

# China Council Quarterly



美國西北區中國協會

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL 102 NW 4TH AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97209 (503) 973-5451



China's Western Neighbors

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## FROM the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Behind The Chinese American Experience

A recent article in The Oregonian (Dec. 24, Portland Metro, pg.2) spotlighted the China Council and its 2002 lectures series, The Chinese American Experience: Old and New Voices. The article, written by Oregonian reporter Angie Chuang, provided some historical background about the Council, but its overriding theme was that, for the coming year, we had shifted our focus closer to home, and were dedicating a lecture series to considering the Chinese American Experience. To emphasize the point, a bold, top-of-the-page, headline announced: China Council shifts focus toward U.S. issues.

I must admit that, when I first encountered the piece, the headline had an odd ring to it. For one thing, as a statement it seemed to be expressing surprise, as if the Coca-Cola company had shifted from cola to root beer, or Hung Far Low restaurant (our upstairs neighbor in Chinatown) had stopped serving its signature noodle dishes, and was suddenly offering pan-Asian pasta!

I think I know why I initially reacted this way: the headline reminded me that those of us who had conceived the project had to deal with the questions, is this work central to our mission? Will our membership and potential funding sources support the effort?

In the end, we decided Yes on both counts. For one thing, there were some striking numbers showing up in the 2000 U.S. census and in a poll that surveyed American attitudes toward Chinese Americans, which we summarized in the April-June 2001 issue of the China Council Quarterly.

The census numbers told us that, nationally, Chinese Americans are one of the fastest growing ethnic groups, increasing 48% in the past decade, and that Multnomah County is among the top counties in the nation (number 17) in respect to Chinese American population growth. Unlike the Chinese who began settling in Oregon in the middle to late 19th century, the new immigrants were coming from different parts of Greater China. They speak different dialects of Chinese, and are often highly educated upon arrival.

To explore the changing nature of Chinese American experience therefore seems not only timely but critical to understanding Oregon's Chinese community and the many ways that it has contributed, and will continue to contribute, to enriching the statewide and national culture.

But what does this have to do with China? As we considered the value of dedicating so much time and resources to this project, I came across the following words by Mr. Eric Liu in his book, The Accidental Asian.

Liu writes: To be an American conjoined by blood and myth to a gigantic Asian country stirring from its slumber is to experience an odd, foreboding exhilaration. Opportunity and threat are entangled beyond distinction.

Mr. Liu's observation suggested to me that there are many paths, worth exploring, which lead us to China, and that some of those paths start here, close to home.

I encourage you to attend the events we have scheduled over the next several months and look forward to receiving your suggestions, comments, and support in 2002 and beyond.

Finally, none of this would have been realized without the support of The Collins Foundation, The Oregon Council for the Humanities, and The Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust, who provided financial support for this project. Happy Year of the Horse!

*Rosario Agliatoro*

## CHINA COUNCIL NEWS

### Remembering Shelton Low

Mr. Shelton Low, a long-time member of the Portland Chinese American community, died on October 27th. Born in China, he immigrated with his family to the United States and grew up in the Portland area. During the 1940s, Mr. Low served with distinction as a photographer with the legendary Flying Tigers in China. When he returned to Portland, he served as a board member of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and the Chinese American Veterans Association, and more recently with the Chinese Scientists, Professionals and Engineers Association of Oregon. Shelton and his wife Isabella were also members of the China Council. A scholarship fund has been set in Shelton's memory. If you would like to make a contribution, please call Shirley Yee at 503 644-3888 or Gloria Wong at 503 236-7966.

### China and The New World Crisis

On October 25, Professor Jonathan Adelman of Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver, considered China's potential role as a U.S. ally, or antagonist, in The War Against Terrorism in a talk at the Governor Hotel. Adelman, who has served as a liaison for the American Embassy to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, noted that the Chinese were not thrilled to have a formidable U.S. military and intelligence gathering presence so close to China's western border, and that the Chinese would, true to form, be extremely cautious while determining their role in the alliance.

## China Council Annual Meeting

The Council held its annual membership meeting on November 8th with journalist William Wong at Good Day Restaurant. Wong, author of *Yellow Journalist: Dispatches from Asian America*, talked about his career as a journalist when few Asian Americans were in the business and provided his take on the role that Asian Americans are playing in the contemporary media. Wong was introduced by Amy Wang, a reporter with *The Oregonian*, representing the Portland chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association, which co-sponsored the event with the China Council. Wong's talk was the inaugural event in the series, *Chinese American Experience: Old & New Voices*. Information on other events in the series is below in the Events Calendar.

## Challenges Facing Chinese Women

On November 27th and 28th, Beijing Foreign Studies University professor Wang Jiayang gave two highly informative lectures on the range of challenges that women living in rural China have faced as their men folk increasingly look for work in China's cities. Wang spoke at Linfield College and at Portland State University.

