



January - March 2012 - Issue 121
China Council Quarterly

127 NW 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97209
www.nwchina.org

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy New Year to our membership! I would like to personally thank all of the supporters of the Northwest China Council and offer my best wishes to you and your families in the year ahead. 2012 is looking to be a great year for the Northwest China Council, and we are very excited about developments completed and underway, as well as the excellent programming we have planned for our membership and

the community in the coming months.

We recently voted in several excellent new Board Directors, and warmly welcome, **Ming Brink**, CPA, from KPMG; **Merril Keane**, JD, from Miller Nash, LLP; **Gloria Lee** from the Native Arts & Culture Foundation; **Noah Siegel** from the Portland Mayor's office; and **Barbara Steinfeld** from Travel Portland.

We would also like to welcome our new legal counsel, **Shiau Yen Chin-Dennis**, JD, from K&L Gates, LLP.

Please come celebrate the Year of the Dragon with us at our **Annual Chinese New Year Auction and Banquet**, on Saturday, February 25th, at Legin Restaurant, and meet our newest directors and legal counsel. It should be a great event with several honored guests in attendance, a silent auction, the ever-popular live auction, and wonderful food and friends.

Please consider donating items to the auction or sponsoring a table. See page 3 for more details.

I would also like to thank those who generously donated money to the Northwest China Council in response to our year-end appeal letter. These donations help keep the Northwest China Council running and facilitate the offering of a range of programs and events throughout the year for our members and the community.

This year we are looking forward to many compelling programs, including a **Spring Tour of China**, several talks by authors of newly published books on China,

China education events, increased China business-related lunches and events, increased cultural programs covering a wide range of academic and social topics, and a series of very exciting high-profile events related to the Chinese **Flying Tigers**. We will also continue to participate in the National Committee on US-China Relations' China Town Hall series featuring speakers at local venues in conjunction with a live broadcast from Washington D.C.

These are just a sampling of programs that we will be offering, so please keep an eye out for program announcements regularly sent throughout the year and join us at these great events!

- *David W. Kohl, President*

CHINA BUSINESS EVENTS

We look forward to an interesting year for the China Business Network. To start off the new year, we are working on a **China Update** presentation in February, including discussions in business, financial, and political issues. In the spring, we will offer a presentation with Travel Oregon and Travel Portland on the business opportunities of promoting Oregon to Chinese tourists.

There are additional exciting programs under discussion. We will let you know the details as soon as they are finalized. Please check the Northwest China Council website (www.nwchina.org) and look for our email announcements, and plan to join us in our future meetings.

- *Cathy Chinn, CBN Chair*



CHINA EDUCATION PROGRAM

The **China Study Program** panel event held on November 17, 2011, at the University of Portland's White Stag Building in Oldtown/Chinatown was a great success. The event featured representatives from five schools in Oregon that engage their students in study programs on China as part of their curriculum.

The event served two purposes—to provide information about China study programs in the area to individuals and organizations for potential students, and share best practices and advice for administrators and faculty wanting to develop such programs.

The panel included Andrew Earle from the **University of Oregon's** "Engaging Asia" program, Jeff Millard from **Portland State University's Master of International Management** Asia business study tour, Jonathan Cooley from **Concordia University's** MBA China program, Dr. John Orr from the **University of Portland's** E-Scholars program and the MBA China Ventures China experience, and Beth Howlett of the **Oregon College of Oriental Medicine** and its hands-on practicum in China's traditional Chinese medicine hospitals.

Each speaker talked about their respective programs, shared their experiences, highlighted lessons learned, and identified emergent best practices. This sharing of ideas and experience proved valuable to the audience, which included several stakeholders and representatives from other schools.

Please keep an eye out for announcements for the next upcoming CEP event to be held later this quarter, which will focus on issues related to the recruitment of students from China to Oregon schools, and the facilitation of their academic and social success while they are studying here.

And as always, if you or someone you know has an idea for a CEP event or wants to become more involved as a CEP committee member, please contact the Northwest China Council office at info@nwchina.org.

