

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I've been in a China rut lately; running back and forth to China, visiting electric motor factories in Guangdong, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang provinces. This month I decided it was time to explore Taiwan. Why now? China has recently

enacted laws making it much easier for Chinese nationals to visit Taiwan. Now I don't have to set up a separate office in Taiwan to take advantage of Taiwan's superior technology and quality. My engineers in China can take one of the many flights directly to Taiwan.

I thought I might share with you some of my observations as a first-timer in Taiwan. These are based on a visit of less than one week so my observations should be taken with a grain of salt. My overall sense is that Taiwan is sort of "China light". It's like China but less so.

Wherever I travel in China people seem to be excited in anticipation of better times to come. People seem very self-satisfied at what China has accomplished and expect that they and their families will be better off tomorrow than they are today. Taiwan seems more subdued with a more uncertain future both economically and politically. They seem depressed.

The affects of the higher cost of labor added to my "China light" experience. When I walk into a restaurant in China I'm often greeted by a phalanx of attractive hostesses welcoming me with a smiling "Huan Ying" and during dinner there is nearly one server for every person at the table. The level of my drink never gets lower than 80% and every time I get up from the table I find that my napkin has been refolded. In Taiwan the service felt .. well ... almost like here. I guess I'm spoiled.

Outside the huge Taipei 101 office tower and mall there were Falun Gong demonstrators with hundred foot long banners calling for the overthrow of the Chinese Communist Party and the indictment of Chinese leaders. Earlier I'd visited the shrine to Chiang Kai Shek and noticed how the Nationalists made Chiang into a mythic figure much as the Communists had done with Mao. Taken together, it occurred to me that reunification might be a long way off.

I hear rumblings in China these days about America's presence in the region. Whether it's the arming of Taiwan or joint military exercises with South Korea, the Chinese are starting to push the concept of the South China Sea as part of China's sphere of influence, much as the U.S. considers the Caribbean as its own. No wonder the Taiwanese wonder what's in store for them. Don't we all?- *Michael Bloom, President*

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO...

***the 30th Annual Meeting
and Reunion Gala Banquet!***

Please come and join us as we celebrate our history and accomplishments; honoring all who have contributed to our successes, and help us welcome and embrace our future! Speakers include:

Prof. Jeffrey Barlow, Keynote Address
Jane Leung Larson, Founding Executive Director

We also offer our warmest welcome to many of our founding and previous board members as well as Flying Horse Award recipients, members, donors, friends and supporters on this gala occasion.

Special banquet dinner will include the following courses:

- Happiness Combination Appetizer Platter
- Golden Tai-Chi Seafood Soup
- Seafood in Bird's Nest
- Peking Roasted Duck
- Beef Rib in Lotus Leaf
- Smoked Chilean Sea bass
- King Mushroom w/ Spinach
- Vegetable Fried Rice in Stone Wok
- Special Dessert of the Day
- Assorted Pastries

Date: Saturday Evening, October 9, 2010

Time: 6:00-9:00 Dinner & Celebration

Where: Wong's King Seafood Restaurant

(8733 S.E. Division Street, Portland, Oregon)

For more information, tickets and prices: www.nwchina.org or call 503-973-5451

***The Northwest China Council is
celebrating 30 years of service!***

The China Educators Network

The China Educators Network held their second event in late May – an informal get-together inviting local educators to meet each other and talk about interests and information needs regarding China. About 20 people gathered for the evening event at the Shanghai Noble House in SW Portland. Many ideas were suggested for further events and activities, but two surfaced more frequently than others: an interest in having information about upcoming events in Oregon related to China, perhaps using a listserv, and an interest in peer lectures. The CEN met on June 28 to discuss these interests and brainstorm ways to address them. The result: an “IGNITE” type of event tentatively scheduled for October 1. The two-hour event, planned for the same Shanghai Noble House location, will be dedicated to social interaction for the first hour, with a scheduled program in the second hour. The topic will be “What are you excited about/interested in right now about China?” China Council members, particularly educators will be invited to make 5 minute presentations in a fast-moving format to respond to this topic. This type of an event will allow 1) those who wish to share interests and information without having to make formal presentations, 2) participants to learn about each other’s interests, and 3) discovery of some rich resources for future presentations. CEN members will work on logistics for the event in the coming months.

~Chair Deborah Sipe

Events of Interest around Portland

Join us for a historical music & food celebration in the heart of Portland Chinatown, on **Saturday, 9/25, 6-10:30pm**–“*Music Under the Autumn Moon*”, an one-of-a-kind outdoor multicultural concert featuring a Cantonese opera club (Yat Sing Music Club) and six other well-known Portland bands/artists including Portland Cello Project, Third Angle New Music Ensemble, Classical Revolution PDX, Matt Sheehy, Last Regiment of Syncopated Drummers, and en Taiko. Free admission, all ages. Check www.nwchina.org for more information.

