

### LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As I write this letter, I cannot help but re-live the happy memories of the Northwest China Council's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala exactly one year ago. We were so grateful for the return of our founding Executive Director, Jane Larson; and many of our long time members, directors, and presidents joined us for that wonderful evening of good food,

renewed friendships, and excellent reflections from our many presenters. It was all so festive and special that I will always remember the joyfulness of that evening.

Time indeed moves quickly. We are now getting ready for our next anniversary. The next annual meeting will take place on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm, at Wong's King Restaurant. We will be reporting on our activities and accomplishments of this past year. Mayor Willis Van Dusen of Astoria will be our keynote speaker with updates on the *Garden of Surging Waves*. We will also elect board directors and officers. Please mark your calendar to attend. We look forward to having you.

We have had many successful programs during this past year. The one area I would like to spotlight here is the China Business Network (CBN). For more than 20 years, CBN has produced many high quality and nuts-and-bolts type of presentations on doing business with China. More importantly, CBN has served as a "connecting platform" for like-minded business/professionals in both the private and public sectors to meet, connect and share ideas and business opportunities on how to be successful in the China market. (On a personal level, I am also aware of a couple of marriages as a result of meeting through CBN.)



Another example of CBN's work: we very recently hosted a debrief session with the Japan-America Society of Oregon (JASO) to recap Governor Kitzhaber's 2011 Business Mission to Japan, Korea and China. The Governor led a large delegation to Asia in September to gain insights on business opportunities and to promote Oregon products and services in agriculture, wood/lumber, sustainable development, etc. A recap of the trip can be found at [www.oregon4biz.com/Asia-Mission-2011](http://www.oregon4biz.com/Asia-Mission-2011).

As the holiday season approaches, we hope you will consider the Northwest China Council worthy of your continued support by including us in your holiday giving plans. Your generosity will enable us to continue our mission of bringing high quality programs and services in Chinese culture, business, and education to our region, as China continues to grow in its importance as a world power and as the largest Oregon trading partner.

Thank you so much. We really could not have done all of these without strong supporters and members like you!

- Cathy Chinn, President

### CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

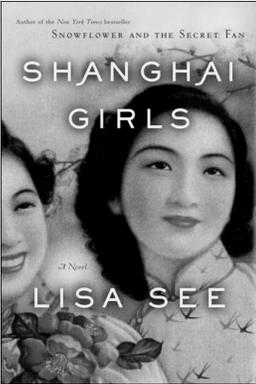
The education community is buzzing with excitement as the new school year begins and the China Education Network (CEN) is looking forward to further development of programs engaging educators and students interested in China.

This fall, CEN is working with the University of Oregon to host a panel discussion on student study tours where we will learn more about the University's successful "Engaging Asia" program, as well as discuss with representatives of other programs in the area best practices and lessons learned in regards to facilitating experiential opportunities for Oregon students in China.

We will be sending out announcements as the date for the program is finalized. Please contact the Northwest China Council if you have an interest in participating in this event and spread the word to others who may also have interest in being added to the CEN mailing list for news of other upcoming events.

- David W. Kohl, CEN Chair

## NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL BOOK CLUB



*Shanghai Girls*, by Lisa See

*Shanghai Girls*, a novel by Lisa See, was the September book club selection. Lisa See is the best-selling author of *On Gold Mountain*, *Flower Net*, *Dragon Bones*, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, *Peony in Love*, and other novels.

*Shanghai Girls* covers the tumultuous years in modern Chinese history from 1937 through 1957. It follows the lives of two sisters, Pearl and May, who are privileged, educated, and beautiful; enjoying life as members of an elite Chinese class. Shanghai then was the “Paris of Asia”—a vibrant, creative, international city. But, also a city of contrasting cultures, and disparity between the very rich and the very poor. However, their father’s bankruptcy forces the sisters into arranged marriages with “Gold Mountain” men—Chinese bachelors from California with new wealth and the means to pay handsome dowries for desirable Chinese wives.

