



April - June 2013 - Issue 126
China Council Quarterly

221 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite 210J, Portland, OR 97209
www.nwchina.org

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It is a beautiful time of year here in the Pacific Northwest, with Spring bringing new growth and an inspiring feeling of renewal. The Northwest China Council is also blooming, with exciting new programs and collaborations being realized.

We continue to work hard to expand the capability of the Northwest China Council

through cooperation with aligned agencies and organizations, as well as through leveraging the generosity and skill sets of our member volunteers.

We have revamped the business programs committee and are happy to welcome new board director Jeffrey Smith as incoming Chair. Please keep an eye out for some exciting upcoming business programs.

We are also happy to welcome member volunteer Lisa Irving as co-Chair of the education program committee. Lisa is working with co-Chair Hong Chou and the rest of the committee to engage students and educators in the region so as to bring a wider segment of the community into the China conversation. If you are a student or an educator with interest in China issues, please contact us to find out how you can become more involved.

In addition to these developments we continue to develop strong cultural programming, and are also working hard towards strengthening our organization internally so as to be better positioned to receive grant awards to support our mission to promote greater understanding of Chinese culture, business, and contemporary affairs; and to be a regional resource in Oregon and southwest Washington.

On March 19th, the Northwest China Council presented the inaugural Marcia Weinstein Lecture, with renown Professor June Teufel Dreyer, speaking on China's global influence at Portland State University's Lincoln Recital Hall. Through the generosity of the Weinstein bequest, we plan to offer annual public lectures by leading China authorities.

April 9th was the kickoff "Movie Night" at Red Robe Tea House, showing *Beijing Bicycle*. This monthly showing of a Chinese movie, over dinner or snacks, is an educational event with a guided discussion to further better understanding of Chinese affairs from the perspective of cinematic expression. Check www.nwchina.org for a listing of upcoming movies

Thank you to all of our community sponsors—corporate, academic, and non-profit, as well as to our loyal members for supporting our efforts. We couldn't do our work without you.

- David W. Kohl, President

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

The business programs committee is excited to announce several excellent programs that we are offering to our membership this Spring and Summer.

We are reinvigorating our monthly business luncheon speaker program and have several excellent speakers lined up. Our April business luncheon event featured Gary Roth, Marketing Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Marketing & Development Program, who spoke on the agricultural market in China, as well as the ODA's services and partnerships with Oregon agriculture and upcoming trade development activities.

On May 14th, Paul Swenson, head of the State of Oregon's trade representative office in Shanghai, will speak about "Avoiding Business Fraud: Tricks, Tips & Tools" by posing the questions: Does it look like what it is? Does it look like what I want it to? Or does it just look too good to be true?

In June we look forward to a business luncheon event featuring John Bial, CEO of Yecuris, a Portland based bio-science corporation involved in groundbreaking work in China related to hepatitis and malaria.

Please mark your calendars for these programs and check the website (www.nwchina.org) for other programs and networking events. If you would like to become involved in the business programs committee as a volunteer, or have ideas for speakers or programs, please contact us.

- David W. Kohl, Business Committee member

MOVIE NIGHT: A YEAR OF MOVIES

"Movie Night" provides an opportunity to watch a Chinese movie with friends in an intimate setting, followed by a post-film discussion led by a Northwest China Council director or volunteer.

As one of the Northwest China Council's educational programs, the objective of Movie Night is to facilitate further understanding of China-oriented affairs from the perspective of cinematic expression. It is a year-long program beginning this April and continuing through March 2014.

Join us at 6:30pm every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Robe Tea House, located at the corner of NW 3rd & Davis, just a block from the Northwest China Council office. Feel free to arrive at 6:00pm to allow time to order beforehand from Red Robe's tantalizing array of teas, snacks and dinners available for your dining pleasure. The venue will be reserved just for us; its rich and inviting interior, superb menu and thought-provoking films and discussions make for a year of memorable evenings steeped in Chinese culture.

Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$5. Hope to see you there!

Here is the film schedule for the coming year:

April 9, 2013: **Beijing Bicycle** (2001) - A heart-wrenching tale of a young man fighting the threats of blackmail, violence, envy, and guilt in order to reclaim his employer-owned stolen bicycle.



May 14, 2013: **Curse of the Golden Flower** (2007) – Breathtaking fictionalized historical drama detailing the intricate saga of a royal family obsessed with love, ambition, betrayal, and blood amidst the ostentatious grandeur of the Tang Dynasty royal court.

June 11, 2013: **Inner Senses** (2003) – A woman undergoes psychological treatment for her ability to see ghosts, and then when he also starts to see dead people, he has no choice but to confront demons from the past. A provocative film that leaves viewers reflecting on the reality of ghosts.

