

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

#27 — October — December, 1987



CHINA COUNCIL BECOMES INDEPENDENT

On August 20, the Northwest Regional China Council advisory board voted to establish the organization as an independent, non-profit, corporation, apart from its parent organization, the World Affairs Council of Oregon (WAC). This decision came after months of discussion and consideration of the China Council's role in the community. The decision will be effective by January 1, 1988.

The Northwest China Council was founded under the joint sponsorship of the World Affairs Council and the National China Council of The Asia Society in December 1980, as a WAC program with its own advisory board and responsibility for fundraising. In the nearly seven years since its founding, the Council has grown to 600 individual and 35 corporate members, and is both the newest and the most active of the 12 regional China Councils in the U.S.

The China Council has been fortunate to have a dedicated group of supportive volunteers to help the small staff as well as an active advisory board whose time, expertise, and fundraising have sustained China Council activities. Most of all, the China Council acknow-

ledges the nurturing support of the World Affairs Council staff and board and their donation of office and services without which our present vitality could never have been realized.

The sustained public interest in China and rapidly growing Oregon - China ties in trade, culture, and education have kept the Northwest China Council a dynamic organization, responding as best as it could to the changing needs for information and expertise of its "China constituency." These needs prompted the China Council to undertake China in Oregon: A Resource Directory, which will cover the gamut of local China connections, from China scholars, to account and law firms that serve China traders, to Chinese martial arts schools and Chinese restaurants. China in Oregon will be the foundation on which we will build an up-to-date, computerized information

October Events:

Oct. 9 *Modern Chinese Painting*

Oct. 31.... *World Information Fair*

See Special Events section inside for details.

clearinghouse on Oregon-Chinese affairs. In addition, the Council plans to develop briefings and research projects to assist government, business, and education with China exchanges.

Other ideas for future programs include: Chinese film and discussion series; introductory lectures on Chinese history; travel mini-briefings on such topics as independent travel and shopping; and industry-based business meetings to share China experiences. The Asia Society will be assisting us with program development by funding a major conference on Taiwan and an expanded focus on China in Asia.

What does independence mean for the China Council? First, the China Council's organizational structure will be formalized, with a legally constituted board of directors who are responsible for carrying out the goals of the organization. The new board of directors will have greater fundraising responsibilities and a concomitant opportunity to explore new directions and projects. Operating costs will be somewhat higher as an independent organization, but there will now be an opportunity to seek funding from private foundations, and the China Council's independent status gives the board access to more corporate and individual donors. A \$2,500 gift from a China Council member has given a great boost to the transition to independence. John E. Sprouse is heading the Fundraising Committee. A new board of directors will be elected by the China Council membership in

early December, at the first Annual Meeting of the corporation. The nominating committee chaired by James Nafziger is now soliciting nominees. Board members are sought who are committed to building the organization through their work, donations, fundraising, and expertise.

Immediately following the first annual meeting, there will be a special event for members, to celebrate the evolution of the Northwest China Council.

All current China Council associates will automatically be transferred to the membership rolls of the Northwest Regional China Council, Inc., as of January 1. Joint members of the World Affairs Council and China Council will retain their memberships in each organization after January 1. At the beginning of 1988, China Council dues will increase to \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family, so we encourage early membership renewal and welcome new associates at our current lower fees.

The China Council office will be moving to the International Affairs Suite at Portland State University, Smith Center M-107, where it will share quarters with a number of other international programs. We would like to thank PSU for its generosity in providing this space. While we will be receiving free office space, we will have the expenses of setting up an office. Our major need is for an IBM-compatible, hard disk AT computer, for updating China in Oregon, as well as bringing in-house such administrative functions as the mailing list and bookkeeping. New or used office furniture, equipment, and supplies are also needed. Please call the China Council if you can help.

Northwest China Council Newsletter
*Published by the Northwest Regional
China Council, sponsored by The Asia
Society China Council.*

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Portland, Oregon 97201
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*Editor: Judy Kliks
Published quarterly.*

SPECIAL EVENTS

REALISM IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PAINTING

Friday, October 9
7:30 PM

Portland Art Museum Auditorium
1219 SW Park Ave.

