



China Council Quarterly



美國西北區中國協會

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL

102 NW 4TH AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97209

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We're Moving (Around the Corner)

Over the past couple of months we have been talking with the Portland Classical Chinese Garden about the possibility of sharing administrative space beginning in April 2003, and planned to include a definitive announcement in this edition of the China Quarterly. Though there are still a few details to work on, we are quite confident that we will be moving as scheduled.

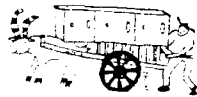
Our main reason for doing so is a simple one: we need more space. Since relocating to Chinatown in 1998, the Council has been operating in cramped quarters. It has been difficult for us to comfortably conduct language classes, accommodate volunteers and interns, and hold meetings with more than a handful of people. Finding off-site spaces for these activities has been inconvenient and sometimes costly.

In the new location at the SW corner of NW 3rd and Davis (formerly the Kida Building) we will have access to affordable office space, program and meeting rooms, and be able to accommodate volunteers and interns.

Please understand that we will continue to operate as an independent entity and will continue to offer the unique programs and services that we are known for. As always, we will need the support of the Northwest China Council's membership to do so.

Further details regarding the move will be posted on our web site as soon as possible. Happy Year of the Ram!

—Rosario Aglioloro



Antonia Aglioloro

CHINA COUNCIL NEWS

Chinese New Year Auction & Banquet

The Year of the Ram arrives on February 1st. The Council will celebrate the new lunar year on February 22nd at the Great China Seafood Restaurant in Portland Chinatown. This is our 13th auction-dinner event. We hope you will join us for our most important fundraising event.

We will also be honoring a Portland Chinese American community institution, the Yat Sing Music Club, as recipients of the Flying Horse Award for Distinguished Community Service. The Yat Sing Music Club is the oldest traditional Chinese music group in Portland. They will be performing at the event.

For reservations and information about how to donate something to the live and silent auctions, please call 503 973-5451.

Taste of the Silk Road

On December 4th and 6th, Silk Road culture and history came alive in our community with two presentations by Silk Road experts, collectively titled: "When Strangers Meet: Food and Culture Along the Silk Road."

Professor Daniel Waugh's December 4th slide presentation at the Whitsell Auditorium in the Portland Art Museum focused on the geographic and cultural landscapes of Central Asia. Waugh, a professor of history and international studies at the University of Washington, has been collaborating with the California-based Silk Road Foundation on a number of projects, including the development of a first-rate Silk Road web site, that can be explored at www.uwch.org/silkroad.

The December 6th event, held at Hoffman Hall, Portland State University, included presentations by Professor Kazem Tehrani and Najmieh Batmanglij; a wonderful musical prelude by Framarz Mehrdadar on daf (drum) and Hamid Habibian, on santur (hammered dulcimer); and an artfully prepared and very delicious post-lecture buffet prepared by Mina Najmabadi.

The featured guest was Mrs. Batmanglij, whose most recent book, *Silk Road Cooking, A Vegetarian Journey*, was compiled after several years research, and extensive travel, in Central Asia and China. Mrs. Batmanglij talked about the interesting culinary connections between Silk Road food traditions, such as similar and different approaches used by Chinese and Iranians and Italians when making a dumpling or spicing up a meal. (continued on page 2, top left)



Yat Sing Music Club will perform at the New Year's Auction & Banquet.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The audience also learned a good deal about the many wonders of pomegranates (a key ingredient in Persian cooking), and how to neatly peel and extract its juice and seeds. Mrs. Batmanglij also shared her theory (based on extensive research and a pinch of bias) that neither the Chinese nor the Italians invented noodles: it was the Persians.

Signed copies of *Silk Road Cooking* are available from Looking Glass Books in Portland. Information on Mrs. Batmanglij can be found at www.mage.com. If you are interested in hosting your own Silk Road feast, please call Mina's Catering at 503 794-3990.

This undertaking would not have been possible without the support of the following co-sponsoring organizations and individuals: Professor Kazem Tehrani and Mr. Masoud Jourabchi of Persia House at Portland State University (www.persia.pdx.edu); Mr. Mamal Yeganeh of Andisheh (www.andisheh.org), the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Portland State University (www.intl.pdx.edu), and the Asian Art Council of the Portland Art Museum.

