



China Council Quarterly



美國西北區中國協會

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL

127 NW 3rd AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97209

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I can not recall a busier winter-spring period than this year's. Aside from all the activities generated by the "Year of the Golden Pig" celebrations, we hosted the *Music from China* ensemble, not for a single event but for several community wide happenings over a six day period. The music was delightful and the way it was presented allowed the audiences to interact with the musicians and learn something about Chinese classical and folk music traditions. It also allowed the Council to work with the "Everybody Reads" project sponsored by the Multnomah County Library. This year the project centered on the novel *Midnight at the Dragon Café* by Canadian author Judy Fong Bates who was in town for a lecture and reading. But what made the event extra special was a range of related activities: lectures on Chinese experience in North America, an exhibit at the PSU Library, book discussion groups, Chinese puppetry and much more. In short it was a community celebration at a most opportune moment and we are very proud to have been a part of it.

Bringing four musicians and their instruments from New York City to Portland for a five day stay could not have been accomplished without the support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council and partnering organizations who provided additional funding and in-kind support. They are all mentioned in the program notes on page 2, but I can not help but thank them again here. It was a most satisfying undertaking, one that confirms how culturally rich our community is. I look forward to the next adventure.

--Rosario Aglioloro

CHINA COUNCIL NEWS

2007 Chinese New Year Auction & Dinner

The China Council began the year of the "Golden Pig" with its 17th annual auction-dinner fundraiser, sponsored by HBSC Bank USA at Legin Restaurant and attended by more than 375 people. Approximately \$34,000 was raised, thanks to the generosity of businesses and individuals who donated all kinds of wonderful items. The complete list of donors is posted on at www.nwchina.org. Thank you ticket purchasers and donors for making this such a wonderful event.

As always, the success of the event depended upon the efforts of a first-rate team of volunteers. Many thanks to auction committee members Holly Benaman, Dave Bleyle, Laura Mattingly, Paul Millius, Lillian Tsai and John Wong, and to a terrific volunteer corps, including Antonia Aglioloro, Jake Bisuut, Lynne Cong, Matt Fildes, Trina Hing, David Kohl, Louis & Holly Lim, Jeanne Liu, Dennis Lee, Mike Mattingly, Robert Moon, Nesteren & Morgan Pintarich, Judy Poutasse, Serena and Nonny Ross, Ron Smith, Jane Stackhouse, Eric VanNaerssen, Michael Wallis and Issac Weitzhandler. A special thanks to Willow Zheng for all her help coordinating the volunteer effort and for designing (free of charge, as always) this year's invitation and event program and to Mae Jean Yue for donating a very special *bai shou tu* silk

Confucius Institute Formed at PSU

Portland State University and the Office of International Affairs have signed an agreement with the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (Hanban) to establish a Confucius Institute in Portland. The Chinese government funding that establishes Portland State's Confucius Institute will include a library materials grant, resources for hosting a visiting faculty member from Suzhou University (PSU's sister school in southwestern China), along with support for community outreach and development. Short courses in cultural awareness for business and travel are expected to be available as early as summer 2007. Meiru Liu, who teaches Chinese in the Master's of International Management at PSU, has been named director of the institute.

Confucius Institutes are being established worldwide to promote Chinese language and culture and to support Chinese teaching internationally. All Confucius Institutes are headquartered in Beijing. The first Confucius Institute opened in 2004 in Seoul, Korea, and many more have since been established in other countries. The Ministry of Education in China estimates that, by the year 2010, there will be approximately 100 million people worldwide learning Chinese as a foreign language.

China Council executive director Rosario Aglioloro has been invited to serve as an advisory board member of the PSU Institute.

For more information about the Confucius Institute at Portland State, please contact the Office of International Affairs, 503-725-5077.



Tibet in the 21st Century Dr. Lobsang Sangay (foreground, center right) with friends of the China Council at PSU on April 5. For information on Tibet lectures in May see page 3 of this newsletter.