\$3, China Council members, students
\$5, General

Joan Cohen, author of The New Chinese Painting, 1949-1986, will present a slide lecture and discussion on Realism in contemporary Chinese painting. The event will include a reception for the author. Cohen, co-author of China Today and Her Ancient Treasures with her husband, Jerome Cohen, an expert in Chinese law, has written widely on the subject of contemporary art in China for Asian Wall Street Journal and Art News.

Cohen explains, "The New Realism reflects the vision of the current generation as well as the artistic vehicle in which artists express it. In China where art and politics are closely connected, Realism is a style with a future because of the Chinese official demand that art be understandable and narrative. At the same time, Chinese artists have demonstrated that within Realism there is freedom for individual expression and creativity."

OREGON WORLD INFORMATION FAIR

Saturday, October 31
9 AM - 3 PM

Portland State University
Smith Memorial Center

Advance registration required:
\$12, OIC Members
\$15, non-members
\$4, students

Registration includes lunch except for students

"Learning Chinese" and "Study in China" are the topics of two China Council - organized workshops offered at the OIC World Information Fair.

Jonathan Pease, professor of Chinese language at PSU, will chair the panel on the study of Chinese language. Topics include: what's involved in language study, special problems in learning Chinese, setting personal goals for study, and how long it takes to become fluent.

"Study in China" will concentrate on overseas exchange programs in China and will be led by Christine Sproul, director of the Oregon State System of Higher Education China program. Students and faculty who have participated in a variety of Oregon study programs in China will describe and evaluate their experiences.

For information and registration, contact the Oregon International Council, 999 Locust NE, Salem, OR, 97303, 378-4960, or the China Council, 464-3049.

CHINA RESOURCES

COUNCIL INITIATES SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE WITH CHINA

The China Council will venture into a new area with the conclusion of an exchange agreement with Social Sciences in China (SSIC), the primary research, translation, and publishing organ of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Mel

Gurtov, Director of International Studies at Portland State University, met with editors of the Journal during a recent visit to Beijing. They expressed interest in having ties with the Northwest. A follow up letter by Jane Larson led to a reply from the SSIC editor-in-chief, Li Xuekun, who proposed several areas of potential cooperation; exchanges of scholars and journals, support of field studies, and invitations to U.S. specialists to work on the journal.

SSIC actually publishes five journals, including the Chinese and English versions of Social Sciences in China, Lishi Yanjiu (Historical Research), and the Chinese edition of The Journal of International Social Science. It has a professional staff of about 60. Through this exchange agreement, which we expect to formalize by the end of 1987, we may be able to increase lecturing and research opportunities for American scholars in China, and study opportunities for SSIC scholars who would be based in Portland. The China Council has set up a Committee for Scholarly Exchange with China to facilitate the process at our end. Our hope is that more Northwest China scholars will join the Council and take advantage of this new program.

OREGON — CHINA RELATIONS

FIRST SUZHOU DELEGATION VISITS PORTLAND

During the first week of August, a five-member delegation from the Suzhou Municipal People's Government, Jiangsu Province, The People's Republic of China, visited Portland to further the cooperative ties initially entered into by the two cities on the 4th of November 1986.

The delegation was led by Tang Ren,

one of four Vice Mayors of Suzhou, whose area of responsibility includes The Economic Commission and The Foreign Affairs Office. Others in the delegation, all making their first visit to America, included Deputy Secretary General Xu Hong Bin; Foreign Affairs Office Deputy Director Zhang Bin; Economic Commission Deputy Chief Wu Si Qi; and Foreign Affairs Office Deputy Section Chief Tang Rong Long.