- David W Kohl, CEP Chair

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China Business Program Annual Sponsor

SPRING TOUR OF CHINA: MARCH 31-APRIL 16, 2012



This tour focuses on some of the most interesting and scenic places in China. The tour starts with a visit to Wuzhen, an ancient water village, and continues to Hangzhou for a visit to famous West Lake and Meijiawu Tea

Plantation Village. We will then fly to Kunming and visit the world renowned Kunming Botanical Garden and the Stone Forest. Next, we will travel north in Yunnan Province and visit three distinct and fascinating towns, Dali with a cruise on nearby Erhai (Ear lake), Lijiang with the ancient Naxi Minority, and Shangrila with its beautiful Songzalin Tibetan Monastery. After Shangrila, we will travel to Guilin and take a boat cruise on the Li River, with an opportunity to photograph the incredible mountain and water



scenes made famous in Chinese painting. We will conclude the trip with a two-day stopover in Hong Kong. The trip will cover the gamut from quaint river side villages to the dramatic vista of Tiger Leaping Gorge, and the beginning of the ethereal Tibetan plateau.



The tour is led by David Bleyle, Northwest China Council Board Director and retired Foreign Service officer. David served many years in China, most recently as the U.S. Consul General in Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

Cost is \$3,100 and includes lodging at 4-star hotels, a 5-star retreat, travel within China, meals where indicated, English speaking guides at each destination, and a pre-trip planning meeting.

The tour is limited to 16-20 people. Registration and a \$500 deposit are due by January 31, 2012. The itinerary and more information can be found at www.nwchina.org.

YOU ARE INVITED...
NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL'S 22ND ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR AUCTION & BANQUET

Please join NW China Council members and friends in celebrating the Year of the Dragon on Saturday, February 25, 2012.



For the second year in a row, **Delta Air Lines** is generously sponsoring the annual gala.

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 getaways, antiques, and various items from local shops, restaurants, and around the world.



The New Year Auction and Banquet is the Northwest China Council's most important fundraising event of the year and we've set an ambitious goal to raise \$50,000. 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.

The celebration will be at Legin Banquet Hall, 8001 SE Division Street, Portland, OR 97206, from 5:00-9:00 pm.



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, then the banquet and the live auction.

Donations are needed! Please consider contributing items or services to the auction. Items of all kinds are welcome, such as artwork, antiques, electronics, gift certificates, wine and food, and vacation stays.

Contact the Northwest China Council office with any questions, or to set-up drop-off or pick-up times. All donations are greatly appreciated, and tax-deductible.

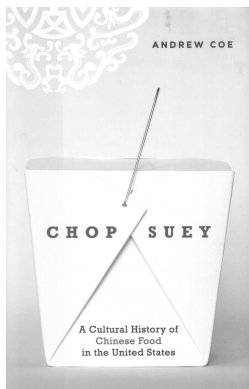
We look forward to seeing you at the 22nd annual Chinese New Year Auction and Banquet!



Individual tickets are \$55, a Friends and Family table is \$500 (seats 10), and a Patron table is \$650 (preferred seating, wine included). To reserve a space or for further information, visit our website (www.nwchina.org), email johnw@nwchina.org, or call the office at 503-973-5451.



NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL BOOK CLUB



Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States, by Andrew Coe, was the October book club selection. The book spans America's relationship with Chinese food and culture from the Yankee traders of 1784 to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Despite the lighthearted sounding title, Andrew Coe has written an extensively researched historical book, including a 13-page bibliography.

Although the Yankee sea traders were treated to sumptuous banquets by their Chinese partners, reaction to the elaborate feasts was negative and "full of horrors." Alternatively, the Chinese view of American taste for singed and bloody chops of meat was "barbaric." Despite the initial mutual revulsion to each other's food, there are now about 41,000 Chinese restaurants in the United States (about 3 times the number of McDonald's franchises). There is a Chinese restaurant in virtually every town in the United States.

The third chapter, "Coarse Rice and Water," gives a fascinating overview of the evolution of food in China from the Xia and Shang Dynasty to modern day; the long history of grains, rice, and tea; and how "bing" (e.g. steamed bread) and "cai fan" (precursor to chop suey) evolved into staples in the Chinese diet.

The dish, chop suey, made Chinese food famous in America starting about 1890. It reached mass market appeal in the 1930's through 1950's, but now has been relegated to the back pages. For those unfamiliar, the author describes chop suey is "a preparation of sliced pork or chicken cooked with bean sprouts, onions, celery, bamboo shoots, and water chestnuts until everything is mushy and flavorless, then served with a gummy, translucent sauce over white rice." Perhaps the bland taste speaks of the time's aversion to what is out of the ordinary. Chop suey, and its variant, chow mein (served over noodles, instead of rice), were staples of Chinese restaurants until the late 1960's, when a new wave of Chinese immigrants introduced more authentic Chinese food to an accepting American public.

The role that Chinese banquet dining played in Nixon and Kissinger's diplomatic mission to China in 1972 is covered in chapter 7, "Devouring the Duck," and is fascinating. America's view of the President and First Lady using chopsticks to handle exotic banquet dishes became a window, opening America's tastes to more adventuresome Chinese dining experiences.