Visit www.nwchina.org
for events information
and to learn more about the
China Council



PROGRAM NOTES

Northwest China Council helped bring in the Year of the Pig on a very high note with the Chinese music ensemble, **Music From China**. The ensemble, visiting from their home base in New York Chinatown, appeared in a number of events beginning with the Council's auction and dinner (Feb. 24), "mini-concerts" at three Multnomah County libraries (Feb. 24-25), a gala concert at the Portland Art Museum (Feb. 26) and a contemporary music recital at PSU (Feb. 27). The events were made possible with a generous grant from the Regional Arts and Culture Council, corporate support from ECD Inc. and the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine and the following co-sponsors: the Asian Art Council of the Portland Art Museum, Linfield College, Multnomah County Library, Portland State University School of Music and Sherman Clay Pianos.



Flutist Gao Renyang and Wang Guo Wei on erhu.

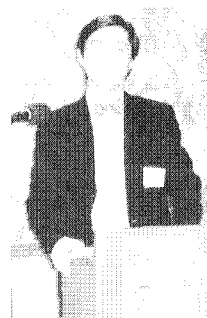
On March 14, the lecture series on **Tibet in the 21st Century** began with a lecture by **Melvyn Goldstein**, the renowned Tibetologist. Goldstein focused on the changes that he has witnessed in rural Tibet, which have been driven by China's rapid economic growth. On April 5, **Lobsang Sangay**, a research fellow at Harvard Law School, talked about the history of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue regarding Tibetan autonomy and the looming question of spiritual leadership when the current Dalai Lama dies.

The next program in the series is on May 8, with the geographer **Barbara Brower**. Please check the events calendar on page 3 of this newsletter for details.



Professor Goldstein and audience members at PSU, March 14

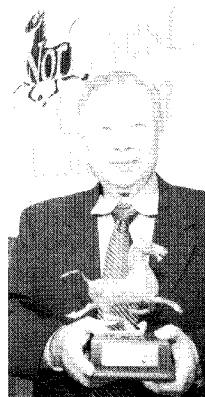
CHINA BUSINESS NETWORK



Wen Zhao

On March 7, **Wen Zhao**, an Associate Partner with Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP in Portland, shared his experiences of the unique challenges in taking on architectural projects in China. On April 4, Bank of the West's currency managers **Chris Fernandes** and **Steve Herrick** teamed up to explain the unique risks involved when doing "RMB business" and the methods that business people and bankers use to minimize this risk. Both events were held at the House of Louie Restaurant in Chinatown.

Celebrating the 2007 Chinese New Year: Auction & Dinner Fundraiser and *Music from China*



Scenes from the Celebration (top left to right): Robert Sang, center, accepting the "long-life" embroidered calligraphy; Robert with Flying Horse Award; guests at the silent auction book table (this year's selection was especially rich!); *Music from China's* Wang Guowei with pianist Susan Chan at PSU recital; MFC pipa master, Sun Li; Susan Cheng, MFC executive director and hammer dulcimer player, introducing a tune at the Central Library in downtown Portland. (Auction photos by Willow Zheng (left) and E Guangcai (center, right); MFC photos by R. Agliarolo)

CHINA COUNCIL EVENTS CALENDAR

Tibetan Peoples and Landscapes with Professor Barbara Brower

An introduction and overview of the worlds of Tibet--the Tibetan Plateau and its cultural extensions into surrounding territories including Nepal, India, Bhutan, and Los Angeles—through images by photographers from all over the world, presented by Professor Barbara Brower.



Barbara Brower is professor of geography at Portland State University, editor of *Himalaya*, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS) and co-editor of the soon to be published *Disappearing Peoples? Indigenous Groups and Ethnic Minorities in South and Central Asia* (Left Coast Press, May 2007)

When: Tuesday, May 8, 7PM
Where: Whitsell Auditorium, Portland Art Museum 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon
Cost: \$5; tickets are required and available in advance at museum box offices, online at portlandartmuseum.org, and at 503 226-0973.

