



January - March 2016 - Issue 137
China Council Quarterly
221 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite 210-J, Portland, OR 97209
www.nwchina.org

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear China Council members:

Welcome to a brave New Year with the NWCC. We appreciate your patronage and membership.

As the newly-appointed Executive Director I am constantly struck by how connected our members are to one or more projects in our programming. I was gifted with a determined board and am working hard to add to their numbers. We are looking for someone with a social media and public relations background.



Our most dedicated employee, John M. Wong, retired this past fall, but has promised to continue as a volunteer on our Program Committee. Please remember to cite your interests and volunteer skills on the renewal form. I am certain I can find a project or even a 2-hour mailing job for anyone at any level. We can always use help! And volunteers will get a special gift in the next few months of service. Let's have fun while promoting our mission.

One question I am constantly asking current and prospective members: how can the NWCC be a resource for you and your organization? The Mandarin Chinese language program, taught steadfastly by Willow Zheng, is a constant source of inquiries. We are the only Mandarin language program based in Portland's Old Town Chinatown. Our classes are held on the 2nd floor in the Center for Philanthropy Building in a secure and friendly environment. I have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of my fellow classmates in the Intermediate Chinese Film course. We are intermittently viewing and listening to a series based on daily life in a Beijing neighborhood. We laugh a lot at the generational misunderstandings which occur in the series and learn Chinese *chengyu* to facilitate our grasp of the culture and history.

Another frequent request is to connect service organizations with qualified interpreters and translators. You will soon see a new page on our website featuring **members and companies** who offer specialized services. Please contact me for more information on how to be listed.

I am getting acquainted with our longtime partners and exploring how we may go forward together. Our main service to our partners has been to promote programs which may be of interest to our members. As we grow our membership, we look forward to establishing new and exciting ways to partner with other organizations who share some interest in our mission.

As we add value to your membership via additional partners, please check updates on our partner page: <http://nwchina.org/other-resources/>

Your Board of Directors is committed to adding value and relevance to your membership in the NWCC. In our recent updating of membership rates, we hope you will find a level which expresses your appreciation of our continually-evolving place in promoting greater understanding of Chinese culture, business and contemporary affairs throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington. Many of our most dedicated members are listed as sustaining members on our back page. We hope to include your name in the next newsletter.

Happy Chinese New Year!

-Leslie Atiyeh, Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 22nd, 2016, the date of our Chinese New Year & Flying Horse Award Gala, at Wong's King Seafood Restaurant, 8733 SE Division St., Portland, 5:30-8:00pm. The recipients of this year's award are **Professor Jeffrey Barlow and Christine Richardson-Barlow**. It will be an eventful, memorable evening filled with friends old and new, music, classic Chinese food, drinks, and a raffle. The 8-course banquet will be \$80/person, \$750/member table. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Leslie at info@nwchina.org. Hope to see you there!

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next deadline for submissions will be March 15th, 2016. Articles and photos received after this deadline will be considered for the following issue. Thank you for your cooperation.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear China Council Members:

Happy New Year!

As we enter a new year, I have been reflecting on the China-related news from 2015. In the last year, so many things have happened: Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, visited the U.S.



Chinese tech giant, Alibaba, went public on the New York Stock Exchange, raising \$21.8 billion in its initial public offering. Enormous explosions rocked the Tianjin port, killing nearly 200 people and causing damage within a two-kilometer radius, spotlighting safety issues and regulatory oversight concerns. China expanded its activities in the South China Sea. And, in recent days, Beijing has issued air quality “red alerts,” advising citizens to stay indoors, schools to close, and limiting car use and industrial activities.

These headlines strikingly contrast with my impressions of China when I first traveled there in 1998 to study abroad for a semester in Tianjin at Nankai University. Where China is now an Internet giant, in 1998, it was not easy to get on the Internet (I don’t even remember bringing a laptop with me) - less than 2 million people in China were online. China had not yet acceded to the World Trade Organization, and foreign investment was still highly restricted and, other than the odd McDonald’s, certainly not so visible to a

college-age kid. Chinese companies were generally not considered players on the global scale. Then-U.S. President, Bill Clinton, made the first presidential visit to China since the Tiananmen Square incident. Bikes (and “breadbox” taxis) still ruled the roads.

