

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Hong Kong is positioning itself to be a center of creativity, not just a financial hub.

A few weeks ago I visited the Innovative Design Technology (IDT) Expo in Hong Kong. My visit was sponsored by the Hong Kong Trade & Development Council (HKTDC). IDT brought together creative talents across a wide range of fields, from marketing to logistics, from branding to finance, from architecture to innovative product design.

The Expo gathered together an amazing range of talent, all Hong Kong based, as well as consumers of creative design from all over the world. I was the only American sponsored by HKTDC. Recently, the Northwest China Council held a reception in Portland for the Los Angeles Office of HKTDC and I met with HKTDC's marketing manager. I was invited in the hope that attending Expo would produce new business opportunities for creative Hong Kong companies.

It might. The Inventor's Pavilion was my major area of interest. Many of the inventions revolved around energy saving and water and air purification. I was assigned an assistant who kept track of my every movement and made sure my meetings came off as planned. She also made sure I was on-time for my television interview about how I felt about the IDT Expo.

Several Chinese cities, most memorably Nanjing, held presentations to attract investors, mainly Chinese, to take part in various projects. Portland and the state of Oregon might want to consider putting together their own lists of projects and expose them to Chinese investors. I'm going to present Nanjing's project offerings to Portland's Director for Foreign Affairs. After all, Portland is a center of creativity too.

- Michael Bloom, President



YOU ARE INVITED...



DO YOU HAVE PLANS FOR SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 20TH?

JOIN US AT THE 20TH ANNUAL NWCC CHINESE NEW YEAR AUCTION!

We invite you to support the NWCC in its most important fundraising event of the year - - the annual Chinese New Year dinner and fundraising auction.

Come Help Us Celebrate the Year of the Tiger!

The fun-filled event will be held at the **Legin Banquet Hall** in S.E. Portland on **Saturday, Feb. 20th**. Visit with friends of the NWCC, drink, eat, and bid on fabulous prizes including round trip airline tickets, vacation get-aways, Blazer tickets and autographed ball, handmade quilt, river cruise on Portland Fire and Rescue boat and other great items in the silent and oral auctions. Enjoy a scrumptious multi-course Chinese dinner, while being entertained by talented artists who will perform the traditional Chinese New Year lion dance.



The NWCC will present the annual Flying Horse Award to **Bud Clark**, Major of Portland from 1985-1992 and who played a major role in establishing the Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association. You won't want to miss it!

To reserve a space or for further information, please visit our website at www.nwchina.org or call the China Council Office at 503-973-5451.

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!

If you would like to contribute a tax-deductible donation item to the auction, please download the forms from the NWCC website or contact the NW China Council.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE AUCTION!

2009-2010 BOARD & NEWS

We held our **Annual Meeting** on Sept 24 at Wong's King Restaurant with Michael Bloom, NWCC President, reporting on the latest news for the China Council. **Brian Ferriso**, Executive Director of the Portland Art Museum, gave a preview on the **China Design Now** Exhibition. The meeting was well attended and enjoyable.

The Northwest China Council was founded in Dec, 1980 and we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2010. As we reflect on our past accomplishments and look forward to taking on new challenges, we would like to first thank our departing Board Directors, **Thomas Albert, Heidi Benaman, Greg Kulander, Jeff Millard, Melanie Tang** and **Denise Vetterlein** for board services and contributions to NWCC.

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new Board Directors, **Jeffrey Barlow, Jack Chu, Victor Lam, Patty McWayne, Deborah Sipe, Ann Wetherell** and **Tao Yun**; and Legal Counsel, **Amy Richter** to the NWCC. Of special note, many of the new Directors are returning from previous board services; and Professor Jeffrey Barlow was a founding member of the China Council 30 years ago. We look forward to working with everyone to deliver outstanding China programs to our members and community.

In October, 2009, we followed the Annual Meeting with a **Board Retreat** to get acquainted with each other and to map out strategic directions and plans for the China Council. As the outcome from the retreat, we have identified three major areas of focus: the **China Business Network**, the **China Educators Network** and **Chinese Cultural programs**. We have formed new task forces and will be sharing details and plans as we deploy them.

And the most important item for us - we would like to express our very sincere appreciations to our donors who responded to the China Council fundraising appeals during 2009. We have now received a total of \$9,505 in donations from the appeals.