A special thanks to China Council volunteers Shu-Ju Wang and Sarah Auker for all their help in coordinating the Silk Road Foods program, and to Antonia Agliatoro, Brian Auker, Seth Blowers, Vaunda Carter, Shireen Farrahi, Matia Kelly, John Wong and Willow Zheng for their assistance at the event.

Generous support for this project was provided by the Oregon Council for the Humanities.



Hot Pot Delights Night

The weather could not have been better for our first "Hot Pot Delights Night" at Mandarin House on October 30. It was chilly outside but just right inside for what turned out to be a very tasty, and informative, evening for exploring the wonders of hot pot cuisine. For many of our guests, this was their first encounter with *huo guo* (literally, "fire pot") cuisine, in which properly prepared food morsels are immersed into spiced boiling water and after a bit of cooking are ready to eat. It was a warm and fulfilling experience, and we will certainly be doing this again in the not too distant future.



Najmieh Batmanglij (seated) with (r to l) Mina Najmabadi, Diane Tehrani, Kazem Tehrani, Rosario Agliatoro, Masoud Jourabchi and Sarah Jourabchi at the Silk Road Foods event.

Minority Cultures of Northwest China—March 5

China's far Northwest, particularly the autonomous region known as *Xinjiang* (or New Territory), is home to several minority groups who, in terms of ethnicity and religion, have more in common with people living in Central Asia than they do with the Han Chinese of China Proper. Stephen Wadley, an associate professor of Chinese at Portland State University will talk about linguistic, religious and cultural aspects of these peoples, who include Uighurs, and Kazakhs.

When: Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 PM
Where: Central Library, US Bank Meeting Room
801 SW 10th Avenue, Portland
Cost: Free

China's Korea Gambit—March 8

It is universally felt that China must play an important role in the current crisis on Korean peninsula, where the potential for a major conflict exists.

Portland State University political scientist Mel Gurtov has closely followed Asian security issues and the Korean situation in particular. Professor Gurtov will consider the Bush Administration's Korea strategy, the background to the controversy over nuclear weapons, the North and South Korean responses, and China's stake in it all.

Mel Gurtov is author of several books on Chinese and Korean affairs, including most recently *Pacific Asia? Prospects for Security and Cooperation in East Asia* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2001). He is a frequent visitor to South Korea and China, and is Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly journal, *Asian Perspective*.

When: Saturday, March 8, 6:30 PM
Where: New Seoul Garden Restaurant
8635 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Portland
Cost: \$20 China Council and Korea Society of Oregon members; \$25 general (cost includes dinner)

Sponsored by the Northwest China Council and the Korea Society of Oregon

Dim Sum in the Dark—March 28

The popularity of the Council's Noodle Night and Hot Pot food events has encouraged us to explore yet another galaxy of the Chinese culinary cosmos. Join us at Good Day Restaurant to sample a variety of dim sum delicacies, such as *shredded chicken fun roll*, *shrimp har gow*, *stuffed eggplant*, *sticky rice in lotus leaf*, *steamed chicken feet in black bean sauce*, to name but a few. Good Day's Hong Kong-trained dim sum chef will also show us how to make some of these delectable foods.

We know that, traditionally, dim sum is more of a brunch food than a dinner food, but we think it will taste just as good after the sun sets (and the no-host bar rises).

When: Friday, March 28, 6:30 PM
Where: Good Day Restaurant, 312 NW Couch in Chinatown
Cost: \$15 China Council members; \$20 general
RSVP required by March 27.
For a reservation, call 503 973-5451.

CHINA BUSINESS NETWORK

Dave Sharp, vice-president of Columbia Machine in Vancouver, Washington, was the featured guest at the Council's December CBN luncheon. Dave shared information regarding his professional career in international sales and business development, and on Columbia's experience in entering and establishing operations in its most important developing market: China.

Columbia Machine is a world leader in the manufacture and sale of industrial equipment that employs approximately 500 employees, and maintains offices throughout the world, including offices in Beijing and Shanghai.

On January 8th, Pulitzer Prize winning international business reporter **Richard Read** and Oregonian business reporter **Ted Sickinger** provided an excellent overview of China's emergence onto the microchip manufacturing scene and implications for Northwest manufacturers. Read, a senior writer for international business affairs at *The Oregonian*, talked about his recent trip to China where he visited production facilities.