The book spans 20 years—the turbulent time of the Second Sino-Japanese, World War II, the Chinese civil war (resulting in the rise of Mao’s Chinese Communist Party), the Korean War, and the Cold War. The wars and their aftermath have a profound effect on the lives of the sisters and their family. The Japanese invasion in 1937 forced the sisters to flee China for America.

In America, Pearl and May must deal with anti-Chinese sentiment resulting from the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943), and a very tough interview process at Angel Island. Their life in the U.S. is not easy, working in Chinese restaurants and gift stores and adjusting to a new culture. There are hardships, tragedies, and disappointment, but also feelings of hope and joy, and a sense of belonging to a prosperous new land in a new time. Through it all is love and loyalty between two sisters. The theme of family, home, and where the heart belongs are explored in the book.

*Shanghai Girls* is a fine historical novel. Lisa See has done meticulous research and interviews with people who lived through the times (including her own family). Many of these people are in their 80’s and 90’s today. The Chinese Confession Program (1956-1965) is little documented and few have spoken because of shame or guilt, but Lisa See is one who will “not leave the couch” until her interviewees have given their full story, and the devastating effect of the program on Chinese families is told.

*Shanghai Girls* is a highly recommended, absorbing novel. Our book group has added its sequel *Dreams of Joy*, which has been recently released, and picks up the story in 1957, to our book list for 2012.

The October book club selection is *Chop Suey, A Cultural History of Chinese Good in the United States*, by Andrew Coe. For more information on the Northwest China Council book club, please email: [johnw@nwchina.org](mailto:johnw@nwchina.org).

- John M. Wong

## CHINA BUSINESS NETWORK

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Miller Nash LLP and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) jointly sponsored our Mid-Autumn Networking Social at Miller Nash's office on the 35<sup>th</sup> floor of the US Bank Building. We thank Merrill Keane of Miller Nash for her and her team's strong support for a very successful event. I would also like to thank Merrill for her contributions as a member of the China Business Network (CBN) committee.



Mr. William Hung of HKTDC traveled from Los Angeles to give us a special briefing on Hong Kong. Through this networking social, Mayor Sam Adams' team was able to make a personal connection with Mr. Hung to firm up the Mayor's upcoming trip to Hong Kong and China—another very good example of how CBN serves as a “connecting platform” for our region. In addition, we welcomed many attendees new to CBN and look forward to the friendships and potential partnerships in the future.

- Cathy Chinn, CBN Chair

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China Business Network Annual Sponsor

## WALKING SUZHOU'S HISTORIC CITY CENTER

With six days to explore Portland's sister city by foot, I chose to stay in the Suzhou Sofitel on East Ganjiang Road, one of the city's central streets; this hotel is located within easy walking distance to what I wanted to see. Timing of the visit created a challenge due to the heat and humidity during that first week of August. Spring or autumn weather would have provided more comfort for a walking tour of the city.

To get to Suzhou, I took a fast train (25 minutes) from Shanghai's Hongqiao Airport/Bus/Rail/Subway hub. I had flown from Nanchang to Hongqiao Airport, after spending the month of July on the sacred mountain of Lushan as a student with Nanjing University's new program associated with the Kuling American School. I didn't study Chinese and don't speak Chinese, but found that one can travel in China, buy rail tickets, and when puzzled, find one's way with kind help from strangers on the street or any place. My favorite walks in Suzhou included finding food or drink that was different from that available on Lushan.



At the beginning of one of those day-long treks, while on the way to visit the Master of Nets Garden, mother of Portland's Lan Su Garden, I passed a Uigher restaurant, Yakexi, on Shi Quan Jie between Wu Que Qiao Lu and the garden. A new section of the garden was under construction, evidenced by the fresh white-washed wall and industrious men working along the alley that leads to the garden's entrance. Once inside, there was not yet access to explore the garden's addition, so I savored the company of old age and imagined the scholars who created this poetic landscape.

