



October - December 2012 - Issue 124  
**China Council Quarterly**  
221 NW 2nd Ave, Ste 210-J, Portland, OR 97209  
www.nwchina.org

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



We are looking forward to another great year for the Northwest China Council. Our annual meeting at Wong's King restaurant on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, was well attended. We very much appreciate the support and involvement of our members.

After the annual "state of the council address" where I had the pleasure of recounting the success and progress that we accomplished this past year, members voted for directors and officers, some new and some re-elected for an additional term.

I would like to welcome Jeffrey Smith as a new addition to the Northwest China Council Board of Directors, as well as Michael Bloom, a returning director. Hong Chou was re-elected as a director.

Board directors then voted in the following officers for the annual term ending September of 2013: David W. Kohl as President, Dave Bleyle as President-elect, Victor Lam as Treasurer, and Ann Wetherell as Secretary.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the entire board for its dedication and active support of the Northwest China Council.

We are working hard to continue developing interesting programs for you, our members, and are always interested in hearing your opinions and suggestions regarding what you would like to see during the upcoming year. There are also opportunities to volunteer and become involved in our various programming committees, so please contact us if you have comments or wish to volunteer.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you at Northwest China Council events during the rest of 2012 and into 2013.

- David W. Kohl, President

## CHINA BUSINESS EVENTS

On Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held a summer networking social at Nel Centro in downtown Portland. An excellent mix of China business professionals, MIM students, and others made for lively and productive conversations. The urban outdoor patio setting was excellent for all to enjoy and escape from a long day's work. It was an excellent event to celebrate the end of summer.

I would like to remember and pay tribute to an Oregon China business executive, Harve Bellos, who passed away in early October. Harve was CEO of PACCESS, a paper packaging and supply-chain business focused in China and Asia, and a strong supporter of promoting understanding and learning of Chinese culture, business, and affairs. Harve received his degree in China Studies from University of Washington and started his career in the pulp and paper industry at Perry H. Koplik & Sons in New York in 1981. He moved to Portland in 1991 to manage Koplik's packaging business. He and his four partners purchased the business and founded PACCESS in 1995. He became the sole owner and was leader and CEO of the company for the last 20+ years. IPACCESS ranked 25th in the 2012 Oregon Private 150 list by Oregon Business Magazine.



Many of Harve's friends and associates have told me that they admired him for his integrity, ability, and kindness. I, along with Board Director Gloria Lee, had the good fortune of working with Harve when he was Board President of the Lan Su Chinese Garden. Harve was a very capable and dedicated business person, a strong and decisive leader, a very loving husband and father, and a good and caring friend to his many employees and friends. Above all, he was remembered for his high integrity and principles. He spoke excellent Mandarin, traveled freely in China, loved and was knowledgeable about Chinese arts and culture, and often sounded and acted like a native Chinese. Harve will be deeply missed.

- Cathy Chinn, Chair, China Business Network



## CHINA'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY

On Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, as part of CHINA Town Hall, Professor Dudley Poston, Jr. gave a talk at PSU entitled: *China's Changing Demography: Impacts of Fertility, Ageing, and Migration on China, the U.S. and the World.*



The talk began with a discussion of “exceptionalism” — the perception that a country, culture, or time period is exceptional; and does not need to conform to general rules, or principles.

“American exceptionalism” refers to the idea that the United States is qualitatively different from other countries; because it arose out of a revolution, and developed an unique ideology of liberty, equality, constitutionalism, and the well-being of ordinary people. American exceptionalism includes the idea that Americans are a special people with a destiny to lead the world toward liberty and democracy.

On the other hand, “Chinese exceptionalism” is based on 4,000+ years of history, hierarchical relationships with its neighbors, and its ability to change in order to maintain its prominence and power (the Opium War and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century politics being an embarrassing perturbation). Chinese exceptionalism is pragmatic, adaptable, with the goal of regional primacy; while keeping its ruling party and power intact.

Within its national exceptionalism, China has some major demographic exceptionalisms:

1. One of the fastest fertility declines in human history
2. Older age acceleration in population.
3. Unbalanced sex ratio at birth between boys and girls.
4. Largest migration of workers from rural areas to urban centers in human history.



This article will focus on one of the exceptionalisms and its potential future impact: the rapid decline in fertility rate, from 6+ in 1970 to about 1.5 in 2010. The decline in fertility can be mainly attributed to government policy. In 1971, the “wan, xi, shao” (“later, longer, fewer”) campaign supporting a variety of birth control, coupled with incentives and penalties, reduced fertility rate from 6+ to less than 3 by 1979. Despite success in reducing population growth, in order to achieve the goal of 1.2 billion population, the “one child” policy was implemented in 1979, which further reduced fertility to about 1.5 by 1992. A slow decline continued until the present time.