We truly appreciate your generous support and we cannot continue to operate the Northwest China Council or bring high quality China-focused programs without you.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



Annual Meeting



CHINA BUSINESS NETWORK

The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the NWCC, one of the 40 local partners, held the "**CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections**" meeting at the UO White Stag Building on December 8, 2009. Mr. **Kurt Campbell**, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, connected to the event via live feed from Washington, D.C., presented and answered questions on current U.S. and China relations. Mr. **Tian Deyou**, Consul and Director of the Economic & Commercial Office of the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco, spoke about "China's Foreign Trade and Outward Direct Investments."



We then followed with a panel discussion titled "**An Oregon Agenda on China**", the first of a series of meetings planned by the China Business Network of the NWCC and the Oregon-Fujian Sister State Association to help solicit best ideas on job growth and economic development for Oregon.

The panel, moderated by **Jin Lan** of the Oregon-Fujian Sister State Association, included **Tian Deyou**; **Jeffrey Barlow** of Pacific University speaking on historical perspectives of China and Oregon; **Wally Van Valkenburg** of the Oregon



Business Development Council speaking on the current status of the Oregon economic development strategy and trade with China; **Senator Chris Edwards** reporting on the last legislative trip to China and forest product cooperation with Fujian; **Ocean Yuan** of Grape Solar explaining the solar

industry and the global transition to clean energy; and **Cliff Allen** of Portland State University discussing training programs for an international work force.

The meeting was well attended and received. It ended with the panelists and the audience participating in an hour long lively discussions on issues on Oregon and China business, language, education, travel and other topics. More meetings are being planned for 2010. Please feel free to share your ideas with us, watch the NWCC website and emails for announcements, and join us in the future meetings.

- *Cathy Chinn, Chair*

CHINA EDUCATORS NETWORK

The Education task force met twice in Fall, 2009: once at the annual retreat and again in November. The group brainstormed appropriate goals for next year and decided to focus on two: 1) To help educators connect with each other to share information and resources, and 2) to create an image in Oregon that the China Council is the best vehicle for doing so. The group decided to pursue two tasks: 1) the building of a database of names and contact numbers of educators in Oregon who worked in a subject area related to China, or who had expressed interest in doing so, and 2) the planning of an event in February for educators to connect with each other and discuss common interests. David Kohl volunteered to set up on Google a site in which all of the task force and subsequently, all of the Board could add contacts they had in the educational community. Following David's work, a database of at least 70 contacts was developed.

Regarding the event, Jeffrey Barlow sent a proposal to McMEnamin's to inquire if they would be willing to hold an educator event. The first event is planned for February. The task force will meet again to discuss further plans for the event.

- Deborah Sipe, Chair

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

In October 2009, the China Council Board of Directors established a new cultural programs task force to develop programs and events of interest to our members, and to further our mission of promoting greater understanding of China and the Chinese Diaspora. While in the process of developing ideas for programs, this past fall we were able co-sponsor and promote the China-related programs of other local and regional institutions and organizations.

The Portland Art Museum, host of the exhibit **China Design Now**, was the central hub for events and programs on art and media in contemporary China in 2009. Highlights included the NW Film Center's series **Lens on China**, co-sponsored by the China Council. **White Bird Dance** (whitebird.org) presented **Shen Wei Dance Arts** in November. **Third Angle New Music Ensemble** (thirdangle.org) presented a powerful concert of music by contemporary Chinese composers. Third Angle's commitment to contemporary Chinese music has led to an invitation to perform in Beijing in May 2010.

Upcoming events early in 2010: The China Council is co-sponsoring two events. The first is the exhibition "**Capturing China, 1913-1929:** Photographs, Films, and Letters of American Diplomat John Van Antwerp MacMurray" from the Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University, on display in the Multnomah County Central Library's Collins Gallery

from February 19 to April 2 (Central Library, 801 SW 10th Portland, OR). The China Council website has information on the exhibit and the opening reception. We hope you can attend. The second is Taiwan's *U-Theatre* presented by White Bird Dance. U-Theatre performs **Waiting for Bodhisattva** in three performances running from April 8-10. Please check the websites of the China Council or White Bird Dance for details.

There are several opportunities to explore the diversity of Chinese art early in 2010. The Portland Art Museum's **Private Passions: Collecting Miniature Works of Asian Art**, on view through July 11, 2010, is a new exhibit of recently acquired Chinese snuff bottles and Asian ceramics. The Clark and Pittock-Leadbetter galleries at the Portland Art Museum have been reinstalled to emphasize the regional diversity in the arts of the Han dynasty (2nd century BCE- 2nd century CE).