## Nike in China

The Council's December 5th CBN luncheon at the House of Louie featured Todd Larime McKean, Nike's director of Compliance Programs and Services. Nike recently released its first Corporate Responsibility Report, which included information on its global labor compliance efforts. Mr. McKean talked about how Nike designed and implemented the program. He also talked about cycling; he is a fervent enthusiast.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Old Town-Chinatown Streetscape Plan

The Portland Development Commission's Third and Fourth Avenue Streetscape Project for the Old Town-Chinatown neighborhood sponsored a public open house on December 6th at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Hall at 315 NW Davis.

Two public sessions were held: one in the afternoon and another in the evening. Among the attendees were city leaders, business representatives, and Chinese community stakeholders. A traditional lion dance preceded the open house.

This phase of the streetscape plan is concerned with the street environment along Third and Fourth Avenues from W. Burnside to NW Hoyt Street. The final product will be a design plan for physical improvements to streets, sidewalks and building frontages, aimed at enhancing the image of the community, and at contributing to its

economic and social health. The plan will be developed through a participatory process involving input from residents, stakeholders, and other interested citizens. The project is being conducted by the Portland Development Commission, SRG Partnership, and Nevue Ngan Associates. The next open house is scheduled for February 9th at the CCBA Hall. For further information please call 503-222-1919 or visit [www.otctstreetscape.com](http://www.otctstreetscape.com).

### Chinese Garden New Year's Activities

The Portland Classical Chinese Garden has scheduled a range of interesting activities to herald in the Year of the Horse. They begin on February 12th and run through March 3rd, and include a plant sale, arts and crafts demonstrations and exhibits, martial arts demonstrations, lion dancing, a puppet show, and a Lantern Festival parade. Detailed information will be available in the PCCG newsletter, at [www.portlandchinesegarden.org](http://www.portlandchinesegarden.org), or by calling 503 228-8131.

### Chinese Service Center Broadens Mission

Portland's Chinese Service Center, located at SE 35th Place and Powell Blvd., marked its 18th anniversary in early December by announcing a name change and a broader mission to some 400 people at an anniversary and fund-raising banquet in Chinatown.

Dr. Erik Szeto, chairman of the board, told the audience that this was the last year to celebrate the anniversary of the

**Have an Elegant Time**  
at our

**Year of the Horse**  
**Auction & Dinner**

and

**Help Us Raise the Rent!**

**Saturday February 16**  
at the  
**Governor Hotel**

**RSVP to 503 973-5451**

Illustration by Willow Zheng 2002

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Chinese Service Center. From now on the agency will be the Asian Health and Service Center, focusing on the entire Asian-American community.

Its present services health, senior citizens, and English classes in Cantonese and Mandarin will be broadened to include a variety of Asian languages, including Korean, Hmong, and other Southeast Asian languages. The Korean Society of Oregon and other Asian organizations have supported the center's new direction.

Since moving to its present location in 1999, the center has grown dramatically. It now serves 9,000 people annually with various services from tai chi and exercise classes to immersion preschool, a mental health program, and citizenship classes.

Executive director Holden Leung said Asians in the community want to build stronger ties. But establishing services in all Asian languages and dialects spoken in Portland will take time. Fortunately the center's past working models and its current support from other Asians will help the agency realize its new mission in the future.

For more information, call (503) 872-8822.

### **Center Ministers to Portland Area Chinese**

Portland Gospel Center, launched in February 2001 with the support of local Chinese Christian pastors and churches, will mark its first anniversary with the appointment of a permanent, full-time director, Rev. Lyris Yip, a Hong Kong native and former pastor of the Chinese Grace Baptist Church in Beaverton.

The center is located at 1410 SE 39th Ave. Ministries of the Portland Gospel Center include English as a Second Language, computer classes, music instruction, and bible studies. For more information, call 503-236-2223.

## **EVENTS CALANDER**

### **China and the Changing Identities of the Chinese in the Diaspora - January 17**

A talk by Professor L. Ling-chi Wang Director of Asian American Studies University of California, Berkeley

Pick any Asian American civil rights cause during the past three decades and UC Berkeley professor L. Ling-chi Wang is bound to have a finger in it. \* He has championed bilingual education in public schools, helped fight the height requirement that prevented many Asian Americans in San Francisco from becoming police officers and firefighters, and recently played a key role as a strategist for Wen Ho Lee, the former Los Alamos scientist charged with espionage.

\* K. Connie Kang, in LA Times profile of Ling-chi Wang, 7/ 6/ 200, B9

Where: Reed College, Psychology Auditorium  
Reed College is located at SE 28th and Woodstock Avenues

When: Thursday, January 17th, 7-8:30 PM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by the NW China Council and Reed College, with support from The Collins Foundation and The Oregon Council for the Humanities.