The out of balance sex structure in China is a result of the rapid decline in fertility rate — a preference for sons grew. Technology to determine the sex of the fetus and ease of access to abortions contributed. The sex at birth in China is 120 male to 100 female. Professor Dudley discussed the possibility of female infanticide and female out-adoption as small possibilities; with the greatest being sonar detection, followed by female-specific abortion.



Between 1983 and 2010, there have been more than 41 million boys born than girls. These “extra boys” will find themselves unsuccessful in courting a girl to marry. If China does not reduce its sex ratio at birth (120:100) between 2010 and 2020; it will have over 55 million bachelors unable to find wives. Even if it moves to a more balanced ratio by 2020, there will be 51 million bachelors This is larger than the total population of California (37 million). Starting in 2015 (25-30 years after “one child policy”), there will be a high demand for Chinese brides; and it will continue for at least 15 years.

From a sociological research perspective, there will be large increase in prostitution, bachelor ghettos, and unprecedented spread of HIV and other STD’s. Social implications include mail-order brides, banditry, social unrest, and national and international security problems. Professor Poston referred the audience to Valerie

## CHINA'S CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY (CONTINUED)

Hudson's book *Bare Branches* on the security implications of China's surplus male population.

Dudley L. Poston, Jr. is a Professor of Sociology, and the Abell Professor of Liberal Arts, at Texas A&M University. Dr. Poston's research interests include demography, human ecology, and the sociology of gender, with special attention to the populations of China, Taiwan, and Korea. While at Texas A&M, Dr. Poston also serves as Guest Professor of Demography at the People's University in Beijing, China; Guest Professor of Cultural Studies and Sociology at Fuzhou University, Fuzhou, China; and Adjunct Professor of Demography, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing, China.

- John M. Wong

## 2012 ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

Over 70 members and friends attended the Northwest China Council's Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at Wong's King Restaurant on SE Division Street.



Board President David W. Kohl reviewed highlights of the past year. The following three board members were elected for two year terms: Michael Bloom, Hong Chou, and Jeffrey Smith.

Also elected were Board of Directors officers for year 2012-2013: David W. Kohl, President; David Bleyle, President-elect; Ann Wetherell, Secretary; and Victor Lam, Treasurer.

Following a delicious 10-course Chinese banquet, Professor K. Scott Wong of Williams College delivered a keynote talk on "Chinese America in World War II". The talk was part of NWCC's Flying Tigers series.

Professor Wong noted that World War II was a major turning point in white America's perception of the Chinese people.

In the late nineteenth century, Chinese immigrants had a negative image. In 1876, a San Francisco politician testified in Congress that "Chinese are inferior to any race" and "have no souls to save." In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act.



World War II was pivotal in altering perception as Chinese Americans joined the war effort by buying bonds, working in shipyards, and enlisting in the armed forces. Madam Chiang Kai-shek testified before Congress, was popularized in *Time* magazine, and charmed America. China became known as a friend and ally. In 1943, the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed. Chinese Americans began a movement out of Chinatown and into mainstream America. By the 1970's, Chinese Americans became known as the "model minority."

- John M. Wong



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China Business Program Annual Sponsor

## FLYING TIGERS: CHINESE AMERICAN AVIATORS IN OREGON, 1918-1935



The China Council's project on local Chinese American aviators received a warm and enthusiastic response. The exhibition's opening reception at the Multnomah Public Library's Collins Gallery on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, was well attended, and we were especially honored that Mrs. Ying Lee, wife of Flying Tiger Pak On Lee, was present, along with several members of that family. Additionally, the exhibition was reviewed in the *Asian Reporter*, was highlighted in the *Portland Tribune's* 'Oregon Cultural Trust Days of Culture' listing, and was featured in a newscast in Taiwan.



The workshop held at PSU on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, featured World War II Chinese American veterans of the Fourteenth Air Force who were in town for their annual reunion. In addition to a slide show and video, four veterans told stories of their service. A Portland contingent from Portland's Old Timer's group — Norman Locke, Allen Wong, Bruce Wong, and Betty Jean Lee — recalled their wartime and post-war experiences as Chinese Americans in Portland. Their stories prompted other members of the audience to tell theirs as well. It was a great day.

That evening, while the veterans held their own banquet, the Northwest China Council held our annual meeting with a keynote address by historian and Professor K. Scott Wong of Williams College, Williamstown, MA, who spoke on the transformation of Chinese America as a result of the Second World War.

