunity is due to the efforts of Yoajin Peng and members of the Salinas Chinese American Association. 🌸

Visit the SDCB website!

www.salinasdcb.org

EVENTS



First Friday Art Walk, 5-9 pm

July 2, August 6, September 3
14 Soledad Street,
(831) 455-5964

bythtree09@yahoo.com



Obon Festival

July 25, 2010
12:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Salinas Buddhist Temple
14 California Street

OCTOBER 15, 2010

SAVE THE DATE

A free symposium, Salinas Chinatown: Once and Again, is scheduled for Friday, October 15th at CSUMB's University Center from 9 AM – 4 PM. Its purpose is to generate awareness and promote development of the future Chinatown Asian Cultural Center & Museum, one of the cornerstones of the Chinatown Renewal Project. Highlighting the neighborhood's Chinese, Japanese and Filipino cultural heritage & history, the symposium's morning sessions will have a national focus, and the afternoon sessions a more local focus. This symposium brings together nationally recognized scholars, community members, local civic leaders, students and museum professionals to share ideas, expertise, and vision for the future. The keynote speaker will be Dr. John Kuo Wie Tchen, founding Director of the Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program at New York University, and co-founder of both the New York Chinatown History Project and Museum of Chinese in America. Save the date and plan to participate! 🌸

CONTACT INFORMATION

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About Us - The Salinas Downtown Community Board, SDCB, is a nonprofit agency whose mission is to provide advice and recommendations to local government, government agencies and other community stakeholders on issues focused on improving the quality of life for individuals and businesses located in the downtown Salinas area. **The Chinatown Renewal Project is a collaborative effort of the City of Salinas, CSUMB, & the SDCB.**