



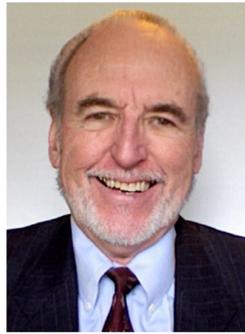
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear China Council members:

These last months of winter and early spring continue to be busy for the Northwest China Council.

The big event was our Annual Gala and Auction on March 7th. Charles and Rosaline Hui, publishers of the *Portland Chinese Times*, were the recipients of the *2015 Flying Horse Award* for their support of the Chinese community by publishing news and current events in Chinese, and also for organizing and sponsoring the annual Chinese New Year Cultural Fair.



Although our attendance was down from last year, we raised about the same amount of money. Special thanks go out to Program Manager John Wong, Auction Manager Sara Tam, and our Auction Committee, for planning and organizing the affair and tending to the myriad details. Mitch Lambley, of *Auctions for Good*, did his usual excellent job promoting the Silent Auction items, and calling the Oral Auction. A highlight of the event was the securing of two Business Class tickets to China from Hainan Airlines.

Among the events the Council participated in this spring were two that were co-hosted with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council: A screening at the Portland Art Museum of a new film from Hong Kong, *"Dearest"*, which was part of the Portland International Film Festival; and a *Think Asia-Think Hong Kong* lunchtime presentation about doing business in Hong Kong, and her role as an entrepôt and financial hub for business in Asia and China proper.

We also participated in an Oregon-China Economic Forum hosted by the Oregon-China Sister State Relations Council and the Confucius Institute at PSU. The event focused on environmental protection and sustainability. It featured speakers from the Consul General's Office in San Francisco, the Tianjin Economic Development Office in Chicago, and a Senior Staff member from the Fujian Province Foreign Affairs Office. (See article on page 2).

In collaboration with the PSU Institute for Asian Studies, we co-promoted an April 13th address by Dr. David Lampton, entitled *China: Where is it Headed and What Could it Mean?*

Internally, we continue to strengthen our Membership Development outreach, and are reinvigorating the China Council Business Network. Look for more regularly-scheduled gatherings and events catering to the Sino-American business community in the region.

Last but not least, we had the first in the quarterly series of Chinese cooking lessons held at Portland's Culinary Workshop. The 14 members and friends who attended the session on Northern Chinese cuisine were treated to a lively, detailed and knowledgeable tutorial. The lesson started with a demonstration of proper 'knife skills' and safe slicing and dicing techniques, then went on to preparing and cooking a delicious meal which we all then shared. The next in the series on July 12th will feature Shanghai and Eastern China-style dishes. Contact the China Council for information about joining what promises to be informative and entertaining classes.

-Paul Millius

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

The China Council Business Network has participated in several important events of late, one of which was the Oregon-China Economic Forum, described in detail on page 2. On March 25th, CCBN also took part in a unique gathering with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) where business leaders and entrepreneurs in our community could learn and network, drawing over 160 registered guests. Sunun Setboonsarng from Business Oregon was integral in helping to put this event together as well. There was a fantastic line of speakers from Business Oregon, the Portland Development Commission, Oregon Entrepreneurs Network, Technology Association of Oregon, and U.S. Commercial Services. Attendees gained fresh insight into the world's fastest-growing markets and learned how to leverage Hong Kong's numerous advantages to tap into Chinese and other Asian markets. This program showcased opportunities offered by the Pacific Bridge Initiative, a US-Hong Kong Business Partnership Program. For information on upcoming CCBN programs, please visit the NWCC website.

-Victor Lam, Chair, CCBN

OREGON-CHINA ECONOMIC FORUM

On Thursday, April 2nd, a sizeable audience gathered at the University Club to participate in the Oregon-China Economic Forum. The event was organized by the Oregon-China Sister State Relations Council and included both local speakers and representatives from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco, Tianjin Economic Development Area, and Fujian Province.