Many people were instrumental in bringing the Chinese American aviator project to fruition: Jim Carmin, curator of the Wilson Room, Multnomah County Library, who provided the exhibit space, oversaw installation; and produced the text labels; John Field of Paperjam Press, who produced the exhibition photos; Claire Yuan Flynn, who designed the exhibition timeline, poster, and banner; John Gong, who loaned materials for his grandfather Arthur Chin; Keith Lee, member of the coordinating committee, who assisted in research and loaned materials on his father Pak On Lee; Jennifer Li and Lynda Spargur, who helped run the Saturday workshop; Rebecca Liu, who



helped with OHS research materials; Harlan Luck who communicated with the Chinese Old Timers community; Paul Millius, who served on the coordinating committee and was the liaison and local organizer for the visiting veterans group; Jim

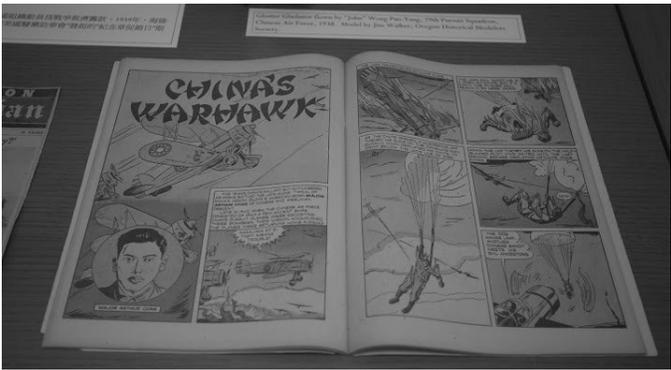
Mockford, member of the coordinating committee; Jingwei Qian and Guoliang Chen of the PSU Confucius Institute, who translated all the labels and timeline into Chinese; Frances Tong, who loaned photos of her sister Hazel Ying Lee; Ruud Van der Salm, Oregon Historical Modelers Association, who procured loans of model aircraft; and John Wong, office manager of the Northwest China Council, who managed all the publicity and paperwork.

Many thanks go also to the late Christina Lim who organized the visiting Fourteenth Air Force veterans' reunion, Katharine Morrow of the Institute of Asian Studies at Portland State, the First Saturday Program, the Department of History at Portland State, Marcus Lee and Stephen Ying of the CCBA, and Bank of the West.

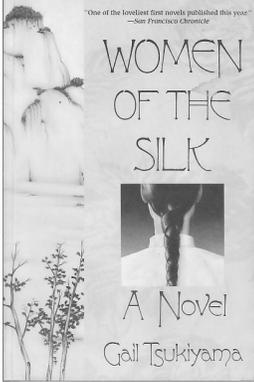


- Ann Wetherell, Exhibition curator,  
*Flying Tigers: Chinese American Aviators in Oregon,  
1918-1935*

# FLYING TIGERS: CHINESE AMERICAN AVIATORS IN OREGON, 1918-1935 (CONTINUED)



## WOMEN OF THE SILK



The October book club selection was *Women of the Silk*, a best-selling first novel for author Gail Tsukiyama. The book follows the life of Pei, from age eight, in 1919, when her destitute family sells her to work in a silk factory; until 1938, when she flees to Hong Kong in face of the advancing Japanese army.

The book deals with ordinary people caught in dire circumstances: poverty, flooding, hunger, and war. It is also a touching account of how girls from rural areas, often with desperate family situations, bond with each other to form a sisterhood; and together face adversity with courage, fortitude, and grace. At the heart of the story is Pei's devoted friendship with Lin.

Gail Tsukiyama was born in San Francisco of a Chinese immigrant mother from Hong Kong, and an Americanized Japanese father from Hawaii. She says she grew up culturally Chinese, and writing the book was a way to connect deeply with pre-industrial China, and her cultural heritage.

The book is well researched, but not burdened with such historical detail as to detract from the story line. Tsukiyama writes with sensitivity and craftsmanship.

The November book club selection is the sequel *The Language of Threads*, continuing with Pei's arrival in Hong Kong in 1938, and following her over the next thirty plus years.

On another note, in recognition of China's **Mo Yan** receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature on Oct. 11, 2012; the book club will select one or more of his books (e.g. *Red Sorghum*, *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out*, etc.) to read in 2013. For more information on the book club, contact John Wong at [johnw@nwchina.org](mailto:johnw@nwchina.org).



- John M. Wong



### Save the Date

#### 23rd Annual Chinese New Year Auction & Banquet

Please join Northwest China Council members and friends in celebrating the Year of the Snake on Saturday, February 23, 2013.

This year's celebration will be at Wong's King Seafood Restaurant on SE Division Street.

Stay tuned! More information will be coming.



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Mandarin Chinese Language Classes**

**Winter Term begins January 2013**

Please visit our website at [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org) for more information.

**Northwest China Council 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chinese New Year Auction & Banquet (See page 3.)**

**Saturday, February 23, 2013**

Wong's King Seafood Restaurant, 8733 SE Division St, Portland, OR 97206

More information coming soon.

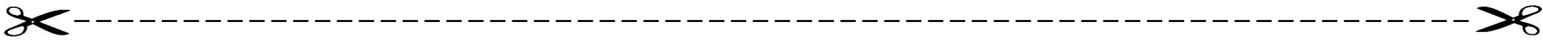
**China Business Culture Workshop**

**Ongoing**

Please visit our website at [www.nwchina.org](http://www.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).*

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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I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:

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Membership Category — Please check the category you wish:

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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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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.



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Estate of Marcia Weinstein

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