



July - September 2012 - Issue 123
China Council Quarterly
221 NW 2nd Ave, Ste 210-J, Portland, OR 97209
www.nwchina.org

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



This has been an exciting year for the Northwest China Council. We have been busy creating mechanisms for growth, efficiency and sustainability within the structure of the organization, and are ready to take the Northwest China Council to a new level of engagement with our membership and the community at large.

During the last few months we have re-assessed our mission and approach; we have created internal documentation regarding organizational procedure and protocol; and have reached out to our membership, as well as other aligned organizations, to assist us in fulfilling our mission to provide non-biased, accessible and timely information regarding all aspects of the greater China region to the community.

Cultural programming has always been a key element of the Northwest China Council, and we have been making great efforts to re-invigorate this aspect of the Northwest China Council. We have created a grant committee to guide us in our organizational re-development so as to be in a favorable position to leverage grant opportunities to serve you better. We are reaching out to our membership to let us know what you want from the Northwest China Council, and how you see the organization positively impacting the community. Please let us know your thoughts on how we might best serve the community, and please consider volunteering to assist the Northwest China Council in areas of particular interest to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to the late Marcia Weinstein for her extremely generous gift to the Northwest China Council from her estate. Marcia was a longtime supporter and friend of the Northwest China Council, and she will not be forgotten. Please keep an eye out for more information on future events honoring Marcia's memory and her gift to the Northwest China Council.

We have had some great events and speakers so far this summer, spanning business, culture and contemporary

affairs, and we have more exciting events coming up in the fall.

The Flying Tigers series of exhibits and programs that we have been working hard on for the past year is almost upon us, and we look forward to welcoming the veterans to Portland. For more, see page 2.

Please also save the date for the Northwest China Council **annual meeting and dinner Saturday September 8, 2012**, at Wong's King Restaurant. We will be voting in new board directors and officers, and the meeting will be highlighted by a keynote speech by Dr. K. Scott Wong. We look forward to seeing you there.

- David W. Kohl, President

CHINA BUSINESS EVENTS

On July 26, Amy Sommers presented a talk titled "Murder, Sex, and Scandal in China: Why Businesses Should Care About Compliance in China." Amy, a partner in the Shanghai office of global law firm K&L Gates LLP, is a leading China-based practitioner in Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and anti-bribery compliance. She provided an update and shared her insights on China's compliance efforts. See page 4 for more.

We will be holding a summer networking social in the third week in August. More details will be firmed up soon. Also in the works is a presentation about food safety in China and how it presents opportunities for Oregon companies. Please watch our website for event announcements.

- Cathy Chinn, Chair, China Business Network

Marcia Weinstein Bequest

On June 27, 2012, the Northwest China Council received \$120,473.11 from the Estate of Marcia Weinstein. Marcia was a Chinese scholar, business woman, former Northwest China Council board member and volunteer, and a civic activist. We appreciate all of Marcia's contributions and remembering the Northwest China Council in her will.



FLYING TIGERS: CHINESE AMERICAN AVIATORS IN OREGON, 1918-1945

I. Exhibition, Multnomah County Central Library Collins Gallery, August 30 - October 28, 2012

The opening reception is Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 6-7:30pm. There will be light refreshments.

This exhibit highlights military and commercial Chinese American aviators in Oregon through the end of WWII, exploring the interweaving factors of the activism of Portland's Chinese American community, political tension and change in China and the US, and development and promotion of an aviation industry in Oregon.



Chinese Americans in Oregon were extensively involved in aviation from the late nineteen-teens through the end of the Second World War. This period of roughly three and a half decades, what could be called a "golden age of Chinese aviation" in Portland, corresponded to significant developments in both China and Oregon. As China witnessed the final collapse of imperial rule in 1911 and founded a nascent republic that saw aviation as a key to modernization and protection from Japanese aggression, Portland promoted itself as the leader in commercial aviation in the Northwest, built a modern airport on Swan Island, and established aviation schools that trained Chinese Americans as pilots and mechanics. Portland's Chinese community had both the political and economic clout to forge relationships between the Chinese military and the Portland aviation schools, and responded to the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931 by founding a school to train Chinese American pilots to serve in China's air war against Japan. When the US eventually became drawn into WWII, Chinese Americans served in all branches of the US military, including the Army Air Corps and Air Force. Chinese American aviators became heroes and heroines whose achievements were heralded in both the local and national press.