The initial agreement signed in the City of Suzhou by City Commissioner Mike Lindberg called for cooperative cultural, educational and economic development activities with the hope that such mutually beneficial exchanges would lead to a Sister City relationship. That agreement led directly to this visit. The delegation requested meetings with groups representing educational bodies in the region, research institutions, engineering consultants and manufacturers. The meetings and business calls were tailored by the City of Portland to the delegation's desire to specifically seek exchanges in sewage treatment and environmental technology, to view various manufacturing processes, and to discuss student and educator exchange programs.

The group met with officers of Dependable Foundry and Machinery of Sherwood, Oregon who later in August made a presentation in Suzhou of their manufacturing process. The group also began discussions with the City of Portland Environmental Services Bureau on technical exchanges in the area of sewage treatment. Representatives of Portland area educational organizations and other interested organizations, met with the delegation to talk about possible future exchanges between Suzhou and Portland area institutions. The delegation also opened the door to discussions with Parks Commissioner Lindberg on the possibility of building a classical Suzhou Garden in the City of Portland to represent our ties of

friendship.

During September, representatives of the Provincial People's Government of Jiangsu will visit the United States. At this writing, the group has tentatively planned on visiting Portland briefly at the invitation of the City of Portland.

The desire of those who have joined the Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association to complete a formal Sister City relationship may become a reality in the near future. In recent private conversations with representatives of the People's Republic of China's San Francisco Consulate General and the Ambassador to the United States, it has been learned that the appropriate authorities in Beijing have approved of such a relationship "in principle." As the cities' ties solidify, a formal linkage is sure to follow.

George Lee
Portland Development Commission

OREGON-CHINA TRADERS AIR CONCERNS
TO PRC CONSUL GENERAL ZHAO XIXIN

On September 11, Northwest China Council corporate members representing among others, leading banks, high tech companies, and law firms, introduced their China projects and presented their concerns to Chinese Consul General, Zhao Xixin. Consul General Zhao assumed his post in San Francisco in November 1986, after years of experience working in Chinese-American affairs for the PRC Embassy in Washington and Beijing.

The paramount concern of most Oregon businesses is the difficulty of getting their profits out of China. The renminbi is non-convertible and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Foreign exchange reserves are controlled by the central government and there is increasing conservatism as these reserves have been reduced. Even joint ventures,

which are much favored by the Chinese over other forms of trade, operate under considerable restraints. They have little access to the domestic market and are under pressure to generate foreign exchange through exports. Certain joint ventures, such as hotels, which generate considerable foreign currency but need domestic funds to buy local products and services, have traded their foreign currency with foreign companies who have excess RMB. This kind of cooperation saved the American Motors Beijing Jeep Project, which worked such a trade with Sheraton's Great Wall Hotel.

In order for China to buy more from the U.S., it must sell more, particularly in the areas of textiles, oil, and gas, which currently make up two-thirds of its exports to the U.S. While China has been buying unprocessed raw materials such as timber from the U.S., its priority is advanced technical equipment such as lumber processing machinery. Oregon high tech companies have experienced serious problems with the U.S. government in receiving export licenses for high tech sales to China. Technology transfer to China is discouraged by the U.S. government because of concerns that some products will have military applications, or that these will get into the hands of the Soviet Union, and finally that the Chinese will copy the technology and sell it overseas in competition with the U.S.

Those engaged in China trade sometimes find it difficult to procure bank financing, because of the difficulty in getting hard currency out of China for repayment of loans, the credit risk of Chinese provinces and cities which now can work directly with foreign companies, and the increasing difficulty of getting loan guarantees from the Bank of China. On the other hand, Oregon bankers said that while China investments are more difficult to finance, normal trade with China is much the same as with other

countries.

Oregon companies showed some concern with the political situation in China, since last December's student demonstrations, but generally felt basic economic problems outweighed political ones.

CHINESE CONVERSATION CIRCLE

A fall Chinese Conversation Circle will convene in late October and run six weeks, one hour per week, until early December. Professor Charles Liu, who teaches Chinese at Portland State University, takes over leadership of the Conversation Circle from Tina Chang, Lewis and Clark College Chinese Instructor.