Farther north, the Seattle Asian Art Museum has a pair of exhibits highlighting new acquisitions, in *New Old: Recent Acquisitions of Chinese Paintings*, and *New New: Recent Acquisitions in Contemporary Asian Art*. Both run through Nov 2010. The thematic exhibit, *Live Long and Prosper: Auspicious Motifs in East Asian Art* at SAAM, closes Feb. 21. (1400 East Prospect Street, Volunteer Park, Seattle, WA; seattleartmuseum.org)

The China Council's movie night took a hiatus during the NW Film Center's *Lens on China*, but we plan to start again in 2010, in a different venue and perhaps at a different time. Check the NWCC's events calendar for updates.

Finally, we invite your input and ideas for cultural programs. What types of events or programs interest you? Do you know some interesting speakers? If you have the time and interest, please consider joining the cultural programs task force.

- Ann Wetherell, Chair.



2009 Annual Meeting



China Business Network Sponsor

2010 RECIPIENT OF THE NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL FLYING HORSE AWARD

BUD CLARK



J.E. "Bud" Clark, former Mayor of Portland and key player in establishing the sister city relationship between Portland and Suzhou in China, has been selected to receive the NWCC 2010 Flying Horse Award. This award recognizes individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions in community service and in increasing public awareness of Chinese culture, contemporary affairs and business at the local or international level. The Northwest China Council Board honors Bud Clark for his role in creating the Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association over 20 years ago, through whom we are now enjoying Lan Su Chinese Garden. The 2010 **Flying Horse Award** will be presented to the former mayor at the **Northwest China Council's Chinese New Year Dinner Auction on Feb. 20, 2010.**

As a long time Oregonian, Bud's activities for the state are wide and varied. His dedication to improving Portland was evident when he put his personal business, the Goose Hollow Inn, a popular tavern here in Portland, on hold to run for the Office of Mayor in 1985. Bud served 2 terms - 1985 to 1992.

Mayor Bud Clark created many programs to improve the quality of life in Portland. His other accomplishment also included the nationally recognized Twelve Point Homeless Plan. He supported the growth of mass transit, including the Max Light Rail to Gresham, aided downtown development, and initiated and led the campaign to build the Oregon Convention Center. Facilitating a gathering of talented musicians from all over Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, he established the annual charity event, The Mayor's Ball.

After serving the City for 8 years, Mayor Clark left the City with a \$20 million in reserve, and received the AMBAC Corporation award naming "Portland as the Best Managed" city of its size in the USA.

In Mayor Clark's Own Words:

The Suzhou Goodwill Delegation, led by Mayor of Suzhou Yu Xingde, came to Portland in June of 1988. Our Portland International Office led by Carolyn Barber had made contacts with Suzhou, I believe on the advice and connections of Joe Ha. The original plan was to sign the sister city agreement between Portland and Suzhou in the Fall of 1989 in Suzhou. I and others would fly to China to complete our sisterhood. In August of that year, the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 changed our plans.

We had planned a rather large delegation of myself, city staff and business people to go to Beijing, Shanghai, and then to Suzhou to sign the agreement. The demonstrations in Tiananmen Square changed that immediately. People from our delegation bowed out in protest over the demonstrations and the Chinese Government response, as did people all over the world. I took a different position. President Eisenhower initiated the Sister City program in 1959 to bring the peoples of the world to a greater understanding of each other, by people to people contact. I said we should go to Suzhou to establish our people with the people of the sister city association. We would cancel our visits to Beijing and fly directly to Shanghai, our closest access by international flight to China.

Four of us from Portland flew from Japan aboard a United Airlines 747 to Shanghai in September 1989. We four: Pat Lacrosse, CEO Portland Development Commission; Chris Bone, Ted L. Rausch Co. of Oregon; Carolyn Barber, International Office of Portland; and myself were the only passengers on the plane. When we descended to land in Shanghai, I looked out to see the lights of Shanghai. What I saw appeared was an agricultural area with yard lights as you might see as you fly over the Midwest. We landed with heavy bouncing so the oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling. I assumed we bounced because the plane was so light in weight; only four passengers and no cargo.