The exhibition of photos, documents, and memorabilia follows Portland heroes and heroines of flight, including

teenager Henry Wong, who built a plane in 1918 and attempted to enlist in the US Army Air Corps in WWI; Major Arthur Chin and Hazel Ying Lee, graduates of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society's Aviation School in 1932-1933, who distinguished themselves in service to both the US and China; commercial pilot and mechanic Leah Hing, the first Chinese woman to earn a commercial pilot's license in Oregon; and Pak On Lee, a new immigrant in 1935, who returned to China in 1941 as a member of the US military and one of just eleven Chinese members of the American Volunteer Group--the original Flying Tigers--under the command of General Claire Chennault.



Henry Wong

The exhibit is co-curated by Dr. Ann Wetherell, Portland State University, and Jim Carmin, curator of the John Wilson Special Collections, Multnomah County Library, and draws materials from the Multnomah County Library, Oregon Historical Society, Portland City Archives, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Oregon Aviation Historical Museum, Museum of Chinese in America, and several private collections.

II. "Flying Tigers and Chinese America in Wartime" Workshop, Smith Memorial Center, Portland State University, Saturday, September 8, 2012, 10am - 4pm

This event highlights the Chinese American experience of WWII both locally and nationally with presentations by invited speakers.

Dr. K. Scott Wong, James Phinney Baxter III Professor of History and Public Affairs at Williams College, Williamstown MA, and author of *Americans First: Chinese Americans in the Second World War*, will speak briefly to introduce the event.

The local perspective will be presented by a small group of elders from Portland's "Old Timers," who will talk about what life was like in Chinatown during that time, and the people that went to war.

The national perspective is given by veterans of the all-Chinese American Flying Tiger unit of the WWII Fourteenth Air Service Group/ Fourteenth Air Force who are visiting Portland for their 2012 reunion. This group will give two presentations: The first explores the context of

FLYING TIGERS: CHINESE AMERICAN AVIATORS (CONTINUED)

Chinese American experience, including the Exclusion Act of 1882, how there was a generation of men and women who could be drafted into the service, the impact of the second Sino-Japanese war, and war bonds drives. The second presentation is a moderated panel of 3-5 of the vets, who will discuss their wartime experiences, then take questions from the floor.



There will be a public reception following the second presentation to allow the audience to meet the speakers.

That evening, Dr. K. Scott Wong will give a keynote speech on the role of WWII in the transformation of Chinese America at the Northwest China Council's annual dinner.

This project has received generous support from the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the PSU Institute of Asian Studies, PSU Department of History, First Saturday program, Bank of the West, and many private donors.

- Ann Wetherell

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUTER MANCHURIA'S MODERN DAY RELEVANCE TO CHINA

The previous issue of the *China Council Quarterly* profiled the Russian Far Eastern city of Khabarovsk and its significance to China-involved Portlanders as a sister city with substantial Chinese connections. Here are several additional facts about Khabarovsk and the Outer Manchuria region in general, further highlighting the area's importance to the People's Republic of China.

The Ussuri (Wusuli) River flows northward from the southeast of northeastern China and forms part of the Sino-Russian border until it joins the Amur (Heilongjiang) River as a tributary to it at Khabarovsk. The significance of this major geographic feature is compounded by the complications introduced by the recent dumping of toxic

pollutants by China into the Ussuri, which has quickly become a concern for Russia regarding its drinking water and the fishing economy all along the lower Amur beginning at Khabarovsk. This sensitive geopolitical situation will make cross-border consulting a necessity well into the future. So it may not be surprising that one of the major interests of the Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association (www.pkcsa.org) is water quality there.

Regarding Outer Manchuria more broadly, the airports in Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, Russia's 14th and 11th busiest in 2010, respectively, play important roles in Pacific Rim passenger travel, including to China. For the Vladivostok International Airport, whose international traffic served 327,000 passengers in 2011, Beijing rivaled Moscow and Seoul as being one of the most preferred destinations. Khabarovsk's Novy Airport features multiple Chinese cities such as Beijing and Harbin among its more limited international offerings. Also, the presence of a Chinese consulate office in Khabarovsk seems to reflect the strength of its expat population.