The Circle meets downtown after work (5:30 - 6:30 PM) on Thursdays, and offers a challenging and enjoyable opportunity for practice of Mandarin Chinese. Native speakers, usually students from Taiwan and China, join China Council members for talk on a variety of practical topics. The Circle is divided into small groups of three to eight, at three skill levels. For registration information, call Jane Larson at the China Council, 464-3049.

CHINA TOURS

The Northwest China Council, in cooperation with the Folkways Institute, offers two tours to China in 1988.

Waterways of China focuses on the central role of waterways as a communication and trade link. The tour will visit the Yellow River, Lake Tai, the famous gorges of the Yangtze River, the Grand Canal, the Li River, and important cities which lie on or near these water sources, including Shanghai, Suzhou, Wuxi, Hangzhou, Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Yichang, Wuhan, Guilin, and Guangzhou.

The trip lasts four weeks, leaving Portland August 24 and returning September 18. Steve Kosokoff, Portland State University professor who has lived for a year in Inner Mongolia and has led numerous China tours, will be tour leader. Cost, including airfare from Portland, is \$3,430.

A Culinary Tour of China will explore China's diverse and exotic regional cuisines. Participants will feast on six of China's most important cuisines: Cantonese, Fujianese, Lower Yangtze, Shandong, Beijing, and Sichuan. All aspects of food production and preparation from farms and fishing villages to culinary institutes, markets, and home kitchens will be observed.

The three week tour will leave Portland October 14 and return November 5, 1988. Cities visited include Hong Kong, Fuzhou, Shanghai, Suzhou, Yantai, Beijing, and Chengdu. Tina Chang, instructor of Chinese language at Lewis and Clark College and graduate of Taiwan's famous Pei Mei cooking school, will lead the tour. Cost including airfare from Portland, is \$3,155.

For information contact Karen at Folkways Institute, (503)653-5882 x. 20, or 1-800-255-4666 in Oregon, 1-800-547-7400 outside Oregon, or contact the China Council, 464-3049.

BOOKS IN THE NEWS

J. G. Ballard, Empire of the Sun. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1984. 375 pp. \$4.50 softcover.

Empire of the Sun is J. G. Ballard's fictional account of his experiences in Shanghai during World War II. A young boy at the time, Ballard was separated from his parents when the Japanese attacked the International Settlement on December 7, 1941, just

hours before Pearl Harbor. He spent the next three years at the Lunghua C.A.C. internment center with other foreign nationals captured by the Japanese.

The story opens on a Sunday, December 7, in Shanghai, as the 11-year-old British lad, Jim, is returning from Sunday church services. He is the son of a British businessman, and Shanghai is the only home he has ever known. The day's plans include a Christmas party, and in the early afternoon the family sets out, unaware that their entire world will be thrown violently and horrifyingly awry before they will ever return together as a family to their house on Amherst Avenue.

Young Jim is quite interested in the war--not afraid of it-- and studies in earnest the many manifestations it presents in Shanghai with the almost ghoulish indifference that young children can show to death and destruction, even when it touches them personally.

The Christmas party breaks up, and as Jim and his family are returning home, the Japanese ship, Idzumo, anchored in Shanghai harbour, opens fire on the British and American ships and Japanese troops enter the International Settlement and French Concession, taking British and American prisoners. In the ensuing melee, Jim becomes separated from his parents, suffers a concussion from the explosions, and finds himself in a hospital with other suddenly-orphaned children.

Jim leaves the hospital and spends weeks roaming Shanghai, trying to find his parents and, increasingly more important, trying to stay alive. He meets up with two unsavory American scavengers, Basie and Frank, who have escaped the Japanese net, and who are selling everything they can find, from brass fittings from the blown up ships to gold teeth wrenched from the corpses they find floating in the Whampoa River. They even attempt to sell Jim but

are unsuccessful. Escaping from Basie and Frank, Jim finally is able to surrender himself to the Japanese, the only move he figures will keep him safe and give him any chance to find his parents.