The book prompted some of us in the book club to cook our own chop suey, stir frying chopped vegetables and protein, and serving over rice. With better seasoning ingredients than the standard corn starch and soy sauce, and using green Asian vegetables, we found that chop suey is a delicious and healthy way to prepare a meal.

The January book club selection is ***The Train to Lo Wu***, by Jess Row. For more information on the Northwest China Council book club, please email: johnw@nwchina.org.

- John M. Wong

RESTAURANT REVIEW: TASTE OF SICHUAN

I recently had a very enjoyable lunchtime dining experience at Taste of Sichuan, located on NW Cornell Road in Beaverton.

The outside of the building, which almost glows in a muted yellow-orange hue (particularly on an overcast day), contrasts softly with the interior. It is understated and tasteful in

rich earth tones, dark wood floor paneling, and jade-green blinds which I happened to notice were a perfect match to the table supports, plus soft lighting and large windows. Warm-toned artwork is placed high on the walls. Female vocal background music, which my cheerful server confirmed was vintage Chinese, played quietly, lending a pleasing auditory signature to the whole picture.



Everything was served quickly and piping-hot. I had first ordered a cup of hot-and-sour soup, which was most definitely spicy plus very colorful; a thick dark-orange base with shredded carrot, tofu, and bits of red pepper, among

other additions. My meal itself, eggplant with hot garlic sauce and vegetable fried rice, was generously-portioned on a very large plate. Large chunks of eggplant were bathed in a flavorful spicy brown garlic-ginger sauce, punctuated visually and flavorfully with flecks of green onion and red pepper. The vegetable-laden rice was a perfect accompaniment to the eggplant. I also found the hot jasmine tea to be robust and satisfying.

In summary, my experience at this restaurant was memorable. I had arrived right at opening time, 11:00 a.m., and
(continued on next page)

RESTAURANT REVIEW: TASTE OF SICHUAN (CONTINUED)

when I left over an hour later the place was bustling with an equal number of Asian and non-Asian patrons, including families with small children as well as area employees on lunch breaks. I overheard conversations in several Chinese dialects as well as English. I also found the staff to be courteous and efficient.

Taste of Sichuan is obviously a popular spot. On the menu is a special “Take a walk on the wild side” section that specializes in Sichuanese dishes that would be more unusual for non-Chinese Americans. It does dine-in and take-out and is open for lunch and dinner every day.

Taste Of Sichuan
16261 NW Cornell Road, Beaverton, OR 97006
503-629-7001 or 503-629-7011

- Shireen Farrahi

WHAT THE U.S. CAN LEARN FROM CHINA



Ann Lee, author of *What the U.S. Can Learn From China*, made her book tour’s first stop in Portland on Tuesday, January 17th. The audience of over 120 people braved the snowy weather to attend the event.

Ann is not an advocate for all things China, acknowledging that there are certain practices not appropriate for the U.S. She points out that we as a country tend to focus on other’s weaknesses. Because of this, we miss a great opportunity to look at other countries, specifically China, and learn new, and potentially best, practices in governing.

China’s national government functions on the concept of “earned authority,” wherein the Chinese believe the “honor of running a nation” should be granted to those that have earned it. Government leaders are required to pass a competency test, and less than 20% of test takers pass. Officials serve 5-year terms, with a 2-term limit, and are then moved into another position. Evaluations are 360°—officials are assessed by both supervisors and staff. This system perpetuates government service as a career, allowing leaders to work their way up the ranks over time.

The U.S. only requires a competency test for foreign service officials, and allows elected officials to enter and exit the political arena very easily. Many positions are appointed, and thus subject to political currents and conflict.

The U.S. is also afflicted with what Ann calls “short-termism.” The government settles on band-aid solutions because the political system is restricted by 2-year election cycles and the economy is subject to short-term profit demands. “We need to find a way to step back and look at the big picture...where...we want to be in the long term and how...we get there,” Ann points out.

China has institutionalized a 5-year strategic plan that includes detailed goals and performance targets, and is agreed on by all the government officials. China’s current plan focuses on creating a “greener economy.” The U.S. federal budget is the equivalent to China’s 5-year plan. It outlines spending and goals, but no benchmarks or targets. Essentially, this means citizens pay taxes with the promise of certain results, but there is no accountability measure to ensure outcome.

Various questions were posed by the audience during the Q&A portion of the talk. Ann spoke of her banking experience, time lecturing at Peking University, and her personal connection with China.