By lunch time, I was ready to step into the Moslem culture of Western China and returned to Yakexi, owned by a young Uigher couple. Their herbed lamb shank, baked jalapenos, and naan satisfied my desire for variety and fueled my walk to the Confucian Temple on Ren Min Lu. No tourists (except me), just a gardener tending a large assortment of penjing (the predecessor to bonsai), trim-

ming, weeding, and watering, and I shared the tranquility and beauty of the green courtyard. Particularly peaceful, this temple invited meditation. I sat in the shade, closed my eyes, and lost track of time.



Out of the sanctuary, back into the glare of the sun, and the noise of the road, I spotted a bookstore selling books in English across the street from the temple. While on Lushan, I'd read all the books I brought to China as well as the books fellow students brought with them. I was desperate to find an interesting book to read. At the counter while paying for a book, I inquired if either of the assistants knew where to find *The Book Worm* on Gun Xiu Fang. They didn't, so they asked a man standing beside me if he knew of the place. I had walked miles looking for Gun Xiu Fang the day



before. The man didn't know where it was, but he volunteered to search with me after he paid for the books that he was buying for his students. He had taught English for thirty years. He asked people we met along our walk and some knew the general location and pointed us in the direction of Gun Xiu Fang. Eventually, we found the short alley of Gun Xiu Fang, and a resident said there was a tea shop where foreigners go at the end of the block. I invited the teacher to join me for something to eat, but he needed to get home to his wife.

Book shelves lined the walls with interesting titles in English, but customers could only read them on site, no borrowing or buying allowed. A neighbor man played classical music on the piano in the place. I dined on a heavenly, thin-crust, vegetarian pizza smothered with good cheese—the choice recommended by the owner. The alley was a block behind Yakexi, where I'd eaten lunch. I knew my way back to the hotel.

- Myrla Magness

## LUSHAN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE

The Lushan International Language and Culture Institute is a joint partnership between the Kuling American School Association (KASA, headed by Mr. Steve Harnsberger), the Lushan government (especially the efforts of Mr. Zheng and Ms. Zhu Dong'e), and Nanjing University (coordinated by Mr. Zhang Bin, PhD). It was created in the spirit of building international friendship and with acknowledgment of the special place that Lushan (庐山) has in China's international history.



This July, I was one of 10 pilot students in the first annual Lushan International Language and Culture Institute summer program. This session of the Lushan Institute ran from July 3<sup>rd</sup> until July 29<sup>th</sup>, and offered a variety of Chinese language and culture courses and activities. The program was initiated by the KASA as a way of honoring the historical

friendship between the Chinese and the American missionary families who lived on the mountain, but the goal of the program in building international friendship and understanding is not limited to any particular nationality. Of the 10 students in the first Lushan Institute, 6 arrived from the United States, 2 from South Africa, 1 from Switzerland, and 1 from Australia. Two of the older men (now living in the United States) had spent their childhoods in China. One had even been carried up the "Thousand Steps" stairway leading up the mountain as a child, and was determined to return and walk the steps himself (he succeeded). Two of the American students were great-grandchildren of Roy Allgood, a headmaster of the Kuling American School and the father of Elsa Porter, who spent her childhood at Lushan.

The history of Lushan, or Mt. Lu, started with the arrival of Western missionaries escaping the deadly heat and diseases of the valleys, including the family of Pearl Buck, who gave it the name "Kuling" in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and continues today with Mt. Lu's membership in the World Famous Mountains Association and its designation as an UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site and Global Geopark. In the last 2,000 years, the mountain has drawn many famous Chinese poets and artists, and has also been the temporary residence of the Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek and later used by Chairman Mao for political func-

tions, making it a popular tourist attraction. The mountain is also home to the White Deer Grotto Academy and the Lushan Botanical Garden, which enjoys a recent friendship with the Hoyt Arboretum. This combination of history, cultural value, and breathtaking scenic beauty make the mountain a popular tourist attraction. Many of the historic villas and buildings, including the old Kuling American School, have been converted into either hotels or museums. Further adding to Lushan's international character, the local government regularly invites international musicians to give public performances. During July, we saw performances of bands from South Africa and from the Philippines.