The first and keynote speaker was Zha Liyou, Deputy Consul General from the Consulate in San Francisco. He based his address on the recent Climate Agreement between the United States and China. He began by citing this agreement as “the most important” between the two countries with regard to climate change.

The two countries are the world’s largest economies and the largest producers of greenhouse gasses. Combined they produce 44% of these emissions worldwide. Unless these two countries can resolve their differences in this critical area, few others will be willing to make the changes necessary to mitigate their impact on climate change.

The two countries have set ambitious targets. The USA has already cut carbon dioxide emissions by 10% from 2005 levels. It is targeting 28% reduction by 2025. China’s promise is to peak carbon dioxide by 2030, or earlier. She starts with a much lower per-capita emissions rate than the USA, but is committed to making significant changes in energy production and conservation.

The agreement lays a good foundation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris later this year. Quarrels between developing and developed countries have arisen over common responsibility for greenhouse gas pollution. As the largest developing and developed countries respectively, China and the US have long criticized each other over responsibility for global climate change. With this historic agreement they can now set a good example for others to follow.

A key element of China’s approach is energy restructuring. Currently highly-polluting coal accounts for 70% of China’s energy use. China is planning a national cap on coal use, and increasing reliance on alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, nuclear, and hydro. China’s well-publicized serious air pollution has created significant internal pressure to enact policies, programs, and investment that reduce emissions.

He went on to cite Oregon’s leadership in energy conservation through such organizations as Clean Energy

Works Oregon, and our leadership in advanced technology, green building design, and marketing.

He concluded by highlighting China’s shift from high-speed to medium-speed growth, from scale and speed to emphasizing quality and efficiency. He also pointed to the establishment of additional Free Trade Zones in China as opportunities for Oregon companies to bring energy-efficient technology and equipment to Chinese investors and businesses.



He was followed on the podium by Li Jianning, the Chief Representative of the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area US Office in Chicago. TEDA was one of the first such areas established by the Central Government in 1984. He discussed Tianjin’s multiple

economic development areas, and twin ports serving Beijing and East-Central China with six major railways and modern highway connections.

He cited Tianjin’s rich experience in clean energy development, including international cooperation and awards. He cited Tianjin’s ambition to be a regional platform to promote ecologically sound business and industry, and become the International Low Carbon Development Platform for China. They will do this by low-carbon reconstruction of urban infrastructure, green building initiatives, industrial energy conservation, and recycling industrial and consumer waste. He went on to cite the many international agreements and cooperative efforts to promote conservation that the Tianjin municipality has formed with US, Japanese, Canadian and European governments and corporations.

The last speaker was Ms. Hao Yaqin of the Foreign Affairs Office of Fujian Province. From its position on China’s southeast coast opposite Taiwan, Fujian Province was part of the maritime “Silk Road” which carried Chinese goods to the Middle East and Europe. Its semi-tropical climate made it ideal for growing exotic vegetables and fruits, which were traded across China and beyond. There is a thriving high-quality ceramic and fine porcelain industry under the Dehua brand name. In that industry they promote good ecological practices through the establishment of a porcelain industrial park, conversion of the manufacturing processes to natural gas and electricity from coal, and extensive recycling of damaged and irregular porcelain products.

The event was well-attended; it was standing room only for latecomers.

-Paul Millius



“Do nothing and yet nothing is not done.”

無wu 爲wei 而er 無wu 不bu 爲wei
(nothing do yet nothing not done)

We human beings spend our whole lives doing this and doing that to accomplish whatever goals we set ourselves. Yet more often than not the results are either unsatisfactory or costly. However, Laozi has the key to success for us: Observe closely how Nature behaves, follow its example, and things will get done without your subjective intervention. That is the power of Dao. Take for instance the behavior of water:

*Water brings good to all things and does not contest,
It goes to places which most people detest
And is therefore akin to Dao. (ch. 8)*

“Not contend” is similar to “do nothing” and is akin to Dao, but to acquire this quality requires a process of cultivation. Laozi says:

*To pursue learning you increase day by day.
To pursue Dao you decrease day by day.
Decrease and yet again decrease,
Till you reach the state of Non-dong.
Do nothing and yet nothing is not done. (ch.48)*