July 9, 2013: **Piano in a Factory / Gang de qin** (2010) – A light-hearted tale about a divorcing father who, in order to entice his piano-playing little girl to live with him, sets out to build a piano from scratch, relying upon a heap of scrap steel in a dilapidated factory and the wary assistance of eccentric but loyal friends.

August 13, 2013: **Raise the Red Lantern** (1991) – A stark, unsettling story about an educated young woman in 1920s China who, as the new fourth wife of a wealthy nobleman, navigates the mores of the feudal household to finally discover the terrifying fate that traditionally awaits the family's less-submissive women.



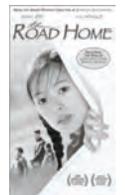
September 10, 2013: **Shanghai** (2010) – Set against the backdrop of Japanese-occupied Shanghai right before Pearl Harbor, an American man struggles to make sense of a friend's death, falling in love and a shocking secret about his own government.



October 8, 2013: **Snow Flower and the Secret Fan** (2011) – Based on the novel by Lisa See, this is a story of the lifelong friendship between two girls in 19th century China who devise a secret code to bypass the rigid cultural norms of the time.

November 12, 2013: **Summer Palace** (2008) – A politically and sexually-charged account of students during the Tiananmen Square protests. Banned in China.

December 10, 2013: **The Road Home** (2007) – To honor his aging mother's wishes for a traditional burial for his deceased father, a man carries him back to his home village, and along the way the tale of the young couple is poignantly recounted.



January 14, 2014: **Zhou Yu's Train** (2004) – Romantic drama about a passionate young ceramic artist who travels by train twice weekly to be with her lover but, at the same time, finds herself trying to resist the brash advances of a wise-cracking veterinarian.



February 11, 2014: **A Simple Life** (2012) – An elderly maid, who has devoted her entire life to caring for five generations of the Leung family, moves into a nursing home, and finds that Mr. Leung is there to care for her as she did his family.

March 11, 2014: **The Revolutionary** (2011) – Sidney Rittenberg arrived in China as a GI Chinese language expert at the end of World War II. Discharged there, he joined the Chinese Communist Party, participated in the communist revolution and the Broadcast Administration, and served 16 year in solitary confinement.

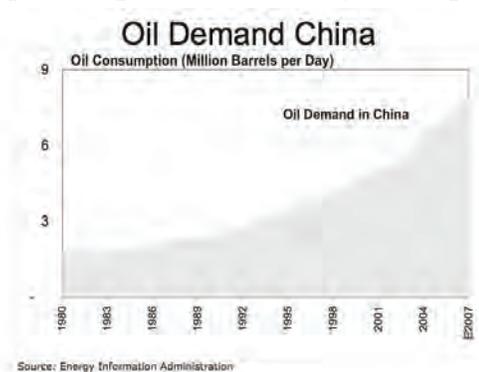
- Shireen Farrahi

CHINA'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE

On March 16, 2013, Professor June Teufel Dreyer, Ph.D., inaugurated the Northwest China Council's Marcia Weinstein Lecture series with an address at Portland State University's Lincoln Recital Hall on "China's Global Influence: Political, Military and Economic." Her wide-ranging speech covered a variety of areas where China's influence in world affairs can be seen, and the internal pressures and tensions threatening the country's stability.

Dr. Dreyer touched on the world view of the Chinese leadership—their discomfort with the U.S. being the sole superpower in a post-Cold War world, and its tendency to try to promulgate its views on human rights and democratic change; on China's need to import greater amounts of raw materials to support its rapid growth; and its increasing attempts to dominate in southeast Asia.

China's increasing dependence on imported petroleum products places it second in global importers, behind the



U.S. By 2030, it is projected that 70% of China's oil needs will be met by imports.

China's claims to the various islands and islets in the South and East China Seas—the Spratlys, Scarborough Shoal, Sansha, and Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands to name a few—counter claims by other nations, including the Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan. Some of these landforms are no more than rocky outcroppings. China's construction of airstrips and naval stations on some of the larger islands bolster the country's claims.

Dr. Dreyer touched on the increasing economic and trade influence China is exerting on neighboring Asian nations and those in Australia, Africa, and South America. There are positive aspects of this trade and investment—being a counterweight to American power, and assertions of China's non-interference in local politics.

However, their record is spotty. China supports the local government in power, no matter how repressive or corrupt; adherence to contract terms can be inconsistent; China imports its own workers for projects it finances, despite high local unemployment; and promised projects may not materialize. China's notorious lack of concern for environmental impacts pollutes local air and water.

In contrast, China has made nescient efforts to clean up its own environment with large investments in pollution control equipment for factories, and increasing use of alternative energy sources and technology. China still has some of the world's most polluted cities, and some experts claim that every river and body of water is dangerously contaminated with human, agricultural, and industrial waste.