The program schedule included Chinese language classes taught by professors from Nanjing University in the mornings, Chinese culture classes including calligraphy, Tai Chi, and Chinese painting taught by local experts in the afternoons, and other lectures on topics such as local history and the current forest art exhibitions. And, of course, we also enjoyed group trips to various historical and scenic locations on the mountainside. At the end of the program, students received credit for language courses taken from Nanjing University at an official closing ceremony.

As the pilot class, our feedback will help shape future Lushan Institute curricula, excursions, and teaching schedule. One of the things that my classmates and I particularly hoped would be maintained in future summer programs is student diversity. Even though the first Lushan Institute had only 10 students, together, we represented four different countries, varied backgrounds and professions, and ranged in age from high school to retired. I wish to emphasize that the Lushan Institute is not only for high school or college students—my fellow students and I agreed that the variety in age as well as nationality was valuable for everyone. I hope that future programs maintain this variety when receiving and selecting applicants, and I encourage all people who are interested and able to apply. I enjoyed the program immensely and learned a great deal from the mountain and its people, my



*(continued on next page)*

## LUSHAN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE (CONTINUED)

fellow students, and of course, my classes. Lushan is particularly rich in historical, cultural, religious, geographical, ecological, and international significance. The local food was also particularly delicious. I recommend the program to anyone who is interested in China or Chinese language, and in international connections. More information can be found at KASA's website: [kulingamericanschool.com](http://kulingamericanschool.com).



This photo from the official opening ceremony contains not just the Lushan Institute students, but also the visiting international forest artists who shared their work with us, the visiting musical performers from The Philippines, most of the officials and dignitaries whose partnership produced the Lushan Institute, and at the bottom row, wonderful volunteers from the local middle school. Photo provided by Steve Harnsberger, President of KASA.



A photo of all 10 Lushan Institute students plus Pan Laoshi, one of our Chinese teachers, while we were hiking the trail at 5 Old Man Peaks. From left to right: Roger Winn, Dane Mair, David Merwin, Tracy Mehoke, Xavier Bouvier, Myrla Magness, Pan Laoshi, Thandi de Kock, Logan Georges, Ciara Butterworth, and Bailey Georges.

- Tracy Mehoke

## LUSHAN BOTANICAL GARDEN VISIT

A visit to Portland by a delegation from the Lushan Botanical Garden in Jiangxi Province, China, brought a full house to an illustrated lecture by Garden director, Zhan Xuanhuai, on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the University of Oregon's White Stag Building. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Northwest China Council, the National Resource Center for East Asian Studies, and Hoyt Arboretum Friends.

Director Zhan described the founding of the garden in 1934, the first scientific botanical garden in China, and the help from an American missionary educator, Roy Allgood, in trying to preserve its collections during the Japanese invasion in 1937.

He showed slides of the garden's current significant collections including its medicinal herb garden, its "Lushan mist" tea plantation, and its many varieties of kiwifruit which originated in Lushan. With a climate similar to Oregon's, the garden has major holding of conifers, ferns, and rhododendron.

Hosted for a week long visit by the Hoyt Arboretum Friends, the delegation visited a wide range of Portland area gardens and nurseries, including the Lan Su Chinese Garden, the Japanese Garden, Oregon State University's North Willamette Research Center, Mount Hood, and local nursery operations at J. Frank Schmidt and Dover Nurseries.

The visit resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to a long term mutually productive and collaborative scientific relationship between the Lushan Garden and the Hoyt Arboretum. They identified their common interests as environmental conservation, exchange of seed material, protection of rare species, garden management and identification of disjunction species between China and the Pacific Northwest.