Acknowledging China’s immense change is cliché today. But it shows that educational programming related to China is needed now more than ever. Such rapid change over 20 years does not take place in a vacuum: there are historical, cultural, and political forces moving it along. The NWCC strives to provide our members—and the greater Pacific Northwest region—with programming that helps illuminate aspects of these forces, to provide context and understanding for contemporary China.

In 2016, we will be focusing on bringing in programming on China’s environment, arts and culture, and history, in addition to continuing our China Business Network lunches, movie nights, and book club. We would also like to hear from you regarding programming that you believe would be of interest. We will be forwarding a survey to you soon by email, and appreciate your time and consideration in responding. If you prefer to contact us directly with your thoughts, please email info@nwchina.org.

The Year of the Monkey begins on February 8. The monkey is known for its cleverness and curiosity. We look forward to a year of learning and exploration!

-Merril Keane, President

FIRST SATURDAY PDX

The First Saturday PDX program at Portland State University aims “to provide a meaningful, inclusive, and interactive platform for increasing awareness of and interest in China-related topics.” The following presentations are for the months of February and March, and take place at PSU in the Academic & Student Recreation Center, Room 001 (ground floor). Hope to see you there!

Chinese New Year—Lecture on Shadow Puppetry

Mary E. Hirsch—Art Historian

February 6, 2016 9:30 - 11:00 am

Mary Hirsch is an independent scholar who specializes in identifying Chinese shadow puppets. She also helped identify and catalogue the Gest Collection of Chinese shadow puppets at Princeton University.

Penjing: Potted Landscapes

Mark Vossbrink

March 5, 2016 9:30 - 11:00 am

Bringing nature into the home is an ancient tradition of the Chinese people; a spiritual cleansing through the art of Penjing. Making the small large is also a part of that goal. Enjoy a demonstration of how this occurs with living trees and other plants.



APPRECIATION PARTY: JOHN WONG

On Sunday, December 6th, a group of nearly 30 Northwest China Council board members, members of the Portland Chinatown History and Museum Foundation, and old friends - some from as far back as grade school - met at Szechuan Chef Restaurant in John's Landing to celebrate John Wong's "retirement" from his job as Program Director for the NWCC.



Everyone's favorite dish from the 10-course meal was the braised whole fish, flavorful and meaty in a delicate sauce. As the delicious dinner wound down, attendees were asked to talk about their experiences with John over the years. We all learned a lot about the man who has been traditionally quite private about his personal life. From his grade and high school experiences, and college at Menlo College and MIT, they shared stories and anecdotes. We got a picture of someone involved in his community, respected by his peers, and self-described as "a little nerdy".



Mayor Bud Clark, Norma Heyser, John Wong & Xue Liu



NWCC Board President Merrill Keane and immediate Past President Paul Millius

John served admirably in that position starting shortly after the untimely death of Rosario Aglialoro. Many, including this writer, claim that John's capable handling of the myriad details of Council management, banking, scheduling, program planning and execution, keeping members informed, publicizing events, and manning the office have been directly responsible for the survival of the organization as the Board and Executive Committee tried, with only marginal success, to function as Executive Director.



NWCC Executive Director (right) and dinner attendees in a toast to John

NWCC Board President Merrill Keane presented John with a vintage "gold watch" traditional retirement gift to add to his collection of vintage quartz timepieces. He also received a modest cash gift, which he, generous supporter that he is, immediately said would be a donation to the China Council. The evening concluded with congratulations and best wishes from all.

-Paul Millius

With a well-documented history of human occupation dating back many thousands of years, China offers a plethora of prehistoric and historical material remains for archaeologists to uncover. China's earliest prehistory is, in fact, a prehistory of humankind as a whole, with evidence of early humans (pre-*Homo sapiens*) living in Hebei Province as far back as 1.6 million years ago. Here is a sampling of some of the archaeological discoveries of 2013 and 2014 announced in 2015 by the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (IA CASS):

Ancient kilns. Pottery kilns were discovered at nearly half a dozen separate archaeological sites, including sites in Zhejiang Province, Shaanxi Province, Anhui Province, and Liaoning Province. The Yueyao kiln ruins discovered in Zhejiang, primarily from the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220 AD), provide evidence of early celadon (glaze) development. An entire kiln factory from the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) was discovered in Fuping County, Shaanxi.

Archaeologists identified the factory kilns as functioning to make architectural pieces such as *chiwen* and other ornamental animal faces, as well as bricks that have been associated with the bricks used in the construction of Tang emperor Zhongzong's Dingling Mausoleum in Shaanxi.