We were greeted and spent our first nights at the Peace Hotel on the Bund in Shanghai. At that time the Bund appeared as I remembered it from old movies; like it was in the 1920's and '30s. We were entertained and taken to visit gardens in Shanghai. We then took a train to Suzhou. We stayed in a very fine hotel and were driven everywhere in an automobile with siren screaming. There were very few other cars on the streets. Most everywhere had only bicycles and pedestrians on the streets. We were entertained and dined and visited Suzhou Gardens. We signed the Sister City Agreements and were ready to leave.

The morning we were to leave, Pat Lacrosse and I took a walk on the street close to the hotel. It shall never leave my mind because I was so impressed by the business and family talks going on in relative quiet, by the calming effect of the ambiance. No automobile sounds, just the chatter of people. Trees overhanging the street, we strolled calmly. I shall never forget it.

We returned by auto to Shanghai to fly back to Portland. The road was mostly unpaved, culverts being replaced by shovels in hand, concrete being mixed in small mixers. I visited again in 2000 to find a freeway connecting Shanghai and Suzhou. Returning to China and Suzhou in 2000, I was astonished at the tremendous changes that had taken place in the interim between my sojourn in 1989 and 2000.

NW CHINA COUNCIL BOOK CLUB REPORT

Author: **Rob Gifford**
 Title: *China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power*
 Publisher: Random House. May, 2007. 352 pages

The book club found Rob Gifford's *China Road* entertaining, informative, and thought-provoking. The title "China Road" derives from a road trip that Gifford takes on China's Highway 312, a journey of 3,000 miles westward from ultra modern Shanghai, through factory towns in coastal area, into the rural heart of China, then through the Gobi desert, where it merges into the old Silk Road, and ends at the border with Kazakhstan. The highway is witness to the social and economic transformation of modern China. Gifford takes some side treks off of Highway 312 to cities and areas important in telling the story of China. Mode of travel is taxi, bus, long distance trucks, and hired drivers.

With his Mandarin fluency, journalistic training, knowledge of context of events, and hospitality extended to westerners; Gifford is able to engage and interview Chinese citizens in a very personal and informative manner. Gifford's encounters along the way give face to the changing China. He meets and engages in frank discussion with ambitious yuppies, migrant workers, rural farmers, AIDS sufferers, a Daoist hermit, talk show host, tragic prostitutes, Qighurs, cell phone salesman, restaurant owners, Tibetan monks, and the most astute China observers: long distance truck drivers.

The book is written in a personal manner, and gives life to a nation that is often reduced to economic statistics. Amidst the booming urban economy, Gifford is not shy about identifying many of China's frailties and deep seated problems that could derail China's rise. Although Gifford writes from the perspective of a British citizen with belief in individual rights as expressed in the Magna Carta, and as a religious Christian; his understanding of Chinese history, culture, and language make for many lucid and thought-provoking analysis.

Rob Gifford has degrees in Chinese Studies from Durham University, and East Asian Studies from Harvard University. He first traveled to China in 1987 as a Mandarin language student, where he also met his wife. He was a National Public Radio (NPR) correspondent stationed in Beijing for six years (1999-2005) reporting on China. He took a leave from NPR to write his book.

What the book club is now reading:
January 2010: *Sweet Mandarin: The Courageous True Story of Three Generations of Chinese Women and Their Journey From East to West*, by Helen Tse. 2007

February 2010: *The Geography of Thought: How Asians and Westerners Think Differently... and Why*, by Richard Nisbett. 2004

March 2010: *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers: Stories*, by Yiyun Li. 2005

April 2010: *China's Megatrends: The Eight Pillars of a New Society*, by John and Doris Naisbitt. 2009

For more information, or to join the book club,
 please email: johnw@nwchina.org

Northwest China Council Membership Application Form

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

Name _____
 Address _____
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I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:

- _____ Assisting at events
- _____ Publicity
- _____ Hosting/Escorting speakers/Chinese visitors
- _____ Office Work
- _____ Fund-raising
- _____ Recruiting members
- _____ Research

Membership Category — Please check the category you wish:

Individual	_____ \$40	Major Donor	_____ \$250+
Family	_____ \$45	Patron	_____ \$500+
Full-Time Student	_____ \$15	Phoenix Circle	_____ \$1000+
Sponsor	_____ \$125+	Dragon Circle	_____ \$5000+

Please detach and return with a check payable to the Northwest China Council. To use MasterCard or Visa, please complete the following information.

Card No.	Expiration Date	Signature
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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, and the Chinese Diaspora.

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