- Elsa Porter

**ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET:  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011, 6:00PM**

Please join fellow members and guests for an enriching evening at the 2011 Annual Meeting at Wong's King Restaurant. Cathy Chinn, Northwest China Council President, will start the meeting with a China Council update, including the election of new Board of Directors members.

**Wong's King Restaurant** will serve us a delicious 8-course banquet dinner.



Astoria, Oregon has a rich history reflecting the influence of cultures from around the world. The Chinese played a significant role in this history, working in the canneries, building the city's sewer system, construction of the railroads that would connect Astoria to Portland, and building the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River.

The Garden of Surging Waves, the City of Astoria's Bicentennial legacy gift, will help share an important piece of Astoria's history and serve as a reminder not only of the Chinese contributions, but also to Oregon's early ties to China that were first developed in the days of John Jacob Astoria and his trading business with Canton.

The Garden was initially planned to occupy a portion of Astoria's famous Riverwalk, but has been moved to a location with greater access and expanded visibility. Suenn Ho, urban designer, has begun work on the first phase of the Legion Block, located near City Hall and in the heart of downtown Astoria. A ground-breaking event is expected in April of 2012 culminating the Bicentennial celebration.

You will hear details and updates about the Garden of Surging Waves from Mayor Willis L. Van Dusen and Suenn Ho.

For more information and to register, visit [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org) or email [johnw@nwchina.org](mailto:johnw@nwchina.org).



**CHINA TOWN HALL:  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011, 3:30PM**

China Town Hall is a national day of programming on China involving 50 cities throughout the U.S, presented by the National Committee on U.S - China Relations.



**Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski**, Counselor and Trustee at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC, will give us an update on U.S. - Chinese relations via live webcast at 3:30pm. Questions submitted from participating cities will be moderated by Stephen A. Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S. - China Relations.

Dr. Brzezinski was National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1981. In 1981, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom "for his role in the normalization of U.S. - Chinese relations and for his contributions to the human rights and national security policies of the United States."

**Dr. Melinda Herrold-Menzies**, Associate Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA, will speak live in Portland, following Dr. Brzezinski, on China's response to environmental issues and climate change.



Dr. Herrold-Menzies received her doctorate from the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley, and her M.A. in International Relations from Yale University.



presented by



NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON  
UNITED STATES-CHINA RELATIONS

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Northwest China Council Annual Meeting and Banquet**

**Friday, November 4, 2011**

**6:00pm No-host Cocktails, 6:30pm Annual business meeting, 7:00pm Banquet dinner, 7:45pm Keynote speakers**

Wong's King Restaurant, 8733 SE Division St, Portland, OR 97266

Admission: \$35 members, \$45 general, \$25 students

**China Town Hall**, presented by the National Committee on U.S. - China Relations and the NWCC

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

**3:30pm Registration and check-in, 4:00pm Webcast, 5:00pm Live talk**

White Stag Building, University of Oregon, 70 NW Couch St, Portland, OR 97209

Admission: \$5 members and students, \$15 general (Register before Tuesday, November 15, 2011.)

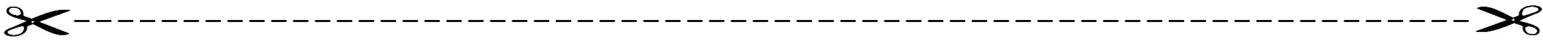
**Panel on China Study Tours**, presented by the China Education Network

**Thursday, November 17, 2011, 10:30am - 12:00pm (noon)**

Visit our website or contact david@nwchina.org for more information.

*\*For more information and updates on these programs, and to register for any event, please visit [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org) or email [johnw@nwchina.org](mailto:johnw@nwchina.org).*

The mission of the China Council shall be as a bridge  
between the people of Oregon/Southwest Washington and the Chinese world  
in order to promote mutual understanding of culture and contemporary affairs;  
to be a community resource for educational programs, information services, and foreign trade;  
and to be a forum for issues in Pacific Northwest-Greater China relations.



**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.

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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.

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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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