Tibetan & Himalayan Digital Library with Professor David Germano

In 1998, Professor David Germano, an associate professor of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Virginia, began an initiative to create a repository of digital resources for Tibetan Studies. It has, over time, developed into the Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library (THDL, www.thdl.org) to facilitate interdisciplinary and collaborative work in Tibetan Studies.



Serving a wide range of communities, THDL publishes multilingual studies, multimedia learning resources, and creative works concerned with the area's environments, cultures, and histories.

Professor Germano will talk about the various initiatives that THDL is involved with.

When: Sunday, May 13, 7PM
Where: Maitripa Institute
1119 SE Market Street Portland, Oregon
Cost: Free

The Maitripa Institute is affiliated with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), www.fpmt.org.

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The State of Religion in Contemporary Tibet

Take part in a conversation – with distinguished guest speakers and with the audience – to discuss the current state of Tibetan Buddhism, inside and outside of Tibet. The speakers include:

Yangsi Rinpoche is the founder, President, and a professor at Maitripa Institute, a new Buddhist university in Portland. Rinpoche has been recognized as the reincarnation of Geshe Ngawang Gendun, a renowned scholar and practitioner from Western Tibet.

David Germano is associate professor of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Virginia. His main research interest is in the Buddhist and Bön traditions of the tenth through fourteenth centuries.

Kenneth Liberman, is associate professor of Sociology and Religious Studies at the University of Oregon, specializes in race and ethnic relations and Tibetan practices of reasoning and intercultural communication. He is the author of *Dialectical Practice in Tibetan Philosophical Culture* (2003).

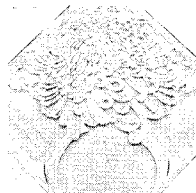
James Blumenthal, associate professor of Buddhist Philosophy at Oregon State University and a professor of Buddhist History and Classical Tibetan language at Maitripa Institute in Portland, will serve as panel moderator.

When: Tuesday, May 15, 7PM-9PM
Where: Portland State University
Smith Memorial Union Room 228
SW Broadway and Harrison, Portland
Cost: Free

All programs are a part of the series "The Train Now Stops at the Roof of the World. Tibet in the 21st Century." Sponsored by the Northwest China Council, the Asian Art Council of the Portland Art Museum, the Institute for Asian Studies at Portland State University, the Maitripa Institute and Linfield College, with support from the Oregon Council for the Humanities.



The Old Town Chinatown Commemorative Bronze Plaques



Japantown plaque

As part of the Streetscape Improvements Project for Old Town Chinatown around 3rd and 4th Avenues, 20 bronze plaques were designed, forged in China, and installed in the neighborhood's sidewalks. The plaques provide a window into the history and cultures of the people who have left their mark on this area of Portland.

Suenn Ho, a senior associate with MulvannyG2 Architecture, will explain how the design concepts were conceived and translated into bronze plaques. Following the presentation will be a short tour of some of the plaques (if the group size is manageable) and a dim sum lunch for those who would like to partake.

When: Saturday, May 19, 9:30-11am
Where: Northwest Natural Gas, 4th Floor
NW 2nd & Everett, Portland
Cost: Free

Sponsored by First Saturday, the Asian Arts Council, & Northwest China Council

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(February 1, 2007 to April 25, 2007)

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Study 学汉语 Chinese

The China Council has taught Mandarin language classes since the 1980's. We offer evening and weekend classes at the Council for adults and children and on-site classes and workshops in a variety of formats.

Call at 503 973-5451 for details

SUMMER LANGUAGE CLASSES BEGIN JULY 2007

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.

Name _____
Address _____
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Special Interest in China _____

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

_____ Assisting at events
_____ Publicity
_____ Hosting/Escorting speakers/Chinese students and visitors
_____ Office Work
_____ Fund-raising
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Membership Category - Please check the category you wish:

Individual	\$40 _____	Major Donor	_____ \$250+
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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.