The full length of the Trans-Siberian Railway extends 5,753 miles eastward from Moscow, through Khabarovsk and terminating in Vladivostok, but there is also the Trans-Manchurian line that diverts southward just north of Outer Mongolia, traveling through Harbin to finish in Beijing. That line was developed at the end of the 19th century in order for the Russian military to quickly reach the Pacific coast via Harbin. Russian and Chinese relations were stable then. But the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 discouraged Russia's use of the Chinese section of the railroad, as Manchuria was then being occupied by the Japanese. In 1915 the traffic was then reopened and the railway connected to Beijing. The main Trans-Siberian line, entirely on Russian soil, was completed in 1916, and the author has been informed that this difference in routes is not always made clear in PRC travel folders.

- Shireen Farrahi

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LEGAL COMPLIANCE IN CHINA

On July 26, Amy Sommers, a partner with K & L Gates law firm's Shanghai Office, spoke to an eclectic group of Sinophiles about current affairs in China. Her speech touched on the historic roots of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and of the GuoMinDang (KMT) as it relates to power, money, transparency and corruption. Both the KMT and the CCP were organized in imitation of the Soviet system, which in the years after the Russian Revolution and WWI was seen as a fitting model for economies and nations emerging from feudalism and monarchism.

In the 1920's and 1930's, by adhering to strict rules prohibiting bribery, official corruption, and other social evils, the CCP gained credibility with both the country's common people and the business elite's more progressive elements. They contrasted themselves to the KMT, which had become infamous for bribery and official veniality that marked the Nationalist government at every level. Moreover, prostitution, gambling, opium use, and other social ills were openly tolerated by Chinese officialdom.

The current leadership in Beijing is mindful of the fate of the KMT, and is actively pursuing action against official corruption. However, the intrinsic weaknesses in a single party system, where the government has its own business interests and the Rule of Law is a weak concept, have blunted the effectiveness of those efforts.

Sommers cited three factors in the current climate of change in China. First, when China began its opening to the West in the late 1970's, foreign investment and advanced technology were seen as catalysts for change. The leadership did not want to go back to the colonialism that marked the pre-WWII economic era, so investments required legal and regulatory approval. Having the regulators involved in the economic structure bred opportunities for corruption. It was common for officials at all levels to accept bribes and payments for government services that should have been rendered as a function of citizenship.

Second, the 10-year Cultural Revolution caused massive disruption and breakdown in public confidence. Although the government was operating more cleanly, the excesses of the Cultural Revolution destroyed popular trust in the ethics of the CCP and its ability to deal fairly with its own people. The popular ethic was to look out for yourself, with little concern for the wider public good.

Third, in the 1990's, as new economic reforms were implemented, the entrenched State Sector was seen to be a drag on reforms. The government sought investment, new technology, and new management for the State Owned Enterprises (SOE's). They also watched the massive privatization, and transfer of ownership and wealth to

a new elite in Russia and other former Soviet countries.

The CCP leadership kept certain core functions and industries under State control, and adopted policies, infusions of capital, and listings on various native and foreign stock exchanges as a way to support growth and modernization of the SOE's. The SOE's do not necessarily operate for the benefit of the wider government and society, but there is pressure from the CCP leadership for them to do so. With the on-going social changes in China, people are taking jobs away from their "laojia," their home cities; and with the one child policy, extended families are no longer a major locus of care for the older generation. In a society that is increasingly elderly, the government is pushing the SOE's to fund housing and services to elders.

The elites in the SOE's are wealthy and powerful. Many new managers, some with foreign education credentials, function as effectively and honestly as any counterpart in Western corporate circles. However, the SOE's are cash cows for those elites. Having the CCP retain management and oversight roles in these entities breeds opportunities for self-dealing.



The government is looking more like the old KMT than many would like to admit—there is a single party with sole government and social power, no external mechanisms for accountability, and lots of money to provide temptation. On a macro level, the CCP leadership knows that official and commercial corruption undermines the legitimacy of their rule, but individuals still want to be on the inside of the game.

The CCP is trying to curtail the corruption with enforcement and leadership training. There is evidence that internet blogs and twitter are letting light into the system, but reporters are still subject to recrimination and arbitrary persecution when they get too close to any wrongdoings.

In many cases, the government's desire to be full participants in the international business community has forced them to address these issues. Under the new criminal law, soliciting or accepting bribes from foreign companies is illegal. In 2011, the World Bank debarred corrupt companies from participating in WB programs. The US Foreign

LEGAL COMPLIANCE IN CHINA (CONTINUED)

Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), which has been copied by many of China's other foreign customers and suppliers, has significantly raised the stakes for engaging in corrupt practices. Agents of those companies readily cite the FCPA when they suspect a bribe is being solicited.

