



July - September 2014 - Issue 131
China Council Quarterly
221 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite 210-J, Portland, OR 97209
www.nwchina.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear China Council members:

China's economic growth is gradually slowing, according to the World Bank, as its structural transformation continues. The rebalancing will take time but moderate growth will more likely be the scenario with some flare-ups of tension and struggles as it progresses. The government agenda put forth in 2013 is ambitious and comprehensive, which lays out the roadmap for structural reform for years to come. It appears the people see that structural reform is necessary.



We continue to be a key resource for China-related issues where we feature interesting, educational, historical, and cultural topics throughout the year. A recent example is the series "Drink in China: Uncorking the Chinese Past" which was a tremendous success. Dr. Patrick McGovern's lecture was enlightening and captivating. It was indeed fascinating to learn about the history behind fermentation dating back to around 7000 BCE. I want to thank K&L Gates, Oregon Humanities, the National Resource Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Oregon, Dogfish Head Craft Brewery and individual donors; and of course, Dr. Patrick McGovern for making the trip to Portland.

Our business programs and events are still energetic and dynamic with an increasing level of interest and attendance. Our annual China Council Business Networking evening is coming upon us soon. This is a great way to meet people who have interest in doing business with China.

We are planning more educational events in 2015. I encourage everyone to consider our language program. It's unique and it brings an individual flavor to learning Mandarin.

The path is bright for the Northwest China Council. The direction has been set and it appears to be clear and promising. As with any journey, the terrain has its ups and downs; however, the growth and progress are on track. Thanks to our pro bono legal counsel Shiau Yen Chin-Dennis from K&L Gates, we recently amended and

restated our bylaws which will make the organization run more smooth and efficiently. Our brand, image, and programming have been enhanced from which I hope our members will benefit for years to come. My strategic focus has always been on caring for our valued members of this organization and the community that supports us.

Thus, as my term as President concludes, the time has come for me to step away as my professional demands take me down a more challenging road. I have been with the Northwest China Council for over 10 years in various capacities including Treasurer, and serving as President has been a privilege. Having lived in Portland for the past 50 years, it's been an honor to serve the community in this manner.

I look out at our membership and see great enthusiasm and perseverance. Ultimately, at the core, you, the members and the community, are the ones who have made the Northwest China Council a success. Moreover, if we continue to serve effectively our success will endure.

With many of you, I've developed a professional camaraderie and lasting friendships that have made it worth the service. I want to thank you for all your patronage and I hope you will continue to extend your support to us.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It's been a pleasure to lead.

-Victor W. Lam, President

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

The China Council Business Network is moving forward with many exciting events. In May, our monthly luncheon speaker was Paul Swenson of The China Hand Consulting Co., Ltd, who presented opportunities for Oregon companies to sell via eCommerce to a growing Chinese market. In July, Kerry Bonner of InvestHK gave a breakfast presentation on why now is the time to start up a business in Hong Kong. Thank you to K&L Gates for hosting both events. Coming up very soon will be our annual China Council Business Networking event which will be held at the Miller Nash office. It should be a full house. Thank you Miller Nash for hosting this program.

Please refer to the NWCC website as well as other announcements for more information about our events planned for the following months.

SZECHUAN CHEF RESTAURANT REVIEW

For the first time ever, the venue for the 2014 Annual Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18 (see page 3), will be Szechuan Chef Restaurant, located in the Water Tower Building in John's Landing, SW Portland. It is the site of the former Shanghai Noble House Restaurant. Szechuan Chef specializes in cuisine from Szechuan Province but includes other offerings from around China such as Shanghai soup dumplings and cumin lamb from Xinjiang Province. They focus on fresh and natural ingredients as well as healthy methods of cooking in order to provide the most nutritious cuisine.



I had lunch for the first time there last month and was quite impressed. I had ordered the Eggplant in Hot Garlic Sauce (pictured here), which was very tasty and colorful. The service was friendly and efficient, and the atmosphere clean and welcoming.

Reviews of Szechuan Chef have been favorable, with one critic asserting that "...this is one of the best, if not the best, Chinese restaurants in Portland." A

bartender friend with whom he regularly shares review meals even remarked, "This place would kill downtown." Learn more at szechuanchef.us

-Shireen Farrahi

MOVIE NIGHT PROGRAM: SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST-DECEMBER 2014

"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-round program which takes place every month of the year.