The ensuing three years become a sometimes pleasant, sometimes animal existence for Jim, who is sent first to a detention center for those about to die and then to the Lunghua internment center. Chronically ill from lack of proper food and water, Jim manages to survive with the resilience that his youth affords him. He learns that survival depends on cunning and guile and ruthlessness, traits that in this particular situation seem not only appropriate, but perhaps also even noble, for it is Jim who carries a large portion of the camp's well-being upon his shoulders. Finally, the war ends, Jim is reunited with his parents, and soon returns "home" to an England he has never seen.

J. G. Ballard's seemingly simple story is a powerful statement on the horrors of war, and the legacy of the "white flash of Nagasaki." Ballard, whose other works include The Unlimited Dream Company and Short Stories, obviously was profoundly affected by the war he experienced as a young child in Shanghai, and the life he led in the "Empire of the Sun."

Ballard's writing stuns the reader with its powerfully evocative imagery. As a contemporary who also was born and lived in Shanghai before the War, stated, "as I read the words, the smells of Shanghai came back to me as if I were suddenly there." Jim's rite of passage to adulthood is subtly illuminated, allowing the reader to understand that this child is somehow being molded, along with the rest of civilization, into a world that for generations to come will be affected by the events that took place within the shores of what the author calls "this terri-

ble city," Shanghai.

Empire of the Sun is available in hardcover or paperback at all local bookstores. Last year in Shanghai, Steven Spielberg was working on a film version of the book, which will premiere in December.

Catherine M. Curtin

EATING CHINESE STYLE

This recipe was prepared by China Council Board Member Tina Chang as part of a 1984 Chinese Cooking class she taught for the China Council. It is an easy recipe for beginners in Chinese cooking, but is authentic in taste and style.

Family-Style Bean Curd (Canton)

Ingredients:

- 4 cakes bean curd (3" x 3")
- 4 C. vegetable oil
- 3 oz. ground pork
- 1 t. minced ginger
- 1 T. mashed or minced garlic
- 1 T. hot bean paste
- 1 t. sugar
- 1 t. sesame oil
- ½ C. soup stock
- 1 T. cornstarch } make paste
- 1 T. water }
- 1 T. chopped green onion

Procedure:

1. Slice each bean curd cake sideways through the middle into two 1½" squares. Cut each of these squares diagonally into two triangles, then cut each of these triangles into two more triangles.
2. Heat the oil in the pan. Fry bean curd until it is golden. Remove the bean curd from the pan and reduce oil to 2 T.
3. Heat the 2 T. of oil in the pan. Stir fry the ground pork. Then add garlic, ginger and the hot bean paste. Finally add the soup stock and bean curd.

4. Cover the pan and cook over low heat for a few minutes, being careful that the bean curd does not stick to the pan. Add the salt and sugar. Thicken the sauce with the cornstarch paste. Sprinkle the green onion on top. Place on a platter and it's ready to serve.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This issue was prepared by Catherine Curtin, Mel Gurtov, Judy Kliks, Jane Larson, George Lee, Christy O'Quinn, and Ann Wetherell

