

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Northwest China Council Board, I would like to thank everyone for your very generous support during our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Reunion Gala, and your year-end contributions. It is through generous financial support that the Northwest China Council can continue to deliver our China programs and remain a resource to this community.



As we prepare for our 2011 strategic planning retreat in late February, one of our Board members made a statement that has me pondering the future of the Northwest China Council. She observed that China (P.R.C.) has changed a great deal in recent years, while the Northwest China Council has struggled to keep pace with the rapid economic and social developments of that country.

To me, being the same is good because I can feel comfortable knowing the outcome beforehand. During my decade long association with the Northwest China Council, I have always come to appreciate the same high quality programming, the same commitment to balanced and non-political perspectives in our offerings, and the same professional approach in fulfilling our mission of providing understanding in Chinese culture, business and contemporary affairs.



At the same time, China has changed a great deal over the last 30 years. It is no longer that mysterious country so foreign to many Oregonians and southwest Washingtonians. It has grown into the second world power, right after the United States. Many of us have now developed a good understanding of Chinese culture and perspectives. Many of us now travel to China with ease and on a regu-

lar basis. Some of us can even speak Mandarin and/or other Chinese dialects. And many have come from China or have Chinese friends and associates originally from China.

Is providing understanding of all things Chinese still as important as before? And are we covering all the needs? What should the future focus for the Northwest China Council be? How can we as an organization stay useful to our community? What do our members expect us to be in this new era? Should we stay the same? Or should we change with the changing time and changing needs? And where do we find the resources to support any additional offerings?

These are all important questions for the Northwest China Council Board and members to explore and discuss in the days ahead. It is indeed

healthy during our 31<sup>st</sup> year to re-examine our offerings to make sure we consistently deliver excellent values to, and fill the needs of, our members and our community. The only thing that should not change is our commitment to be that same high quality China-focused organization.

Please feel free to contact me at [chinnc1@nwchina.org](mailto:chinnc1@nwchina.org). I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on how we can work together to take the Northwest China Council to the next level and make it an even better organization. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Now onto a more practical, yet no less important matter - we would like to invite you, your friends and associates to join us at the 2011 Chinese New Year Dinner & Auction on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm, at Legin Restaurant. This is an important fundraiser for the Northwest China Council as this event brings in a very large portion of our revenue every year. Please consider donating items for the auction, or purchasing tickets or tables to join us.

Please join us in thanking Delta Air Lines for their very generous auction sponsorship this year. We deeply appreciate their support. Thank you so much, Delta Air Lines.

- Cathy Chinn, President



**2011 FLYING HORSE AWARD RECIPIENT:  
NORMAN LOCKE**

Norman Locke is the recipient of the NW China Council 2011 Flying Horse Award. This award recognizes individuals and groups who have made outstanding contributions in community service and in increasing public awareness of Chinese culture, contemporary affairs, and business. Mr. Locke, a long-time community advocate and volunteer, exemplifies this perfectly.



Mr. Locke is founder and CEO of the Columbia Coin Company, and one of the most respected coin dealers in the world. Noteworthy is that Columbia Coin held the contract with the Postmaster General of Canada and the Queen of Canada (i.e., England) to distribute the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics coins. Columbia Coin is a family-owned business, and Norman is ably assisted by his wife Janet and son Jonathan.

Involved in all aspects of the community, Mr. Locke is also the President of the Oregon Veteran Boxers Association, an advisor to the Garden of Surging Waves in Astoria, Oregon, and a Board Member of the Oregon 150. The Oregon 150 was formed for Oregon's sesquicentennial (150th anniversary), and has planned several projects to "remember Oregon's past, celebrate the present, and inspire people to dream of the future," and promote all that Oregon offers. The board includes former Oregon governors, supreme court and Oregon state justices, and U.S. senators and congressmen.

Mr. Locke was an early NW China Council Board Director, and the originator of the Chinese New Year fundraiser, which has become a financial mainstay of the organization. He served as Portland President and Regional Grand Executive for the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.). Instrumental in the founding of the Portland Classical Chinese Garden (now Lan Su Chinese Garden), Mr. Locke advocated for its creation and obtained a donation of labor and heavy equipment for the garden's construction. He was also the first president of the Classical Chinese Garden Society.