New discoveries within Beijing and the Forbidden City. A tomb complex that spanned multiple dynasties from the Eastern Han (25-220) through the Tang (618-907) and Liao (907-1125) was discovered in a southwest suburb of Beijing during preliminary construction work on a new residential complex. Meanwhile, archaeological conservation work done in the Forbidden City revealed evidence of later eras rebuilding palace structure over earlier architecture, which included evidence of a previously undetected early drainage

system. A landfill with chinaware fragments from the imperial kiln was also discovered within the Forbidden City grounds. Archaeologists ascertained that the imperial chinaware had been purposely broke into pieces so that it could not be reused outside the imperial palace.



Unearthed ceramic pots at Jinshan kiln site, Zhejiang Province



Unearthed ceramic samples at Jinshan kiln site, Zhejiang Province

Tombs, tombs, and more tombs. In Guizhou Province, three tombs of a local chieftain's family, the Yang clan, recognized by the central government during the Yuan Dynasty, were discovered. In Shanxi Province, the largest known tomb mural to-date, of a hunting scene, was uncovered in a tomb preliminarily dated to somewhere between the Eastern Wei period (534-550) and the early Qi period (550-557) of the Northern Dynasties.

Among other interesting recent discoveries were an ancient mining site about 40 miles outside Beijing; remnants of an ancient board game in a Shandong Province tomb, last documented to have been played 1,500 years ago; and books and reports from the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-25 AD) on thousands of wooden and bamboo strips. Excavations

were also begun on a sunken late Qing Dynasty warship discovered in the Yellow Sea. **The Institute of Archaeology welcomes new volunteer translators but asks that they have a background or previous experience in archaeology because of the specialized vocabulary required for the assignments.**

The website for IA CASS is www.kaogu.cn

Photos taken by Dr. Zheng Jianming, Director of Excavation, Jinshan kiln site

Grace Warren has been a volunteer translator for IA CASS since 2012. She can be reached at glw@graceladonna.com.

MANDARIN LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN THE U.S.

In September 2015 President Obama called for a five-fold increase in the number of U.S. K-12 students studying Mandarin. Portland Public Schools currently has two Mandarin dual language immersion programs: Woodstock with two strands and 51 kindergarten slots for 2015-16 and King with two strands and 48 kindergarten slots. A five-fold increase in Mandarin immersion programs in PPS would equal eight new two strands programs each with about 50 kindergarten slots for a total of about 400 new Mandarin immersion kindergarten slots. I have previously called for Mandarin immersion programs at Kellogg in SE and Terwilliger in SW. Obama suggests even more.

President Obama, during the first state visit to Washington by China's President Xi Jinping, announced a sweeping new nationwide initiative to see 1 million American students studying Mandarin by 2020.

The President called for a dramatic expansion of Mandarin language-learning. Specifically, the 1 Million Strong initiative would in five years grow the number of K-12 students studying Mandarin in the U.S. from approximately 200,000 to 1 million. The effort seeks to develop Mandarin language curriculum norms, double the

number of Mandarin language teachers in the U.S. and support the development of new technology platforms to enhance accessibility of language learning to remote and underserved communities. "After all, if our countries are going to do more together around the world, then speaking each other's language, truly understanding each other is a good place to start," said President Obama at a joint press conference with President Xi.



One million may seem like a lot, but it's just under 2% of the total number of U.S. students; in fall 2015, there were about 55 million students enrolled in U.S. public and private primary and secondary schools. Still, there's much catching up to do. "Estimates suggest that between 300 and 400 million Chinese students are learning English today, while only about 200,000 American students are studying Chinese," Travis Tanner, senior vice president and chief operating officer at the 100,000 Strong Foundation, told Foreign Policy in an email. "We must bridge that gap."

Dave Porter is a retired health administrator in Portland with a great interest in connecting Oregon educational policy to U.S. foreign policy to enable better relations with China through education. His blog is at daveporter.typepad.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



K&L GATES



BOOK REVIEWS: *NIGHT IN SHANGHAI*



Night in Shanghai, by Nicole Mones
Mariner Books, Jan. 2015, 288 pages

Our China Council book group discussed former Portland resident Nicole Mones' *Night in Shanghai* at our December meeting over dinner at the Golden Horse Restaurant. Classified as fiction, the book is based on historical events ranging from before the Japanese army occupied Shanghai in 1937 through the eve of the Pearl Harbor attack in 1942. Jazz musicians, gangsters, politicians, Jewish refugees and an indentured young woman capture the spotlight through interwoven plot lines.