PSU's Littman Gallery presents the 9th biannual International Women Artists' Exhibition and Conference. Organized locally by the Oregon Women's Caucus for Art (OWCA), the event features public artist talks, a seminar on "art made out of desperate need," and an international exhibition at the Littman Gallery. The events start **Monday, August 2, 2010, and the exhibition will run August 5-27, 2010.** Check the Littman event calendar for more details on the opening remarks, artist talks, and seminar. www.pdx.edu/art/exhibitions

CULTURAL PROGRAMS-WHAT'S ON VIEW

Here's an idea for a field trip: Head over to the Portland Art Museum and spend some time looking at the painted Neolithic Yangshao vessel and the Han painted pottery urns. As some of the most immediately recognizable objects of Chinese ceramic art, these cultural artifacts are significant examples of aesthetics, technique, modes of production, and function of ceramics in the Neolithic and Han periods. Then, go to the Museum of Contemporary Craft (724 NW Davis, Portland) to see the exhibit *Ai Weiwei: Dropping the Urn, Ceramic works, 5000 BCE- 2010 CE*, which runs through October 30, 2010, and look for the Neolithic and Han vessels. They are there, but now they are the artistic material for the internationally renowned avant-garde artist Ai Weiwei. By dipping the Han jars into industrial paint and superimposing a Coca-cola logo over the swirling painted Yangshao design, Ai Weiwei creates challenging works that explore the tension between history and modernity, art and artifact, and globalization and appropriation in China and the West. (www.museumofcontemporarycraft.org)

Upcoming programs: The cultural programs task force is working on several ideas for Fall 2010 and into Spring 2011. Watch for email announcements or updates in next edition of the China Council newsletter.

The culture and history of TEA: This short series will explore various aspects of the world's most popular drink, including developments in literature, art, ritual, economics and trade, as tea spread from China throughout the world. In addition to guest speakers, this program will include tea tasting.

Chinese Flying Tigers: In 1938, at the request of Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the American General Claire Chennault went to Kunming, Yunnan Province to forge a new Chinese air force to fight the Japanese war in China. The Flying Tigers, as the air corps became known, depended on a strong support network of Chinese who built runways, worked in intelligence and instrumentation, located and guided lost friendly planes, and drove supply trucks over the 'Hump'. Several descendents of these Chinese Flying Tigers live in the Portland area, and have memories of their parents. We hope to have one or more events to hear their stories.

Tour of Portland's Chinatown, Spring 2011: through the Friends of Portland Chinatown.

As always, we'd appreciate your ideas for programs and suggestions for speakers. I also invite you to join the Cultural programs task force.

Please contact Ann Wetherell, chair, through the NW China Council office.

NW CHINA COUNCIL BOOK CLUB REPORT

The June book club selection was "In the Pond", Ha Jin's first novel. Many readers are familiar with his second novel, the bestseller and epic "Waiting", which won the Emory University English professor the National Book Award in 1999.

"In the Pond", by comparison, is a light, entertaining book, just right for summer reading. Its 192 pages chronicle the trials and tribulations of Shao Bin, a self-proclaimed artist in the Chinese literati style, confined "in the pond" of a Communist fertilizer factory town, whose factory leaders are depicted as petty, corrupt, unrefined bureaucrats. Shao Bin's petition for better housing set the stage for the action that follows.

We cannot totally sympathize with Shao Bin, who suffers from hubris, and perhaps self-inflicted pain, despite his obvious talents as an artist and writer. We admire his hard work, and self-study but wonder about his vanity superseding the interests of his family. Luck and connections, as much as individual talent and effort, seem to determine Shao Bin's fate.

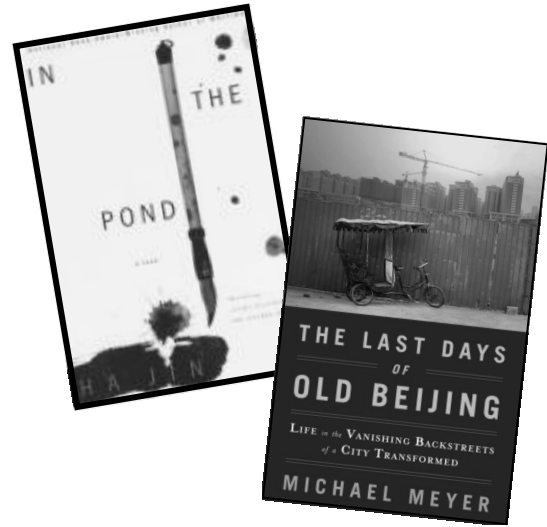
This book is an entertaining book, without a dull moment: full of satire, some slapstick comedy, and some insight into how the Chinese communist system works. It is a book about

everyday worker life, and at the same time, a metaphor about individuals striving against a rigid system.

The next book club selection is "The Last Days of Old Beijing", about old neighborhoods giving way to new urban modernization in China's capital. It was published in May, 2009.

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

John M. Wong



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 _____
 City/State/zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
 Email _____
 Occupation _____
 Special Interest in China _____

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+
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Full-Time Student	_____ \$15	Phoenix Circle	_____ \$1000+
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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 _____

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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