Mr. Locke's accomplishments in civic, cultural, and state organizations have been formidable. He was formerly an Oregon State Administrative Law Judge, Chair of the Portland Building Corporation, and a Trustee of the Portland Art Museum. Mr. Locke has been an Oregon Arts

Commissioner, and was a member of the campaign team to fund the restoration of the Kam Wah Chung & Company Museum in John Day, Oregon.

Mr. Locke participated in the decision to renovate the old Portland City Hall and sat on the committees that chose the architect, contractor, and oversaw the project to completion. He proposed making City Hall a "friendlier place" and is responsible for the room where neighborhood committees, councils, and other organizations can meet.

Mr. Locke's many accomplishments and successes can be attributed to his personal philosophy:

*... "a businessman asked me recently what I attribute my business success to. I told him 'prejudice'."*

*Norm explained... "I applied for different jobs after I graduated from college; I applied for many jobs. Every place I went they said they wouldn't hire a Chinaman. I looked into real estate selling, but they told me no one would want to buy property from a Chinaman. Every place I applied I ran into prejudice."*

*"That is when I decided," he said, "to never work for anyone else. I decided I would create and solve my own problems."*

*[Excerpted from "Benefiting from Prejudice" by Dr. Al Siebert, THRIVENet Story of the Month—December 1995, [www.thrivenet.com/stories/stories95/stry9512.shtml](http://www.thrivenet.com/stories/stories95/stry9512.shtml)]*

Indeed, Norman Locke has been successful in business, as well as civic and state organizations. He has made significant contributions to the Chinese community, and art and cultural boards and commissions. At the top of his list of achievements are his three exceptional children and six grandchildren.

The 2011 Flying Horse Award will be presented to Norman Locke at the NW China Council's Chinese New Year Dinner & Auction on Saturday, February 19, 2011.

Congratulations, Norm!



China Business Network Annual Sponsor

**YOU ARE INVITED...**  
**NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL'S 21ST ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER & AUCTION**



农历 辛卯年  
 HAPPY NEW YEAR



**Please join NW China Council members and friends in celebrating the Year of the Rabbit on Saturday, February 19, 2011.** Delta Air Lines has generously sponsored this year's event.

The annual event features silent and live auctions, a no host bar, live music, and a multi-course Chinese banquet. Visit with friends, eat, drink, and bid on auction items including round-trip airline tickets, vacation get-aways, antiques, and various items from local shops, restaurants, and around the world.

The NW China Council will also be presenting the 2011 Flying Horse Award to **Norman Locke**.

**The celebration will be held at Legin Banquet Hall, 8001 SE Division Street, Portland, OR 97206, from 5:00-9:00pm.** The evening will begin with the silent auction, no host bar, and performance by the **Orchids and Bamboo Quartet**. Presentation of the Flying Horse Award and a traditional lion dance will follow at 7:00pm, then dinner and the live auction.



Individual tickets are \$50, a Friends and Family table is \$450 (seats 10), and a Patron table is \$600 (preferred seating, wine included). To reserve a space or for further information, visit our website ([www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org)), email [johnw@nwchina.org](mailto:johnw@nwchina.org), or call the NW China Council office at 503-973-5451.



The New Year Dinner & Auction is NW China Council's most important fundraising event of the year and we've set an ambitious goal to raise \$30,000. The funds generated from this event will support continuing programs in language, education, business and culture, as well as allow for the development of new programs.

**Donations are needed!** Please contact the NW China Council office. All donations are tax-deductible.

**We look forward to seeing you at the  
 21st annual Chinese New Year  
 Dinner & Auction!**



## CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

The China Education Network (CEN) is continuing to grow and it is exciting to see the high level of interest and participation by stakeholders in China education here in the Pacific Northwest.

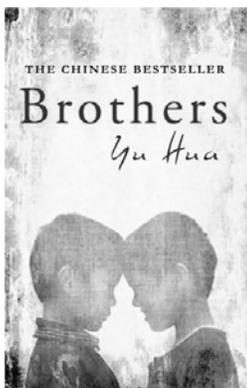
CEN is holding another "China Snapshots" social and networking event on **Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-7:00pm** at Shanghai Noble House restaurant. For more details, see page 7 or visit our website: [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org).