### **Chinese New Year Fair - February 2, 3**

The 2002 Year of the Horse New Year's Cultural Fair will take place at the Leggin Restaurant Banquet Hall on the weekend of February 2nd (11 AM-6 PM) and 3rd (10 AM-5 PM). This is the third annual cultural fair. Food booths, exhibits, games, children's activities, and talent shows will highlight the event marking the arrival of the Chinese Spring Festival, which begins on February 12th and ends with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the festival.

Admission is \$1, for more information, call 503-771-9560.

Sponsored by the Portland Chinese Times and the Hong Kong Club, with support from the Bank of America and other commercial sponsors.

### **American NGOs in Greater Tibet February 6**

A talk by the US Consul General, Chengdu

Consul General Bleyle will talk about the work of a number of American organizations engaged in poverty alleviation, health care, educational assistance and restoration of monasteries in the Tibetan Autonomous Region and ethnically Tibetan regions of Sichuan, Yunnan, Qinghai and Gansu, areas covered by the US Consulate in Chengdu.

We are still working on a venue and time for the event. Details will be posted at [nwchina.org](http://nwchina.org) or available by calling 503 973-5451 after January 15th.

### **YEAR of the HORSE AUCTION & DINNER February 16 at the Governor Hotel**

We hope you received an invitation to join us to celebrate the Year of the Horse, elegantly, at the Governor Hotel. This is the Council's number one fundraising event and an opportunity for you to bid on some interesting and unique items during the silent and live auction. To further entice you, the Governor Hotel is offering a special room rate for guests who would like to extend the reveling (and horse around).

Invitations, with all the details, were recently sent to people on our mailing list. If you would like one, or several to send to your friends, give us a call and we will respond promptly. Detailed information is also available at [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org).

## **Unbound Feet, Unbound Voices-March 5**

With Judy Yung, Chair of the American Studies Department, University of California, Santa Cruz

Professor Yung's talk will use personal stories and photographs to document the lives, thoughts, and feelings of Chinese women as they made a place for themselves and their families in San Francisco from the Gold Rush years through War II. The talk is based on the research that Yung did for her two books, *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*, and *Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*.

Where: Portland State University, Smith Memorial Center, Room 327  
Smith Memorial Center is located at SW Broadway and Harrison Streets  
When: Tuesday, March 5th, 7-8:30 PM  
Cost: Free

Sponsored by the NW China Council, Portland State University, and Washington State University, Vancouver, with support from The Collins Foundation and The Oregon Council for the Humanities.

## **Sweet Cakes, Long Journey: The Urban Pattern of Portland Oregon's First Chinatown-April 8**

With Marie Rose Wong, Seattle University

Before the turn of the 20th Century and for many years after, Oregon had the second largest population of Chinese in the United States, and Portland served as a major port of entry and home to a substantial Chinese community. Professor Wong will explore some of the reasons for Portland's unique urban development and examine the contributions that Portland's Chinatown had on the development of its Chinese American community.

Where: To be announced  
When: Monday, April 8, 7-8:30 PM  
Cost: Free

## **CHINA TOURS**

The best laid plans of mice and tour operators occasionally come undone. This is the case with the **China Council Spring 2002** China tour, first advertised in the July-September 2001 Quarterly. We regret that we were not able to put all the pieces together in time to create a tour that we were satisfied with. Below is information on two Spring season China tours being offered locally. We hope to be announcing some unique Council tour opportunities soon.

## **PCC Educational Trip Best of China**

**March 20-29, 2002**

Join Portland Community College to see and experience the best China has to offer. Focus on the culture and history of China, while traveling to Beijing, Xian and Guilin. In Beijing visit the Forbidden City, Great Wall, the Ming Tombs, the Summer Palace, Tian An Men Square and the Beijing Opera. Travel on to Xian to see the archaeological site of the Terra Cotta Warriors. Then cruise the Li River in Guilin to experience the dramatic landscape and countryside of China. A free information session describing the trip will be held January 13, Sunday, 12 noon at the Lake Oswego Adult Center, 505 G. Avenue.

For details contact Sara Bentley at 503-731-6622 or at [sbentley@pcc.edu](mailto:sbentley@pcc.edu).

## **China Garden Tour May 31-June 19, 2002**

With Reed College Professor Charles Wu And PCCG Horticulturalist Jodi McDonald  
China Garden Tour 2002 is designed to answer the demand for an in-depth experience of Chinese gardens in their native cultural settings, an experience that is both educational and aesthetic. The tour group will visit two major types of classical Chinese gardens: imperial gardens in the Beijing area and the scholar gentry's gardens in the Yangtze River delta.  
Contact: Blake Van Roekel at 503 228-8131

## **CHINA COUNCIL LANGUAGE CLASSES**

The schedule for Winter Term language classes (January 7- March 11) was mailed to Council members, and posted on our web site, in December 2001. The next 10-week class cycle will begin in late March or early April.