Ann points out that China actually has sophisticated internal equivalents to Twitter and Facebook that foster communication and transparency. The Chinese recognize that with a single party system, propaganda is likely, but they also appreciate that life has improved dramatically.

Pulling from Joseph Nye’s concept of “soft power,” Ann explains that while China is not skilled in public relations, the country chooses to believe that “actions speak louder than words.” China’s foreign policy centers around creating partnerships to build and reinforce infrastructure.

In addition to looking at political, economic, and foreign practices, understanding China’s beliefs and values is essential. Confucianism, specifically prioritizing social good over individualism, underlines China’s way of life.

Reform, while time and resource consuming, and lengthy is necessary. However, ideas should not be blankly adopted, but rather, they should change the debate from whether “more or less government” is better to how we make an “effective government...so that it is for the people.”

The talk, in its entirety, is available via our website, under the Past Events link (www.nwchina.org).

- Jennifer Li

**CHINESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM ON MT. LUSHAN:
JULY 2-27, 2012**

For the second year in a row, a four-week summer Chinese language program is being offered by Nanjing University on Mount Lushan in Jiangxi Province.

Lushan is one of China's most fabled mountains, rising 5000 feet above the Yangtze River between Nanjing and Wuhan, a cool retreat from the summer heat of the Yangtze Valley. Courses will be taught by accredited instructors from Nanjing.



Students are also offered excursions to Lushan's famous natural and historic sites. Cost for the four week program is \$2200 including tuition, most meals, lodging, and local excursions.



The first offering, last summer, 2011, was attended by Northwest China Council members Rodger Winn, Myrla Magness, and Tracy Mehoke; who would be glad to describe their experiences to those interested in attending this summer.



Registration is due May 15, 2012. For more information, visit the Northwest China Council website (www.nwchina.org) or contact Elsa Porter at elsa@nwchina.org.

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**PROJECT UPDATE: FLYING TIGERS -
CHINESE AMERICAN AVIATORS IN OREGON**

The July-September 2011 issue of the China Council Quarterly contained an article on the Northwest China Council's 2011-2012 project on Chinese American aviators in Oregon, from 1918-1945. This project highlights the contributions and stories of the local aviators, placing them in the context of the connection between China and Oregon made through aviation, along with the political unrest and social change in China and the U.S. through the end of World War II.



Though the project is still developing, here are a couple of updates:

An exhibition of photos, documents, and memorabilia will run from **August 30-October 28, 2012**, in the Collins Gallery on the third floor of the Multnomah County Central Library (801 SW 10th Ave, Portland, OR 97205). The Collins Gallery is open seven days a week during library hours and the admission is free. An added bonus is accessibility—the MAX stops right at the library and there is a parking structure right across the street. There will be an opening reception, date and time to be determined.

Two-day series of events will occur Friday and Saturday, September 7 and 8, 2012. Times and venues to be determined. Activities will include:

- A presentation by the WWII vets of the all-Chinese American 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company, an elite squadron of the U.S. military. They will share their wartime experiences in a moderated discussion. This group is holding their 2012 reunion in Portland.
- Keynote talk by K. Scott Wong, James Phinney Baxter III Professor of History and Public Affairs at Williams College and author of *Americans First, Chinese Americans and the Second World War* (Harvard, 2005).
- Additional local speakers and oral histories.

Look for updates in the next two issues of the China Council Quarterly and online at the Northwest China Council's website (www.nwchina.org). We will also mail announcements of the final schedule.

- Ann Wetherell, Cultural Programs Committee Chair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Northwest China Council Annual Chinese New Year Auction & Banquet (See page 3.)

Saturday, February 25, 2012

5:00pm Silent auction, 7:00pm Lion dance & Flying Horse Award, 7:30pm Banquet dinner & Live auction

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

Tickets: \$55 individual, \$500 Friends and Family table (10), \$650 Patron table (preferred seating for 10)

China Spring Tour (See page 2.)

March 31 - April 16, 2012

Cost: \$3,100, \$500 deposit due at registration (Register by Tuesday, January 31, 2012).

Chinese Language Program on Mt. Lushan (See page 6.)

July 2 - July 27, 2012

Tuition: \$2,200. (Register by Tuesday, May 15, 2012.)

Flying Tigers - Chinese American Aviators in Oregon (1918-1945) (See page 6.)

August 30 - October 28, 2012

Exhibit and event locations and times TBD.

**For more information and updates on these programs, and to register for any event, please visit www.nwchina.org or email 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.

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+
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
127 NW Third Ave.
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