We expect to have another fun and interesting evening with speakers talking informally about the various academic topics and projects that they are involved with. Please come share your passion with us and network with colleagues while enjoying appetizers and drinks.

If you or someone you know is involved in education related to China and wants to be added to the CEN contact list, please contact the NW China Council office to receive announcements and information specific to CEN.

- David W Kohl, CEN Chair

## NW CHINA COUNCIL BOOK CLUB



**Brothers: A Novel**, by Yu Hua, was the January book club selection. Yu Hua is arguably China's foremost novelist, and author of two previous best-selling novels, *To Live* and *Chronicles of a Book Merchant*. **Brothers** is an epic novel that spans 40 years of China's recent history, from the cultural revolution and Mao suits to today's Chinese nouveau-riche with their BMW's and flat screen televi-

sions. We follow the lives of two step-brothers. Baldy Li, is crass and shameless, but at the same time, pragmatic, forward thinking, and a natural entrepreneur. He is also one of literature's most unforgettable characters. His brother, Song Gang, could not be more different: tall, handsome, scholarly, shy, and sensitive. The brothers are bonded through loss of their parents and deprivation in their early years, and could not be closer or more devoted if they were true brothers. **Brothers** takes a satirical look at China, both during the cultural revolution and today's times of rampant consumerism. The book may seem imposing at 640 pages, but it is not tedious. In fact, with its sweeping view, unforgettable characters, and changing tones from comic to tragic, it is an emotional and entertaining book. It was written for a Chinese audience, and uses devices such as exaggeration, slapstick humor, self deprecation, and allusions to mythical, literary, and his-

torical figures common in Chinese writing; but the themes are universal and appeal to all. The book was released in two parts in China, in 2005 and 2006. There, it was a best seller that eclipsed Yu Hua's previous books. It was translated to English in 2009.

The book club has compiled its reading list for 2011, and invite all to read along with us. Happy new year.

- January - **Brothers** by Yu Hua
- February - **River at the Center of the World** by Simon Winchester
- March - **The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future** by Elizabeth C. Economy
- April - **Socialism is Great: A Worker's Memoir of the New China** by Lijia Zhang
- May - **My Journey in Mystic China: Old Pu's Travel Diary** by John Blofeld
- June - **Girl in Translation** by Jean Kwok
- July - **The Man Who Loved China** by Simon Winchester
- August - **Shanghai Girls** by Lisa See
- September - **Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States** by Andrew Coe
- October - **Red Thread: A Novel** by Ann Hood
- November - **Oracle Bones: A Journey Through Time in China** by Peter Hessler
- December - **Train to Lo Wu (short stories)** by Jess Row  
- John M. Wong

## CHINA BUSINESS NETWORK

After a very busy 2010, the China Business Network returns for another exciting year with informative China business presentations and networking opportunities.

Barrett Bingley of ICS Trust, Hong Kong starts 2011 with a presentation on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, titled "Doing Business in China through Hong Kong." I met with Barrett when I was in Hong Kong and was impressed with his knowledge in the various forms of business structures in China, the best method of taking advantage of Hong Kong's system to avoid risks, and the actual implementations details. This is a very informative presentation for China business professionals.



Future presentations include a visit to the Port of Portland to learn about shipping and logistics first-hand, and an update on China market opportunities for the Oregon Clean and Green Tech companies. We are also planning China business training classes as well. Please visit our website for updates.

- Cathy Chinn, China Business Network Chair

## HAWTHORN TREE FOREVER (山楂树之恋)

BY AI MI



Proving that fictional reflections of the Cultural Revolution remain popular, *Hawthorn Tree Forever*, a love story set in the tumultuous 1960s, has sold more than one million copies in mainland China since its 2007 release. *Asia Weekly* listed it as one of 2007's top ten novels.

This past October saw the release of the much-anticipated film adaptation directed by Zhang Yi-

mou, China's most successful director, whose other credits include *Hero*, *House of Flying Daggers*, and the 2008 Olympic Opening Ceremonies. The English translation is scheduled for publication in September 2011.

So, what's the big deal? It turns out that true love is the big deal. *Hawthorn Tree Forever* tells the story of Jingqiu and Laosan. Jingqiu is a smart, no-nonsense city girl with intellectual parents. Her parents are persecuted in the Cultural Revolution, and at the novel's onset, her father has been incarcerated. Her ailing mother still works as a teacher. Jingqiu works hard in school and takes on part-time manual labor jobs to help provide for her little sister. Life is tough, but Jingqiu, who has accepted her fate as a doormat in the topsy-turvy Cultural Revolution social order, is irrepressible and resourceful.