China's increasing income inequalities, and growing divisions between the growing urban middle class and the rural poor, are a source of increasing tension and discontent. The share of income for the top 20% of the population outstrips that of the US by a significant margin. This is causing rising tensions that cannot be met only by appeals to have a "Harmonious Society." Dr. Dreyer showed examples of increasing criticism of the Communist Party and the government, despite censorship and retaliation against whistle blowers. Some of these are clever internet satires based on Chinese cultural icons.

In conclusion, Professor Dreyer discussed the current transition of power in the top levels of government, and the tensions among the different factions in the Party and the leadership. Dr. Dreyer opined that in the face of factional disputes and powerful vested interests, which would be adversely affected by serious attempts at structural reforms, China would continue to muddle along, with ad hoc fixes that mask problems but leave real solutions to the future.

There is a potentially volatile mix of social forces, growing social and income inequality, a deteriorating environment, an increasingly powerful military, and sometimes jingoistic nationalism, which put pressure on the Party's control of the levers of the society and damage its legitimacy in the eyes of the larger population who are not Party members. Whether and how a China weakened by her internal struggles represents a threat to U.S. interests in Asia, and elsewhere, is an open question.

A video of Dr. Dreyer's lecture can be found at www.nwchina.org.

- Paul Millius



NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL'S 23RD ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR AUCTION & BANQUET



Members and friends of the Northwest China Council celebrated the year of the snake at the 23rd Annual Chinese New Year Auction and Banquet on

Saturday, February 23, 2013, at Wong's King Seafood Restaurant. Over 240 guests and volunteers attended the event, enjoying music, a lion dance, and a multi-course banquet.

The evening began with the silent auction, which included many popular items—artwork, scrolls, jewelry, books, restaurant and performing arts gift certificates, and cultural artifacts and antiques.



Raffle baskets, the Wall of Wine, and the Heads or Tails jackpot game all made reappearances at this year's event.

Thank you to the Orchid and Bamboo Quartet, and the Northwest Lion Dance Association for performing.



The 2013 Flying Horse Award went to Jaime Lim, creator and publisher of The Asian Reporter.

Delta airline tickets, an electric bicycle, a barbershop choir serenade, and a Northwest Culinary Institute dinner.

This year's Fund-A-Need campaign supports the Marcia Weinstein lecture series, a new program to occur annually with the help of Marcia's bequest and funds raised during the auction.



This year's event raised over \$17,000!

We appreciate all the support and donations to this year's endeavor. The funds generated from this event support continuing efforts and help create new programs. Thank you!



FIRST ANNUAL 1882 PROJECT CELEBRATION

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) Portland Lodge held an 1882 Project celebration on October 13, 2012, at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) Hall. Some 80 attendees helped us celebrate the passage in the U.S. Congress of resolutions that 1) expressed regret for past U.S. legislation that prohibited Chinese from immigrating to America, starting with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, and 2) recognized the many contributions Chinese-Americans have made in America.



Helen Ying, Grand Vice President of Communication, was the emcee for the evening. We had a sumptuous feast, as is appropriate for any Chinese celebration. We heard Gareth Tabor explain the story of his writing of the song *Deep Creek*, which he also sang. The song told of a gang of northeastern Oregon horse thieves who ambushed and killed as many as 34 defenseless Chinese miners in Hells Canyon, Oregon in 1887. Gareth sang about how the Chinese miners were slaughtered simply because “they didn’t look like us.”

Several people shared stories about Chinese American immigration and experience. Helen told of how her grandfather was killed by a stray bullet amidst Tong violence due to conflicts in the bachelor societies; Betty Jean told of how her father overcame racist barriers and bought a house in Portland; Janet told of how her family overcame unjust Immigrant Quota laws to come to America; and Meng shared about the difficulties of language barriers in settling in America.

In addition to story presentations, all attendees shared stories in small groups which turned out to be a highlight of the evening for many. Each attendee also received a copy of the 1882 Booklet and a pass to the Lan Su Chinese Garden. The evening closed with high spirits.



We are very grateful to our partners and supporters in this endeavor: Oregon Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, Portland Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society, and Lan Su Chinese Garden.

- Janet Liu (reprinted with permission)



China Business Program Annual Sponsor

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: REED COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Student Services office at Reed College is now recruiting host families for the 2013-14 academic year. Each fall Reed College welcomes more than 35 new international students and language scholars to Portland. International students and scholars come to learn and grow in the classroom and on campus, but they also seek to learn about the U.S. and Portland by spending time in the local community. Through pairing students and scholars with a local family that serves as an American friend, the Host Family Program provides the opportunity for cultural exchange and a mutually rewarding relationship.

Reed's students and scholars live on campus—so it's not a home stay—but students and scholars spend time off campus with their host families. There has been an increase in the number of Chinese students applying to Reed and anticipate several will attend our institution this fall. We'd love to connect our Chinese or other international students with those involved with the Northwest China Council.