Information on China Council language class offerings is also posted at [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org) or is available by calling 503 973-5451.

## **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Year of the Snake may not be soon forgotten by people who follow China and China-U.S. relations. Below, a few selected highlights from the year that was.

**January:** Leading U.S. conservatives called on President Bush to make human rights, religious freedom and democracy priorities for American foreign policy. The group singled out a few places the administration should apply this approach, including mass religious persecution in China against Uighur Muslims, Christians, Tibetan Buddhists and Falun Gong adherents.

**February:** The State Department released a report concluding that despite several years of American

economic engagement with China, the human rights situation there had worsened significantly, with intensified crackdowns on religious organizations, political dissenters and any person or group perceived to threaten the government.

**March:** The Chinese Foreign Ministry accused an American University-based scholar, Ms Gao Zhan, of acting as a paid spy for overseas intelligence agencies. By mid-April, other scholars, including a U.S. citizen, were detained and tried for espionage. (They were found guilty, sentenced, and later paroled or expelled from China.)

The day after Gao Zhan was accused of espionage, a US congressional committee approved a non-binding resolution urging Olympics organizers to reject China's bid to host the Games in 2008, citing concerns about Beijing's human rights record.

**April:** On April 1, a United States Navy spy plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet that was closely tailing it. The midair crash occurred about 50 miles southeast of China's Hainan Island. The American plane made an emergency landing in China. On April 12, after the U.S. apologized, the crew left China.

**May:** On May 6, a U.S. Air Force plane flew the first reconnaissance flight off China's coast since the April 1 collision between a Navy spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet.

Chen Shui-bian began the highest-profile visit to the United States by a Taiwanese president. He met with New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at Manhattan's Waldorf-Astoria hotel. When President Jiang Zemin visited New York in 1997, Mr Giuliani refused to see him.

**June:** Jiang Zemin met his Russian counterpart, Vladimir V. Putin, in Shanghai to forge a stronger alliance against Islamic militancy in Central Asia and American dominance around the world, under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Member countries are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

China and the United States agreed on the return of the American spy plane stuck for more than two months on China's Hainan Island.

**July:** China sent the United States a bill for US\$1 million to cover personnel and other expenses incurred during the three months the US Navy reconnaissance plane spent on Chinese soil. On July 13, the International Olympic Committee selected China as the host for the 2008 Summer Games. Despite considerable international concerns over China's human rights situation.

**August:** After rejecting Beijing's demand for \$1 million, the United States sent China \$34,576 to pay for support of the U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft crippled after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet in April. China rejected the offer.

On the 80th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, President Jiang Zemin announced that the CCP would accept private entrepreneurs into its ranks. The rationale for expanding the membership of the party was contained in a new theory, attributed to Mr. Jiang, and referred to as the Three Representatives. It proposes that the Communist Party represents the interests of advanced forces of production, advanced culture and the interests of the broad masses.

**September:** In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the US, China took the unusual step of contacting by phone other major countries, including all other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to make known its position on the war on terrorism. China made it clear that it hoped the United States would give its support to China's campaign against terrorists in the far-western Muslim region of Xinjiang.

**October:** President Bush made his first trip to China since his inauguration to attend the APEC ministerial in Shanghai. The APEC meeting brought together leaders from 21 Asian-Pacific nations to discuss economic and political issues affecting the region. The leaders discussed anti-terrorism efforts in addition to vital global trade issues.

**November:** A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said ten organizations based in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Xinjiang were committed to overthrowing Chinese rule in the western region. He further stated that Afghanistan provided training for two groups and hundreds were linked to bin Laden and his network.

**December:** On December 11, China became the 143rd member of the World Trade Organization.

On December 27, President Bush granted permanent normal trade status to China, calling it a final step in normalizing U.S.-China trade relations, thus terminating the 1974 Jackson-Vanik law that forbids normal trade relations with communist states that restrict emigration.

**Postscript:** In November 2001, Lieutenant Shane Osborn, the American pilot who crash-landed his EP-3 spy plane on Hainan Island, toured the U.S. to promote his book, *Born to Fly: The Untold Story of the Downed American Reconnaissance Plane*.

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NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL'S mission is to be a bridge between the people of the Pacific Northwest and the Chinese world (China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong) in order to promote greater understanding of Chinese culture and contemporary affairs; to be an educational and informational resource; and to provide a forum on issues in Pacific Northwest-Chinese relations. It is a non-profit organization primarily supported by its members.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**What happened to the apostrophes, Italics and quotation marks?**

They were present before the *Quarterly* went to the printer but had disappeared when it returned. The China Council apologizes for this strange happening.