The CCP however is more concerned about the corruption within the country because it undermines the legitimacy of the Party. Under the new law, and in keeping with Dodd-Frank and the FCPA, whistle blowers can collect 10 to 30% bounty from the fines that are imposed on the corrupt actors. This can be a sizeable amount of money.

Sommers addressed the new State Secrets Law, which is so broad that the government can cite the law for almost any information it does not want disseminated. It can be used to prevent even legitimate business dealings it arbitrarily decides are undesirable. Overseas companies are advised to ask their Chinese partners if any of the data involved in their transactions involve State Secrets.

A national database now allows for a listing of illegitimate dealing, but much of the data is held locally and does not appear in the national file yet. Foreign entities are cautioned to seek clarity with local governments.

There are now 180 Chinese companies listed on various foreign stock exchanges. Many are trading at 20% of their listing price. A company called Muddy Waters began investigating and calling the Chinese companies on irregular practices. As this information came out there was a rash of short selling of the stocks in these companies by insiders. Many people made lots of money, to the extent that the Public Security Bureau is looking into the companies' actions, tax history, and other factors.

Sommers is not optimistic for real change in the near future. The western economic crisis and bail out of the major banks have damaged the credibility of the Western system of checks on corruption. China has responded with an economic stimulus program that relies on bank loans. There is a gray market float in the economy that provides opportunities for insiders to make lots of money, with few internal mechanisms to keep them honest.

China's Rule of Law applies more to foreigners than locals. Foreign companies need to find legitimate partners and ascertain what their goals are. There are honest and hardworking people in the government, but the position, size and wealth of the SOE's lead to corruption. Foreign companies need to be willing to forego sales or investment opportunities if asked to participate in illegal payments. Aside from the illegality, such payments only lead to higher costs for the goods or services being acquired.

China is still schizophrenic about interactions with the outside world; 150 years of foreign economic and military domination has made her insecure. Internal needs of the country still dominate their policy and economic decisions. However, they can look to Taiwan for a model of how a Chinese society can become a participatory democracy and operate within international legal standards.

- Paul Millius

LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN CHINA

On July 18, Professor Bruce Gilley gave a talk at the World Affairs Council, co-sponsored by the Northwest China Council. Approximately 70 people attended.

Professor Gilley spoke about the upcoming Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leadership change that will occur at the 18th People's Congress in the fall. Such a major leadership change happens once every ten years, and represents the "Fifth Generation" of Party leadership. This is the second change since the death of Deng Xiaoping, and the first not set in place by Deng's authority. So, it can be said that the new President will be China's first real politician and will need to establish his own legitimacy. This is in contrast to current President Hu Jintao, who was chosen by Deng and considered a consensus-based leader.

Behind closed doors, there is a family feud between the Nationalists and the Social Marxists. The expected President, Xi Jinping, represents the Nationalist faction, and the expected new Premier, Li Keqiang, represents the Social Marxists faction. Seven of the nine members of the powerful Politburo Standing Committee are expected to step down, leaving only Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang as members. Although the CCP gives a united front, Xi seems to have a rightist view, interested in growth and nationalism; while Li represents the left, interested in social equality and closing the wealth gap.

Professor Gilley outlined three problem areas that the new leadership will contend with: economic slow down and inflation, internal democratic movement, and South China Seas conflict.

As far as US-China relations, President Obama's initial "engagement policy" evolved into a "hedge strategy" in the face of China's rising influence.

- John M. Wong

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TEACHING ENGLISH IN CHINA

In 2011, I was volunteering at the Portland Suzhou Sister City Association's annual gala when a member told me, "I heard you want to go to China. You should try talking to Mr. Xu." Mr. Xu, headmaster of the Suzhou Experimental Elementary School (SEES), was one of the distinguished guests that evening. I also met Hongyu Cai of Skybridge International and of Wuzhong (America) Service for Cultural Education and Communication. After participating in the 2011 Lushan Summer Institute, I went to Suzhou to begin my first year of teaching English in China.