Join us at 6:00pm 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. Arrive at 6pm to allow time to order beforehand from Red Robe's tantalizing array of teas, snacks and dinners available for your dining pleasure. The venue is reserved just for us; its rich and inviting interior, superb menu and thought-provoking films and discussions make for memorable evenings steeped in Chinese culture.

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

August 12: The Sorcerer and the White Snake (2011) - This special effects film, based on a Chinese legend, tells the story of a sorcerer monk who falls in love with a white snake disguised as a woman. Upon learning her true identity, he goes to battle, believing he is restoring order between man and the supernatural.

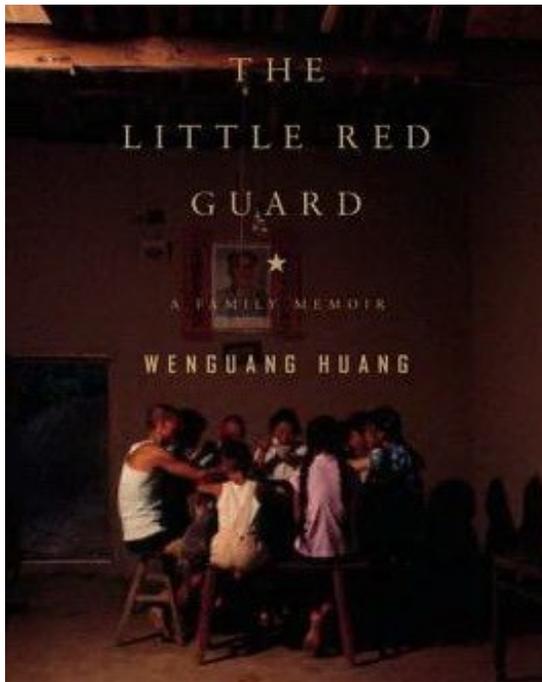
September 9: A Simple Life (2012) - Andy Lau stars as a successful film producer who returns to his family home to find their longtime maid and nanny having just suffered a severe stroke. Since she is now unable to care for herself, he agrees to help her relocate to a nursing home. This film explores the strength of their bond as their roles reverse.

October 14: Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress (2005) - Based upon the bestselling novel, two young men, university students, are sent to the countryside for labor during the Cultural Revolution for a Maoist "reeducation." Amidst the arduousness of daily life, they set about to woo the most beautiful girl in the area...with a secret cache of forbidden books.

November 11: Mountain Patrol: Kekexili (2006) - This live-action film, directed by Lu Chuan, follows Beijing journalist Ga Yu through the dangerous mountains of Tibet, documenting vigilantes as they chase antelope poachers. As the vigilantes succumb to the unforgiving terrain and the merciless poachers, Ga Yu comes to realize that this journey is just as much about survival and faith.

December 9: Together (2003) - Liu Cheng, a loving father, takes his 13-year old son Xiaocheng to Beijing to seek out a teacher who will nurture his talent on the violin. In Beijing, Xiaocheng becomes infatuated with a golddigger who lives nearby and starts lessons with Professor Jiang. But Liu Cheng comes to discover that if Xiaocheng is to succeed in the world, he will need a teacher with connections...even if this jeopardizes the relationship between father and son.

BOOK REVIEW: THE LITTLE RED GUARD



The Little Red Guard, by Wenguang Huang
Riverhead Trade, Reprint (April, 2013)
272 pages.

Despite the title, the book is less a political story of growing up a little Red Guard, than a memoir of the struggles of a family during China of the 1970's and 1980's. It is an intimate story of three generations of the Huang family living under one roof. It is told with humor, sentiment, and the perspective that time gives about changing Chinese society as it moves from a Marxist to a market economy.

The author, Wenguang Huang, eldest son of four children, grew up in Xi'an in a family of "true proletariats." Because of the family's peasant roots, they are given preferential treatment. Wenguang's father is a manager in a state-owned manufacturing plant, works diligently, and is recognized as a model citizen. Wenguang is an exceptional student, a little Red Guard, and member of the Communist Youth League. He is also arrogant, and views his father as small minded. Despite his love for his grandmother, he views her obsession with a traditional burial (when it is banned) as superstitious, counter to government edict, and an endangerment to his family. It is the stress of building an illegal coffin, and secret plans to transport the coffin to Henan for burial, that places stress on the entire family throughout Wenguang's childhood.