If you are interested in participating or want to learn more about the program please contact Dana Bays (baysd@reed.edu). More information can be found on the International Student Services webpage (<http://www.reed.edu/iss/hostfamily.html>).

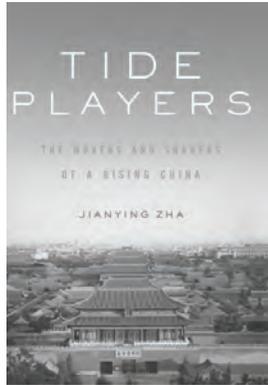
- Dana Bays, Assistant Dean of Students
for International Student Services



TIDE PLAYERS: THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF A RISING CHINA

Tide Players: The Movers and Shakers of a Rising China by Jianying Zha (The New Press, 2011, 224 pages) was the latest book club selection.

Tide Players is a book about modern China, from the naïveté and idealism of the 1980's through the pragmatism of the past thirty years as China wrought its economic miracle, lifting about 300 million people out of poverty and creating a new multi-millionaire class, while maintaining a “harmonious society” despite corruption and other disruptive changes.



The title refers to people skilled (or lucky) in riding China's “sea change,” pressing to the edge of what is permissible, without fatal overstepping.

Author Jianying Zha quotes Shakespeare's Julius Caesar:

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.*

Zha chronicles the lives of six “movers and shakers” of modern China. The book consists of two parts—the first contains three portraits of entrepreneurs and the second contains three portraits of intellectuals. The entrepreneurs include Zhang Dazhong, who started out as a grocery clerk, but developed a large chain of electronics stores in Beijing (think “Best Buy”) and cashed out for US\$500,000,000 as large global chains entered the Chinese market. Despite the business success, what has driven Zhang is a desire to clear his mother's name, who was executed as a counter-revolutionary during the Cultural Revolution, leaving he and his siblings orphaned.

Also profiled is the glamorous husband and wife team who developed some of the most striking buildings in China, accumulating wealth in the billions along the way as owners of SOHO China. They are known as the Steve Jobs of architecture, and are said to have changed the face of Beijing more than any emperor.

The third entrepreneur profiled is Sun Lizhe, who started out as one of Mao's barefoot doctors, was later condemned, and starting over from nothing, became a publishing mogul.

In the second part of the book, Zha profiles Zhang Weiying, who, as special assistant to the President of Peking University, is charged with making the university a world class institution. He must deal with two large problems: state control of universities and entrenched faculty resistance to change.

The second profile of Zha Jianguo may be the most compelling and nuanced of the book, as he is Zha's half-brother who served nine years as a political prisoner for being one of the founders of the China Democracy Party (CDP). Here, Zha demonstrates that she is also a tide player—one of the first signers of Liu Xiaobo's Charter 08, the document that sent Liu Xiaobo to prison for eleven years, while herself maintaining the ability to interview and write seemingly unimpeded.

The subject of the last profile is Wang Meng, one of China's most famous authors and a former culture minister labeled “a servant of the state” by bloggers. Wang is a progressive, but believes in gradual change rather than abrupt revolutions.

Tide Players is a nuanced, thoughtful look at China. In the epilogue, Zha summarizes the view of China from both “Cassandras” and “Cheerleaders,” and offers a guarded optimistic view of the future.

Jianying Zha is a bilingual, bicultural author and has written books and articles in both English and Chinese. She grew up during the Cultural Revolution and studied English at Peking University. She has a M.S. in English from the University of South Carolina (1984), and a M.S. in Comparative Literature from Columbia University (1986). She travels frequently between China and the United States.

For information on the Northwest China Council book club, please contact johnw@nwchina.org.

- John M. Wong

The mission of the Northwest 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

China Business Luncheon

Speaker: John Bial, CEO of Yecuris Corp.
Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 12:00 - 1:30pm
 Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St, Portland, OR 97205
 Lunch & Talk: \$20 members, \$28 general, \$15 students

Movie Night: Inner Senses

Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 6:00 - 9:00pm
 Red Robe Tea House, 310 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209
 Free (food and drink available for purchase). Register online, as space is limited.

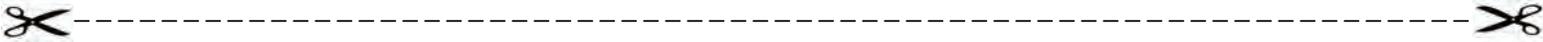
Mandarin Chinese Language Classes (8-week Summer Term)

July 22 - September 6, 2013
 Northwest China Council, 221 NW 2nd Ave., Portland, OR 97209
 Registration and tuition online.

Summer Language & Culture Program on Mt. Lushan, China

Monday, July 1 - Friday, July 26, 2013
 Tuition, meals, lodging, excursions: \$2,300/four-week program, \$1,500/two-week program.
 (Registration due in May 2013.)

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



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.

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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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