Sickinger, an expert on chips and high technology, provided some very interesting technical information about the difficulties of staying competitive, and profitable, in the industry, and assessed China's potential to assume a cutting-edge position in this field.

For upcoming CBN luncheon events in February and March, check www.nwchina.org or call 503 973-5451.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

About Our Language Students & Teacher

The China Council has provided opportunities for speaking and studying *guo yu*, or standard Chinese (Mandarin) since 1980, when it offered its first Chinese Conversation Circle. In 1990, the Council began offering Chinese language classes, according to our present language teacher, Willow Zheng, who has been teaching for the Council since 1999. About 70 students have studied with Willow, with over 50 students participating beyond the beginner's level class.

People who attend China Council language classes have a variety of interests. Some regularly travel to China on business and would like to possess some basic "survival skills." Others are China-bound to continue their language studies, or to travel or work. Some are American-born Chinese who did not learn Chinese when they were growing up.

The Chinese Conversation Corner has been occasionally meeting at Mandarin House Restaurant after some of the students suggested the idea of having a place where students could learn



Conversation Corner group with Mandarin House owners (left, standing).

about Chinese food culture, speak Chinese, and talk about China. The owners of Mandarin House—Mr. Cong and his wife Ming Xia—have been very supportive of the idea. Aside from cooking authentic Northern Chinese cuisine, they also spend time to join the conversation and to answer questions.

Council language teacher Willow Zheng was born in Shandong, China and grew up in Shaanxi Province in central China, where she studied at the Xian Academy of Fine Arts and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in 1987. Willow has also trained as a language teacher, initially in China and later in Portland. Her main goal as an artist and teacher is to open a window on Chinese culture and customs through language and art.

At present, the Northwest China Council offers a range of language classes from a beginner's class to an advanced TV and newspaper reading class. If you would like more information, please call 503 973-5451.

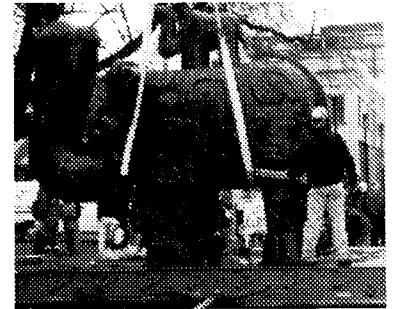
Excerpted from an article that originally appeared in the Portland Chinese Times, written in Chinese by Mr. E Guangcai, and translated by Willow Zheng

OF INTEREST

Da Tung & Xiang Bao Bao Installed in Park Blocks

Though it will be hard to top the presence of dozens of Chinese artisans in Portland not too long ago to assemble our majestic classical Chinese garden, the installation of a 6 ton bronze elephant (actually elephants) in December caused quite a bit of excitement.

The statue is a copy of a 2,700 year old Shang Dynasty bronze wine container that features a mother elephant with a baby elephant riding on her back and a small stylized tiger attached to the mother elephant's trunk. The copy is 16 times larger than the original.



The sculpture was donated by Mr. Huo Baozhu of Xian, China who worked with representatives from the City of Portland and the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) to bring the sculpture here.

A contest was organized by RACC to name the elephants. The winning name for the big elephant is *Da Tung*, which means "Universal Peace" and in Chinese also suggests "Big Bronze"; the winning name for the baby elephant is *Xiang Bao Bao*, literally "precious baby elephant."

Da Tung and Xiang Bao Bao can be found in the North Park Blocks just north of Burnside Street.

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NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL
102 NW 4th Avenue Portland, OR 97209
(T) 503 973-5451 (F) 503 973-5431
nwchina@spiritone.com

For regular updates of China Council events and classes please visit www.nwchina.org

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL

美國西北區中國協會

Established in 1980

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Membership Form

For Northwest China Council membership benefits information, visit www.nwchina.org or call (503) 973-5451.

Northwest China Council Members receive invitations to China Council events, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and discounts on admission fees and books.

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I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:
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Membership Category - Please check the category you wish:

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Card No. _____ Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

The Northwest China Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization primarily supported by its members. Our mission is to increase understanding of Chinese culture, contemporary affairs and business in "Greater China", i.e. China, Taiwan, Hong Kong SAR, and the Chinese diaspora.