The coffin becomes the symbol of conflict between traditional values and modern government policy, but cultural conflict is universal throughout China. Because of his academic achievement, he wins admission to a university in Shanghai, and is involved in the democratic and free speech movement of the late 1980's. The events around the Tiananmen Square incident disillusion Wenguang about the central government, and he seeks and is able to find political asylum after his role as a student leader in Shanghai. He has lived in the U.S. since 1990.

Arriving in the United States, he thrived and thought of himself as 100% American; but after decades, dreams and memories of his family started to flood his thoughts, and he had to write his family's memoir, in part to pay tribute to his father who died before he left China. Today, he says he feels that his thinking is 60% Chinese and 40% American -- that the Confucian and Maoist philosophies are ingrained in him, and affect his outlook on the world.

-John M. Wong

2014 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT



The Ly sisters of Vinn Distillery

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014 6pm
WHERE: Szechuan Chef Restaurant
5331 SW Macadam Ave.
Portland, OR 97239

Please join fellow members and guests for the 2014 Annual Meeting. Board President Victor W. Lam will start the meeting with a China Council update, followed by election of new directors.

Keynote speaker, Michelle Ly of Vinn Distillery, will give a talk about her family's journey from China to a Chinese village in Quang Ninh, Vietnam; back to Guangzhou, China; and finally to Oregon as war refugees. Throughout their journeys, the Ly family kept their generations-old recipe of distilling baijiu, the traditional hard spirit of China. See: www.nwchina.org

GRAND OPENING: *GARDEN OF SURGING WAVES*

Members of the Northwest China Council were among a group of Portlanders who traveled to Astoria, Oregon on an overcast Saturday, May 17, 2014, to attend the grand opening of The Garden of Surging Waves.



Photo by Norman Locke

The Garden was planned as a legacy gift for Astoria’s 2011 bicentennial; a complement to the iconic Astoria Column, which commemorates the 1911 centennial. The garden, which in fact is a park for contemplation and learning, was originally sited for the waterfront in the neighborhood known as Old Chinatown. Despite the scenic location, there were concerns about its remoteness, and possible vandalism. So, it was decided by City Council to move to a more prominent location, across from City Hall, at the northwest corner of the new Astoria Heritage Square, in the center of town.

The Garden of Surging Waves pays tribute to the stories, culture, and history of the Chinese people who came to work in Astoria’s salmon and tuna canneries in the early 1800’s. In addition to the canneries, Chinese laborers worked on much of Astoria’s infrastructure, including the railroad, jetties and the river wall that protects the city. At one point, 25% of Astoria was Chinese.



Photo by John M. Wong

Mayor Willis Van Dusen presided over the grand opening festivities, which commenced with a dragon dance performed by the Portland Lee’s Association Dragon and Lion Dance Team. The heavens responded with sprinkles of rain -- an auspicious sign. On the stage with Van Dusen was a group of people who made the Garden possible -- in particular, Suenn Ho, principal of RESOLVE Architecture + Planning; who not only was the lead designer, but raised \$119,000 to help fund the project. Arlene Schnitzer, who grew up in Astoria, was recognized for her major donation gift. Also sharing the microphone, and recognized for their contributions were Norman Locke, Jordan Schnitzer, and Flora Law (wife of the late Duncan Law). Oregon Senator Betsy Johnson and Oregon Representative Deborah Boone also spoke. A lion dance and Chinese fireworks concluded the event.



Photo by Norman Locke

The Garden of Surging Waves, at more than \$2 million, is the first phase of Astoria’s Heritage Square project. It was funded in equal parts by public and private donations. The Heritage Square will have space for the Sunday Market, feature an amphitheater, and provide a park setting for outdoor events.



Photo by John M. Wong

To find out more about Astoria’s Chinese heritage, including oral histories and photos, see the informative www.astoriachineseheritage.org

- John M. Wong

DRINK IN CHINA: DR. PATRICK MCGOVERN, “UNCORKING THE CHINESE PAST”

On May 16, Dr. Patrick McGovern, Scientific Director of the Biomolecular Archaeology Project for Cuisine, Fermented Beverages and Health at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, spoke to a large audience on the oldest fermented beverage in the world, discovered in an ancient Chinese tomb. His talk, “Uncorking the Chinese Past; the Biochemical and Archaeological Discovery of the World’s Oldest ‘Wine’”, was the first event in the NWCC’s 2014 series, “Drink in China”.