All literate Chinese remember what Confucius taught at the beginning of his Analects: “Study and practice in good time what you have learned. Isn’t that a pleasure?” Study or learning is a cumulative process so that by studying you increase your knowledge, particularly book knowledge, day by day till you become an erudite scholar. But a student of Dao has to go in the opposite direction. You cannot attain to Dao by “increase.” It’s no use reading all the Daoist classics, memorizing all the Daoist rituals and reciting all the iconography of Daoist religion. You could become a Daoist scholar or Daoist monk, but you may still be eons away from obtaining the secret of Dao, which is “Do nothing.” What you need to go through is a process of decrease. What do you have to decrease?

In a few words, it’s your ego, your desires and anxieties, your exaggerated confidence in your reasoning faculty and your verbal skills, your position of power and wealth, etc., etc. This is just a short list, but keep on decreasing and you will reach the state of “do nothing” or Non-doing.

Now I have translated *wuwei* both as “do nothing” and as “Non-doing” because I want to make sure that we are not just talking about a real-time lack of action but an existential state of quiescence guided by a constant mindfulness of the wisdom of Dao. This is where quiet meditation comes in. This is where taking a step back comes in. This is also where yielding comes in. This is what the English romantic poet William Wordsworth calls “wise passivity.”

That said, one must not be misled by the impression that Laozi always has the propensity towards slowness in action and backwardness in attitude. If it were so, his ideas about *wuwei* would have a very narrow applicability. In Chapter 63, Laozi reveals to us a new dimension of *wuwei* people don’t usually talk much about. He begins the chapter with his characteristic paradox, “Do without doing.” This could also be translated as “Practice Non-doing” but would lose the beauty of Laozi’s paradoxical style. You might expect another “not to-do” list, if you will, in order to drive home his point. But here is what he has to say. Actually he has two points to make. First,

*All difficulties under Heaven
Begin with the easy;
All big things under Heaven
Begin with the small.
Therefore
The sage never tries to tackle the big
And always accomplishes the big.*

Here Laozi is no longer harping on the same string of “No rush,” “Go slow,” etc. He is actually urging you to seize the day and seize the hour and not wait till a small task accumulates into something unmanageable or till an easy task becomes impossible. Remember the world-famous proverb, “The journey of a thousand *li* begins under your feet”? That’s from Laozi’s *Dao De Jing*, Chapter 64! That’s common sense. That’s practical wisdom that every parent or teacher can use.

In case you become complacent about your smartness in choosing the easiest and smallest tasks to begin with, here’s Laozi’s second piece of advice:

NOTES ON LAOZI & THE THREE-BODY PROBLEM

*Taking things too easy causes too many difficulties.
Therefore,
The sage treats everything as difficult
And ends up with no difficulty.*

He also serves the following warning:

*People doing business
Often fail on the brink of success.
Take caution at the end as at the beginning,
And there will be no failed business. (ch 64)*

From Chapters 63 and 64 we can see that Laozi's concept of Non-doing includes tackling the big when it is small and tackling the difficult when it's easy. It also includes serious engagement with the project at hand, no matter how easy it may seem and how close it is to the finish.

- Charles Q. Wu

Charles Q. Wu is Professor Emeritus of Chinese and Humanities, Reed College. All quotations from *Dao De Jing* are from his book titled, *Thus Spoke Laozi: A New Translation with Commentaries* - Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2013

BOOK REVIEW: *THE THREE-BODY PROBLEM*



The first book of the Chinese science fiction trilogy *The Three-Body Problem* published in 2008 was translated into English in November 2014. I was surprised and impressed that the book was immediately available at our local public library.

The overall series was originally titled *Remembrance of Earth's Past* (地球往事) which indicates that the stories were retold as retrospective historical events. The series was immensely successful in China and sold over one million copies of this novel and its two sequels. It is

now generally known by the name of the first book *The Three-Body Problem* or just *Three Bodies* (三體).