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 1 "READ LAO TZU:" Course in Classical Chinese, based on the Tao Te Ching, no previous study of Chinese required. 7 - 9 PM, Thur., near PSU; \$75 per term (+fees). Information: 225-8838 or 233-9463 (6-9 PM).
- 3 - 4 LECTURE ON CHINESE MEDICINE: Dr. Wenwei Xie of the Beijing Traditional Chinese Medical School will present a series of lectures sponsored by the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, 11231 SE Market St. Registration & Information: 253-3443.
- 4 CHINESE FOOD FAIRE: A Chinese buffet from 50 restaurants, sponsored by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance & the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. 4 - 7 PM, World Forestry Center - Miller Hall; \$25. Information: 224-4082.
- 6 QIGONG COURSE: Offered by visiting Prof. Laidi Chen, sponsored by Linfield College, International Studies Programs. 7:30 - 8 AM, Tues. and 5 - 5:30 PM, Thur., Linfield College - Murdock Hall. Information: 472-4121 ext. 222.
- 7 - Dec. 2 "THE NORTH PACIFIC COMMUNITY:" Colloquium in International Studies, sponsored by PSU Intl. Studies Dept. Noon every Wed., 53 Cramer Hall, PSU; Free. Information: 464-3917, Prof. Basil Dmytryshyn.
- 6 - Dec. 8 THE CHINESE EDUCATION SYSTEM: Workshop series with Dr. Cai Yu Yu. Historical overview of elementary and secondary education in China, sponsored by PSU - DCE, and the School of Education. 4:30 - 7:30 PM, 382 Neuberger Hall, PSU. Registration and Information: 464-4670.
- 8 - 9 CHINESE TECHNICAL & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Discusses the reconstruction of Chinese secondary education to accommodate vocational and technical courses. Sponsored by PSU - DCE and the School of Education. 4:30 - 7:30 PM, Thur. and 8:30 - 4:30 Fri., 402 School of Education, PSU. Registration & Information: 464-4670.
- 31 OREGON WORLD INFORMATION FAIR: Multi-theme conference on international information resources, sponsored by the Oregon International Council and the International Trade Institute. 9 - 3 PM, Smith Center, PSU; \$15. Information: 378-4960.

November

- 1 FUJIAN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM: Application deadline for study abroad program at Fujian Teachers University in Fuzhou (Jan. 1 - June 14, 1987). Sponsored by the Oregon State System of Higher Education. Information: 754-2394, Christine Sproul.
- 6 - 8 ACUPUNCTURE CONFERENCE: Explore oriental medicine with distinguished lectures and authors. Sponsored by the Acupuncture Association of Washington. South Campus Center, University of Washington. Registration & Information: (206) 545-3530.
- 12 - 14 THE CHINESE EXPERIENCE: Course covering higher education in China and examining such aspects as; structure, degrees, funding and administration in the Chinese education system. Sponsored by PSU - DCE and the School of Education. 4:30 - 7:30 PM, Thur., and 8:30 - 4:30 Sun., 402 School of Education, PSU. Registration & Information: 464-4670.
- 13 - 14 CHINA IN THE CLASSROOM: Seminar on teaching about China sponsored by the Oregon International Council and Lane County Educational Services District. Fri. & Sat. PM, Lane ESD, Eugene; \$25. Information: 689-6500, Marilyn Olson.
- 14 ANNUAL ART AUCTION: Featuring contemporary Northwest art, traditional Asian art, folk art and dinner, sponsored by The Wing Luke Asian Museum. 5 PM, Seattle University's Campion Ballroom; \$20. Information: (206) 623-5124.
- 16 - 17 CHINA IN THE CLASSROOM: Seminar on teaching about China sponsored by the Oregon International Council and Marion County Educational Services District. Fri. & Sat. PM, Marion County ESD, Salem; \$25. Information: 588-5330, Mary Covey.

BECOME A CHINA COUNCIL ASSOCIATE

You may combine World Affairs Council membership with associateship in the China Council, or become a China Council associate only.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Occupation (s) _____

Special Interest in China _____

I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:

_____ Events _____ Office Work
_____ Publicity _____ Fundraising
_____ Hosting/Escorting Speakers _____ Recruiting Associates
_____ Programming

Please circle the option you wish and enclose a check to "World Affairs Council for NWRCC"

	Individual	Family	Retired	Student
I wish to join the World Affairs Council as a China Council associate	\$45	\$55	\$30	\$25
I wish to become a China Council associate only	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
I am a current member of the World Affairs Council and wish to be a China Council associate	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

The Northwest Regional Council is formed to deepen public understanding of China's history, culture, and contemporary affairs (in the People's Republic, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and among Chinese-Americans). Our events are held all over Oregon and in Southwestern Washington and include exhibitions, lectures, conferences, tours, and business seminars. The Northwest China Council is an independent non-profit corporation and one of twelve regional China councils in the U.S. affiliated with The Asia Society.

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World Affairs Council of Oregon
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