Dr. McGovern explained that the consumption of alcohol is older than human civilization. Fermentation is a process that occurs in nature from the breakdown of sugars and starches as fruit or other plant material decays. Our earliest mammalian ancestor, the tree shrew, seemed to have developed a taste for fermented fruit resulting in the ability to metabolize large amounts of alcohol. Our early hominid ancestors likely consumed fruit fermenting on the tree, what Dr. McGovern described as “Beaujolais Nouveau”.

The technologies and information on fermentation developed rapidly with Neolithic (New Stone Age) cultures in concert with the domestication of grains and other plants, and spread from Africa to other parts of the world during early human migration. Human cultures simply brewed or fermented whatever local grains or fruits were available.

Dr. McGovern’s presentation for the NWCC centered on his research at the Neolithic Chinese settlement of Jiahu, Henan province, where he discovered the earliest chemically-attested alcoholic beverage in the world. This came as a surprise to him after years of research in the Middle East pursuing the earliest beverages in Sumerian and Egyptian cultures.

Although these Middle Eastern cultures developed writing earlier than China, China developed terracotta (fired clay) pottery far earlier. The shape of the storage jars discovered in Jiahu, with high necks and flared rims, was perfect for storing and serving wine. Shards of these pots, excavated from tombs dating to around 7000 BCE, yielded residue that, once collected and analyzed by Dr. McGovern, confirmed that these vessels had held fermented beverages. The ‘wine’ was a mixture of rice, honey, and either wild

grape or hawthorn fruit. The placement of the wine storage jars in graves at the time of burial suggests that wine was significant to the burial ceremony or the concept of the afterlife in Neolithic Jiahu.

In addition to the earliest ‘wine,’ Jiahu is significant due to what may be very early writing (generally believed to have begun during the Shang Dynasty, ca. 1200 BCE) and also the earliest musical instrument in China-- a bone flute-- made from the wing bone of the red-crested crane, a bird that later came to symbolize longevity.

Dr. McGovern included archaeology of Shang Dynasty sites, especially the royal tombs at Anyang (ca. 1200- 1000 BCE) and their full complement of ritual wine vessels as evidence of

the continued significance of wine in funerary ceremonies. Most remarkable is that a tightly-lidded bronze vessel in an Anyang tomb still held liquid millet wine.

Dr. McGovern’s research into the origins of fermented beverages throughout the world has led to many significant discoveries. Over the past two decades, he has pioneered the emerging field of Molecular Archaeology. In addition to being engaged in a wide range of other archaeological chemical studies, including radiocarbon dating, cesium magnetometer surveying, colorant analysis of ancient glasses and pottery technology, his endeavors of late have focused on the organic analysis of vessel contents and dyes, particularly Royal Purple, wine, and beer. He is the author of *Ancient Wine: The Search for the Origins of Viniculture* (Princeton University Press, 2003), and most recently, *Uncorking the Past: The Quest for Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages* (Berkeley: University of California, 2009).

Dr. McGovern’s lecture was followed by a reception with a sampling of ‘Chateau Jiahu’, the beer recreated by Dogfish Head Craft Brewery in Maryland based on Dr. McGovern’s analysis of the 9000-year old beverage.

-Ann Wetherell

Dr. McGovern's lecture was made possible by a grant from Oregon Humanities; financial contribution from K&L Gates; and a grant from the National Resource Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Oregon.



Dr. Patrick McGovern

OLD TOWN CHINATOWN DEVELOPMENT

The Old Town Chinatown (OTCT) neighborhood, where the NWCC office is located, will be undergoing an extensive upgrade in the next few years. For decades, OTCT has long been distinguished by its homeless population, crime, and decaying buildings. But Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, who's urging the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to shift more than \$50 million in urban renewal funds from the Pearl District to OTCT, is aiming to renovate what's known as the most disadvantaged district of the central city in order to preserve its history and polish its reputation, attracting economic activity. In conjunction with Portland's vibrant real estate market and the ongoing development of the adjoining Pearl District, circumstances seem to finally be making way for an OTCT renaissance, though this boon to the urban core does not come without major challenges.