The three-body problem is a well-known problem in classical mechanics. With any two bodies, given their initial masses, velocities and positions, Newtonian physics can completely predict the end velocities and positions after any collisions or interactions with deterministic precision. But add just a third body and classical Newtonian mechanics can no longer “solve” the problem. The mathematician Henri Poincare showed in 1887 that there is no general analytical solution for the three-body problem (even though there are certain known families of repeating patterns). This observation and others eventually led to the development of “chaos” theory. In chaos theory, there are no deterministic solutions, but there are predictable and repeating patterns, even if no particular path is ever retraced exactly. In the novel, the “Three Body” refers to a virtual reality video game, and also to an extraterrestrial solar system Trisolar.

The story started during the Cultural Revolution where Ye Wenjie, a female Chinese physics graduate student, witnessed her physicist father persecuted and killed by Red Guards. After being exiled to China's remote northeast to work on and witness the cutting down of forests and destruction of natural habitats, she was betrayed and got the blame for copying for a fellow Red Guard his translation of Rachel Carson's “Silent Spring”. Eventually she ended up as a valued technician at a secret military radar range due to her physics background. There she sent out a signal by bouncing it off of the sun, magnifying the signal immensely so it might be detectable light years from Earth. Her message was a request to save the earth from human destruction. Unbeknownst to Ye Wenjie, her signal was intercepted by an alien civilization in the throes of imminent destruction of their triple-sun solar system many light years away. But since this Trisolar system was light years away, any communication that traveled at the speed of light took several years for the round trip.

The story continued some years into the future in China. There had been some mysterious suicides of prominent scientists and their deaths were apparently associated with a virtual reality “Three Body” video game. A nano-scientist Wang Miao got involved and participated in the video game to try to solve the mystery. In the game, he was required to play various historical figures both from China's ancient past as well as from the west.

BOOK REVIEW (CONT) & CHINESE NEW YEAR GALA

Wang Miao eventually figured out that the seemingly chaotic events in the Three Body video game was due to a solar system with three suns. The planet revolving around the three suns would have periods of relative stability, which allowed the alien civilization to develop, but would also have periods of chaotic patterns which would partially destroy and set the alien culture back thousands of years each time. However, eventually the alien planet was going to be swallowed up by its suns, so this Trisolar civilization was interested in taking over a habitable planet after receiving the signal from Wenji. Being that this solar system is light years away from Earth, the alien fleet would take hundreds of years to reach Earth. The story led to a secret society intent on assisting the extraterrestrials from Trisolar in taking over the planet. This secret society was itself divided into two factions – the division being over whether humanity was worth saving. The first novel ended with the world anticipating apprehensively the arrival of the alien fleet hundreds of years in the future.

It has been mentioned by some that the science fiction genre has not had a long history or much popularity in China. It appears that Liu Cixin has uncovered a vein of increased awareness, interest and apprehension of what the future may hold if the current pace of environmental degradation continues. A complaint (or compliment) by English reviewers was that Liu Cixin, like Isaac Asimov, was more interested in the scientific discussions rather than character development.

Liu Cixin summed up his feelings on alien contact in his afterword to the English edition. “There is a strange contradiction revealed by the naiveté and kindness demonstrated by humanity when faced with the universe: On Earth, humankind can step onto another continent, and without a thought, destroy the kindred civilization found there through warfare and disease. But then they gaze up at the stars, they turn sentimental and believe that if extraterrestrial intelligences exist, they must be civilizations bound by universal, noble, moral constraints, as if cherishing and loving different forms of life are parts of a self-evident universal code of conduct...”

- Gabe Zee

The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu. Translated by Ken Liu. Macmillan. November, 2014. 400 pages.

CHINESE NEW YEAR GALA AND AUCTION



Autographed Trail Blazer basketball being auctioned

Over 200 members, guests, and volunteers gathered at Wong’s King Seafood Restaurant to celebrate the Year of the Sheep on Saturday evening, March 7th, 2015. It was an unusually sunny March day, and guests arrived to mingle, enjoy the no-host bar, listen to music performed by Dr. Jiyu Yang and the Orchid and Bamboo Ensemble, and peruse and bid on wonderful silent auction items. There were necklaces to purchase for the heads & tails game and raffle tickets for a chance to win a Delta domestic airline ticket. At the end of the silent auction, guests were seated for an exciting lion dance.