The love story begins when Jingqiu's high school includes her on a team dispatched to a small village, Xicunping, to write a new history textbook and become unified with the poor and uneducated peasantry. Rustic hamlets disrupted by the task of re-educating intellectual youths are fertile, well-trod settings for drama; Jingqiu soon meets Laosan, a well-read, charming, and refined worker-type. He even plays the accordion.

Their mutual attraction is instant, powerful, and taboo: Laosan comes from a military family background, which puts him at the opposite end of the social milieu. Jingqiu hears rumors that he's engaged, and she knows a casual affair would mean nothing to him but doom for her.

Meanwhile, the village chief's awkward son pursues Jingqiu. Although a match with a peasant would clean Jingqiu's tarnished political slate, she can't accept the fate of marrying for convenience. Laosan continues to court Jingqiu, and she is smitten with him in the all-consuming way of innocent teenagers. She repeatedly rebuffs him, fearing the political consequences of a union. The drama continues even after Jingqiu's stint in Xicunping ends.

While the love story of Jingqiu and Laosan may strike some readers as melodramatic, there is more to *Hawthorn Tree Forever* than teenage romance. Ai Mi skillfully highlights some of the psychological trauma inflicted on victims of the Cultural Revolution. Jingqiu, a true model citizen, is still obsessively paranoid about what her neighbors and classmates think of her; after all, a denouncement from them could send her to a labor camp, or worse. Demonstrating the completeness of her indoctrination, she polices her own thoughts, berating herself for any "bourgeoisie" romantic sentiments. And due to her useless education and the political prohibitions on even the discussion of sex, she lacks a basic anatomical understanding of what transpires between her and Laosan--should they? *Did* they? Jingqiu's fears, imposed upon her by her parents' literacy, make it nearly impossible for her to figure out if Laosan is a keeper or not.

- Daniel Nieh

# Fred Meyer

China Business Network Annual Sponsor

## PUBLIC TALK: ROLE OF LAW IN CHINA'S STRAINED "HARMONIOUS SOCIETY"

As China gears up for its leadership transition in 2012, it is easy to marvel at the more than six decades of uninterrupted rule by the Chinese Communist Party. Yet underneath this continuity and the ubiquitous slogan of a "harmonious society" lies an increasingly restive society. The talk on **Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon**, will explore the tension between China's journey toward the rule of law and the persistence of single-party rule. See [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org) for details.



**Margaret Lewis** is an Associate Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School. Professor Lewis travels frequently to Asia, giving presentations at numerous universities. Her publications have appeared in several journals. Professor Lewis received her J.D. from NYU School of Law and her B.A. from Columbia University. She also studied at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in Nanjing, China.

*This talk is supported by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations' Public Intellectuals Program, which is funded by the Henry Luce and C.V. Starr Foundations.*

## SPRING FESTIVAL: CHINA'S CHRISTMAS

When my Chinese friends ask me what Christmas is like in America, I often tell them it's like the Spring Festival in China. For me, these two holidays have so much in common: families get together for a big dinner, husbands host the dinner, wives make sure everyone has enough food to enjoy, and the youngest member of the family is always the one who catches everyone's attention.



In my memory, the atmosphere of the Spring Festival always starts a month before the actual date. My grandparents clean the house, put up decorations, which are usually Spring Festival couplets with auspicious words, and go shopping for the best raw materials for the dinner. Usually, my parents and I arrive at my grandparents' house a few days before the Spring Festival. My



mother helps my grandma prepare for the big dinner and my father chats with my grandfather. For me, these days are the best time of the year. My parents are too busy to care about what I am doing so I have lots of freedom to enjoy hanging out with my cousins, meeting new friends, and wondering around the city. My cousins and I didn't live in the same city and we saw each other only once a year, so the Spring Festival is the best time of the year for us to reconnect with each other.