One indicator of this upgrade is that several hundred added employees will soon be reporting to work in OTCT, as the Multnomah County Health Department and Airbnb establish new offices, and the Pacific Northwest College of Art opens a new campus. Software companies are also coming to OTCT, and three hotels are undergoing renovation projects. These hotels will in turn supply a built-in customer base for nearby restaurants, coffee shops, and nightclubs. Many prospective new tenants find the urban atmosphere of OTCT very appealing, with its historic structures, colorful nightlife, ethnic and economic diversity, and street lights.

On August 6, 2014, Portland City Council voted to provide \$7 million in subsidies for the construction of up to 500 new middle-income apartments. Many residents of OTCT presently live in single-room occupancy hotels. New apartments would attract tenants with more disposable income to the neighborhood.

Upon first hearing of Mayor Hales' intentions with OTCT, community members came together with the city to formulate an action plan for the neighborhood. This step gained momentum with the prospect of PDC subsidies,

which brought property owners, including Chinese community members who have been watching their buildings decay, to the discussion.

Another chief component of this action plan is the desire to make OTCT more accessible from downtown. At present, it is not easy for cars heading east to turn off Burnside into OTCT, or for pedestrians to cross Burnside.

Despite a promising future for OTCT, significant challenges are looming large. The longtime presence of social services and homeless programs in the neighborhood make development tricky.

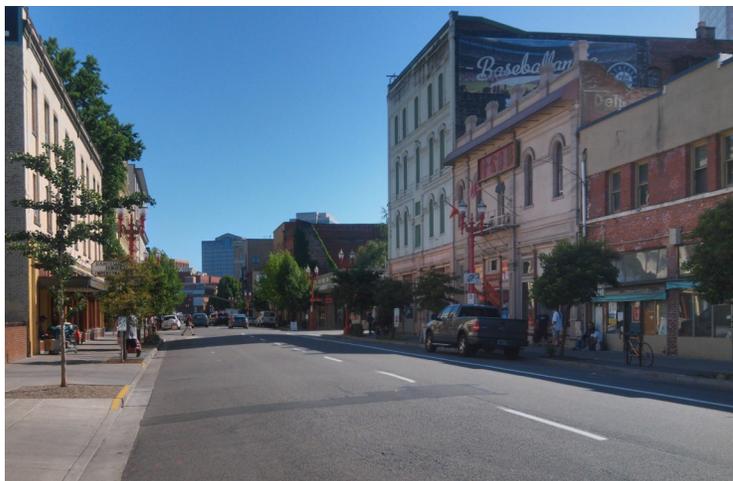
Subsidizing housing developments is being met with resistance by some major players, as that would mean less revenue for city bureaus as well as dim the current focus on low-income housing. Also, some community members are concerned that the addition of new nightclubs in the area could threaten more housing and office uses.



NW 4th Ave. & Everett, Chinatown



Sign on NW 4th Ave.



NW 3rd Ave., Chinatown

-Shireen Farrahi

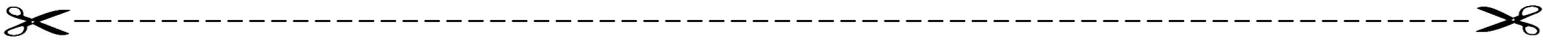
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Movie Night: *A Simple Life* (aka: *Tou ze*)
Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, 6:00 - 9:00pm
 Red Robe Tea House, 310 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209
 Movie is free (food and drink available for purchase).

2014 Annual Members Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014
6:00 - 6:30pm Registration & no-host bar
6:30 - 7:00pm Annual Business Meeting
7:00 - 8:30pm Dinner with keynote speaker Michelle Ly, Vinn Distillery
 Szechuan Chef Restaurant
 5331 SW Macadam Ave.
 Portland, Oregon 97239
 Register at www.nwchina.org

Save the Date :
CHINA Town Hall - Thursday, October 16, 2014
6pm -7pm President Jimmy Carter via webcast
7pm - 8pm Local speaker, TBA
 Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union
 Free, and open to the public

*For more information on these, and other programs,
 Please visit: www.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.

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
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