Emcee Paul Millius welcomed all and awarded the 2015 Flying Horse Award to Charles and Rosaline Hui, publishers of the *Portland Chinese Times*, organizers of the Chinese New Year Cultural Fair held at the Convention Center, and sponsors of a youth music school.

The live auction included a NBA basketball signed by the 2014-2015 Trail Blazer team, gourmet dinner with wines, cruise on a Chinese junk, 3-night Sunriver getaway, Atiyeh rugs, and featured round-trip business class plane tickets between Seattle and Beijing (including Shanghai as an option) sponsored by award-winning Hainan Airlines.

Guests enjoyed a delicious ten-course banquet-style dinner including appetizers, Peking duck, honey walnut prawns, cubed steak in bird’s nest, black mushrooms with Chinese greens, and savory fish with pineapple. All had a fun evening while helping the China Council raise funds for its 2015 programs and events.

FOODS OF CHINA PROGRAM

Continuing on the heels of last year’s successful “Drink in China” program, this year’s focus is on “Foods of China”, in which we will explore the culture and history of Chinese food in a series of events that will be a feast for the senses and the mind.

The programming includes opportunities to explore Chinese food through multiple avenues and offerings including hands-on cooking classes, movies and books on Chinese food, lectures by scholars in Chinese history and medicine, and tours to local Asian grocery stories led by experts. The speakers and dates for several events are still being arranged; please look for email updates and articles in future China Council newsletters. Here is what is happening now - we hope that you will be able to join us:

Quarterly cooking classes in regional Chinese cuisine



Chef Susana demonstrates the fine art of dumpling making at the April 12th class

with Portland’s Culinary Workshop. This series began on April 12th with a class on Beijing and Northern Regions. The next class will be held on Sunday, July 12, 3-6 PM (Shanghai and Eastern Regions; featuring pork-stuffed bitter melon with black bean sauce, prawns stir-fried in green tea, Chinese broccoli with bamboo shoots, and red bean sesame balls). Subsequent classes will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, 3-6 PM (Sichuan and Western Regions), and Sunday, Jan 10, 2016 (Guangzhou and Southern Regions). To view the menus for these two sessions, please visit the NWCC website.

For more information on Portland’s Culinary Workshop, see www.portlandsculinaryworkshop.com. To register for these unique and memorable classes, please visit www.nwchina.org

-Ann Wetherell, Chair, Cultural Programs

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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K&L GATES



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Movie Night: *Happy Times (2000), aka Xing fu shi guang*

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Directed by the famous Zhang Yimou, “Happy Times” is a blend of comedy, drama, and enduring love between people touched in a special way.

Red Robe Tea House, 310 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

Movie is free (food and drink available for purchase)

Movie Night: *Confucius (2012), aka Kong Zi*

Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Screen legend Chow Yun-fat stars as Confucius in this inspiring, action-packed saga. Directed by Mei Hu.

Red Robe Tea House, 310 NW Davis St, Portland, OR 97209

Movie is free (food and drink available for purchase)

Cooking Class: Shanghai and Eastern Regions

Portland’s Culinary Workshop

Sunday, July 12, 3-6pm

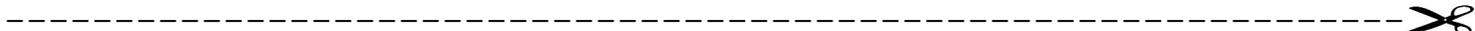
Pork stuffed bitter melon with black bean sauce

Prawns stir-fried in green tea

Chinese broccoli (gai lan) with bamboo shoots

Red bean sesame balls

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



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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:

_____ 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+
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Full-Time Student	_____ \$15	Phoenix Circle	_____ \$1000+
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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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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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