The most important time is the night of Spring Festival Eve. Almost everyone tries to make it home before dinner starts. This is the most important and richest dinner of the year for Chinese families. The menu is different for each family. We always have courses of fish, chicken soup, and preserved ham and sausage. For people from North China, dumplings are essential; they are eaten at midnight to wish for a good year. No matter where you come from, the most important thing at the dinner is probably the Chinese rice wine. People toast with it to make New Year wishes. My grandfather pulls out the rice wine he has kept for the whole year to share with my father and uncles. People talk with each other about their lives, their future plans, and gossip. The house is filled with the smell of delicious food, the special aroma of Chinese rice wine, and people talking and laughing.



After the big dinner, my favorite part of the night comes: the fireworks. In ancient times, Chinese people believed that a monster called "Nian" (year) would come to the village on the last day of each year to look for food and hurt people, and only the sound of fireworks could keep the monster away. So, it became a tradition to light the fireworks on the last night of the year. When I was little, my dad held the fireworks with me by the window and we lit them at midnight with many families in the residential block. The sound was very loud, and kind of scary for a little child, but the colorful lights and festival atmosphere created by thousands of fireworks were fun to witness. The whole city bustled with noise and excitement to welcome a new year. Unfortunately, due to the fire hazard, most of the big cities in China have banned fireworks, only allowing them in designated areas. Thus, the cities are very quiet at the Spring Festival nowadays. I miss the fireworks and hope one day I can enjoy them again on Spring Festival Eve.

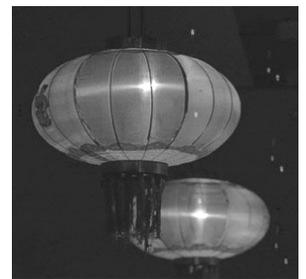


The Spring Festival does not end after the big dinner. It continues on for 15 days; people visit each other, travel with family, or just relax. There is also lots of entertainment programs to add to the festive atmosphere. The 15<sup>th</sup> day after the Spring Festival is the Lantern Festival, "Da Nian" (big year) in Chinese. It is another chance for families to get together and celebrate, but not as big as the Spring Festival. My parents' families live in cities far away from each other, so every year, we visit one family on the Spring Festival Eve and the other on the Lantern Festival. After the Lantern Festival, the celebration of the Spring Festival is officially over and people devote themselves to working again.

As the biggest festival for Chinese people, the Spring Festival holds a special place in Chinese people's hearts. Everyone tries to make it home as early as possible for the Spring Festival. It is a special way to end the past year and to welcome the new year with families. This year, the Spring Festival begins on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. I hope everyone will be able to enjoy the time with your families, and to welcome the new year of the rabbit.

- Yu Zheng

*Note: The Spring Festival in China is commonly referred to as Chinese New Year in the west. It begins on the first day of the first month of the lunisolar calendar and ends on the 15th day. The festival marks the end of winter and the coming of spring.*



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**"China Snapshots" at Shanghai Noble House** presented by the China Education Network

**Friday, January 21, 2011, 5:00 - 7:00pm**

Shanghai Noble House Restaurant (Water Tower, John's Landing), 5331 Macadam Avenue, Portland, OR 97239

Admission: \$15 members, \$20 non-members (includes complimentary appetizers and one drink)

Registration deadline: Thursday, January 20, 2011 noon

**The Role of Law in China's Strained "Harmonious Society" by Prof. Margaret Lewis**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2011, 12 - 1:30pm**

Presented by Northwest China Council and World Affairs Council

Free, and open to the public. Location: TBD. Please check [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org)

**NW China Council's 21st Annual Chinese New Year Dinner & Auction**

**Saturday, February 19, 2011, 5:00 - 9:00pm**

Legin Banquet Hall, 8001 SE Division Street, Portland, OR 97206

Individual: \$50, Friends and Family Table: \$450 (seats 10), Patron Table: \$600 (preferred seating, wine included)

For more information on any of the events, visit [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org) or email [johnw@nwchina.org](mailto:johnw@nwchina.org).

The mission of the Northwest China Council is to promote greater understanding of Chinese culture, business, and contemporary affairs; in Oregon and southwest Washington.

**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
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- \_\_\_\_\_ Recruiting members
- \_\_\_\_\_ Research

Membership Category — Please check the category you wish:

Individual	_____ \$40	Major Donor	_____ \$250+
Family	_____ \$50	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.



Northwest China Council  
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Portland, OR 97209

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