In this historical romance, vivid imagery full of intimate desire animates the leading characters, Song Yuhua and Thomas Greene. Thomas has invested his life in an art form under his mother's strict, classical guidance. Now leader and pianist in a Shanghai band composed of experienced jazz musicians, he must learn to improvise lush textures filled with rhythm. Song, indentured to a powerful gangster, secretly takes control of her life with a commitment to a greater cause. Together, Song and Thomas seek to experience sincere love for the first time in their mature lives during the turmoil of Chinese civil conflict, erratic society, destroyed economy, and Japanese occupation.

- Myrla Magness

This is a well-written story about the Shanghai of the late 1930s told through the experiences of a wide range of characters. It focuses not upon the characters themselves - what they feel, what they are like; but on their immediate relationships, their conversations, their feelings for one another. Most important of all, it deals with how these relationships "relate" to one another.

The author guides us into this narrative through a "lead relationship": that of the black jazz musicians who had become in many ways one of the most influential elements of the Europeans' cultural invasion of China, even as it was the least European of all these elements.

The interplay and face-off between the classical and jazz

traditions becomes thematic between main character Thomas Greene and his band members as he finally becomes a *bona fide* jazz musician.

The jazz tradition had its own relationship with the invading Japanese through their senior representative, Admiral Morioka, and his passion for Mozart and jazz. It had a relationship with the refugee Jewish community through Greene's duo with David Epstein, the violinist, and with Morioka's protection.

Greene's love affair with Song Yuhua then connected them with the Communist network who were themselves now connecting with the Nationalists who were an ever-present factor in everyone's affairs.

The author's skill was manifest in her ability to keep the reader emotionally engaged and seldom if ever confused among all of these complex, intertwined, and strongly-felt encounters.

In the end, I felt that the totality of Mones' story was accomplished as a satisfying metaphor for the Shanghai of the 1930s, which as an interface between the East, West, and potentially everywhere else, was anything but trivial and which was about to die.

My own epilogue for the completed book is this: has the unplanned, but vital encounter among powerful cultural currents that was decimated by invasion and war in any way survived and does its present "modern" form match that which so vibrantly and briefly held the stage until the 1930s?

- Barry Allen

The book group had a fun discussion of *Night in Shanghai*. We found the book a well-written historic novel set when competing forces of the Nationalists, Communists, Japanese, and gangsters were prevalent and it was dangerous to be allied with any of them. We liked the main character, Thomas Greene, his blossoming as a jazz musician, and his development from a loner in the States to a heroic leader and a benefactor in the expat community of Shanghai. In addition to the main story line, there were historical and dramatic subplots. For example, the plight of twenty thousand plus Jewish refugees, who managed to escape from Nazi-occupied areas in Europe to find refuge in Shanghai. The book brings out a little-known historical fact of a plan by some sympathetic, western-educated Chinese businessmen and Shanghai Jewish leaders who attempted to save another hundred thousand Jewish lives and settle them in Yunnan Province where they would be safe from the Japanese/German alliance.

-John M. Wong

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Movie Night: *To Live (1994), aka Huozhe*

Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Directed by the famous Zhang Yimou, "To Live" is an epic film based on the novel of the same name by Yu Hua.

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

\$8 donation (food and drink available for purchase)

Chinese New Year & Flying Horse Award Gala

Friday, January 22, 2016, 5:30 - 8:00pm

Wong's King Seafood Restaurant, 8733 SE Division St, Portland, OR, 97266

\$80/person, \$750/member table

Cooking Class: Guangzhou and Southern Regions

Sunday, January 24, 2016, 3:00 - 6:00pm

Portland's Culinary Workshop, 807 N Russell St, Portland, OR, 97227

\$65/class for members, \$85/class for non-members

Registration deadline is January 17, 2016.

NWCC Business Network & Portland Business Alliance Business Mixer: Regional Trade with China

Thursday, January 28, 2016, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Skype Live Studio, 1210 SW 6th Ave, Portland, OR, 97204

PBA members \$10 online or \$15 at the door; non-members \$15 online or \$20 at the door.

*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.

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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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