SEES manages four different elementary school campuses within the Suzhou area, several overseas institutions, and an Environmental Education Center on the edge of China's famous Lake Tai. Although the SEES education group has over 100 years of history, the campus I worked at was brand-new, completed shortly before I moved in—the Wujiang Pearl School (WPS), located in the Wujiang Economic Development Zone south of Suzhou proper. I enjoyed thinking of Wujiang as the "Milwaukie" of Suzhou, and since the campus is located within the "City Pearl" apartment complex, I jokingly considered that I'd gone from one Pearl District to another.

I felt very fortunate to be with WPS in its first year. Besides the opportunity of helping build the school's reputation and developing the Brilliant English program, I had the benefit of working with smaller class sizes. My fellow teachers were all very friendly, helpful, and accommodating, and the students were a joy to work with. I assisted with extracurricular games, events, and celebrations. Last year, the school served only K-3rd grade. Next year, 4th grade will be added, and so on every year until the school operates at full capacity of K-6th grade.

I observed many differences between China and the US, in the ways that Chinese teachers and parents participate in education. I'm not sure if WPS is typical of schools in China or if the attitude of the parents is typical of Chinese parents. The SEES campuses are known as centers of good education, always striving to improve the quality of their instruction. The WPS students' families are relatively well off, educated, and hold prominent careers.



WPS teachers are constantly working to improve and showcase their teaching abilities. Besides preparing lessons for their regular classes, teachers meet several times a year for all-day in-services where four demonstration classes are presented, followed by a

workshop where seasoned educators evaluate and give feedback on the classes. Presenting teachers put a lot of time and effort into planning their classes, often making use of multimedia technology and trying different approaches to teaching. Some teachers also enter competitions involving several rounds of demonstration classes and evaluations. Chinese schools use frequent communication between teachers and parents, presentations to explain the curricula and methods, and invitations for parents to attend and evaluate demonstration classes (at least for classes of foreign English teachers).

It's no surprise that Chinese parents are invested in their children's education. At least one parent registered his 1st grader to stay in boarding school during the week because he felt it best for his son's studies. My fellow English teachers reminded me that even if I thought a particular section of a textbook wasn't very important, I should go over it in class, because at home, the parents would check their child's progress by having the child read through the entire lesson. The school has a dedicated meeting room for parent volunteers, who I have seen helping hang up student art projects in the hall. There were also two school assemblies that featured pre-recorded video messages from parents, each saying that they love and miss their child, they are proud of their child, and encouraging the child to study hard and do well in school.

Even the students possess an impressive level of diligence for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders. I observed 2nd graders reading along with their English recordings while just outside the door their peers were running and playing at recess; a 1st grader who took on the responsibility to come after school and practice her English with me; and another 1st grader who excitedly told me that if his friends are playing a game, rather than participate, he should be doing homework. The level of responsibility that the 3rd graders assume regarding their homework and progress reminded me more of what is commonly expected of high school or college students.



I wanted to go to China since graduating from college; I begun participating in Chinese interest organizations in hopes of making helpful connections. I didn't want to go as a tourist, I wanted to go in some way that would allow me to experience a full year—the seasons, festivals, weather, daily life—and incorporate that experience into the way I approached my Chinese language and culture studies. And, since Suzhou is Portland's sister city in China, I wanted to go there. This June, I completed a successful year of teaching, but also of learning. In August, I will return for another year of teaching at WPS. Seeing old friends, and meeting new ones, I hope to further the positive relationship between Portland and Suzhou.

- Tracy Mehoke

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Flying Tigers - Chinese American Aviators in Oregon (1918-1945) (See page 2-3)

- **Exhibition: August 30 - October 28, 2012**
Multnomah County Central Library Collins Gallery, 8701 SW 10th Ave, Portland, OR 97205
- **Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 6:00-7:30pm.** Light refreshments will be provided.
- **Workshop: "Flying Tigers and Chinese America in Wartime," Saturday, September 8, 2012, 10:00am-4:00pm**
Portland State University Smith Memorial Center

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, September 8, 6:00-7:00pm
at Wong's King Restaurant, 8733 SE Division St., Portland, OR 97266.

All current NWCC members are invited to attend the annual meeting at no charge,
to hear the annual report, and vote for new board directors.

Please stay for the annual dinner at 7:00pm, featuring keynote speaker K. Scott Wong.
The cost for the annual dinner is \$30/members and \$35/general.
For more information, visit our website: www.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 _____
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I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:

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 _____ Research

Membership Category — Please check the category you wish:

Individual	_____	\$40	Major Donor	_____	\$250+
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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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