



**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Wow, what a tremendous outpouring of community support during a very festive Year of the Monkey Spring Festival in Portland and beyond! I attended so many gatherings featuring lovely performances from dedicated artists and athletes. Our Chinese New Year and Flying Horse Award Gala was well-attended by those who know and appreciate the decades of work that Professor Jeffrey Barlow and Christine Richardson Barlow have contributed to our state and educational communities. Many of their students from Lewis and Clark China trips and colleagues from Pacific University joined us in applauding their accomplishments. Other past Flying Horse Award recipients present included Mayor Bud Clark, Jaime Lim, Gloria Lee, Dr. Hong Jin, Betty Jean Lee and Hope Chinese Charter School. View photos on our [Photo Gallery Page](#).



Our Leap Year Day campaign was announced at the Flying Horse Award evening and we are happy to announce we received a total of \$10,594 of new \$500 and other incremental donations to help secure the matching \$5,000 anonymous donation. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and made their contribution double, especially our magnanimous anonymous donor who looks forward to offering a similar deal next year!

Our gala jumpstarted the Chinese New Year and a couple of weeks later the Oregon Historical Society joined forces with Portland Chinatown newcomer Portland Chinatown History and Museum Foundation to host a dramatic and photogenic Dragon and Lion Dance Parade through Old Town Chinatown. The parade wound its way to OHS in honor of the new international exhibit titled, “Chinese-American: Exclusion/Inclusion” tag teamed in a local exhibit, “Beyond the Gate: A Tale of Portland’s Historic Chinatowns”, carefully curated by Jackie Peterson Loomis. <http://ohs.org/museum/exhibits/chinese-american-exclusion-inclusion.cfm>

The Northwest China Council is a membership-based volunteer-oriented nonprofit. That said, we can always

utilize additional talented and forward-looking volunteers. To that end, we would like to refresh our volunteer corps, so please email us your updated contact information and we will send you a volunteer form as well as a current list of volunteer positions. Many are weekly and monthly, while a great many will be event-driven, especially for the upcoming auction!

We are excited to announce **June 8th** as the date for you to save to come together to raise funds in our traditional auction event. Due to the transition in our office (John Wong retired in November and Leslie Atiyeh was appointed Executive Director) we changed our course a bit and look forward to a lovely early summer gathering.

Our Spring Chinese language classes have begun, but it is not too late to join! There are seats available in most of the time slots. Our classroom is located in the Center for Philanthropy and we enjoy an accessible building one block from the Old Town Chinatown MAX stop as well as Trimet bus stop ID#1612 servicing six lines at NW 2nd Avenue & NW Everett Street.

*-Leslie Atiyeh, Executive Director*



**Leslie Atiyeh greets attendees at the Chinese New Year and Flying Horse Award Gala**

**EDITOR’S NOTE**

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

*-Shireen Farrahi*

## GREGORY FONG

Gregory Fong was a widely renowned master of Taijiquan<sup>1</sup>, Yiquan<sup>2</sup>, and Seven Star Praying Mantis Gongfu. He began teaching in Portland in the early 1970s. He taught classes at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in Old Town Chinatown for about three decades. He also practiced daily, and on weekends led open classes at Mt. Tabor Park near his home.

Sifu Fong is perhaps best known for his first-place ranking in 1989 at the International T'ai Chi/Kung Fu tournaments in both San Francisco, CA and Vancouver, BC. In the same year, he won the all-around championship title at the Virginia U.S. All T'ai Chi tournament.

Fong was born in Guangzhou, China and raised in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong he began his lifelong passion and dedication to martial arts training by learning Wu-style Taijiquan and Seven Star Praying Mantis Gongfu. From his early teachers, Wang Lang, Chan Yin Yee, and Yim Sheung Mo, he learned to train with diligence, perseverance, and determination, skills that would serve him for the rest of his life. Over the next several decades, he sought out the best teachers for inspiration and challenge. Fong studied under Chen Taijiquan master Chen Xiaoxing, Baguazhang<sup>3</sup> master Xiao Zhixing, as well as Dr. Yu Yongnian, from whom he learned the esoteric art of Yiquan. His Yiquan training laid the foundation for all his future martial arts training.

Fong's devotion to Chinese martial and healing arts also led him to research the writings of the great masters. He wrote several manuscripts, expressing his understanding of concepts such as the Six Directions, Song and Gong, and the Five Elements of Correct Practice. In his article, "How to Practice for Health, Martial Arts and Spiritual Growth," published in T'ai Chi Magazine, he outlines the five elements of correct practice:

Body, skeleton, i.e. one's structure, because "finding that

support is a matter of recovering our instinctual reactions to the demands of physical work."

Li, Muscular power. "Without training muscular activity intelligently, one's extremities are cold, one's energy is low, and one gets sick easily and ages more quickly."



Qi, Oxygen or breath. "Tension suffocates the body... Without oxygen, physical activity is impossible. Therefore proper inhalation and exhalation are essential."

Yi, Intention. "Where the yi is weak, the body and mind are slow to respond to one another, and one's health is compromised."

Shen, Spirit. Shen "is the key not only to health and martial arts ability, but to the spiritual path more generally."



His legacy continues with the Portland Tai Chi Arts Association where his students continue to offer classes in Taijiquan, Yiquan, and other martial arts.

Gregory Fong's students and family have advocated for a memorial in Mount Tabor Park. To that end, a bench with a plaque honoring Sifu Gregory Fong will be placed at the Nike basketball

court near the Mount Tabor Park amphitheater courtesy of Portland Tai Chi Arts Association.

*-Chris Wilhite & Sue Mall*

<sup>1</sup>Taijiquan is more commonly known in the U.S. as T'ai Chi, which is an archaic style of Romanization. The term "Taijiquan" is the actual name of the martial art and means "Taiji boxing" or "Great Ultimate Boxing." Taiji is a concept in Chinese philosophy.

<sup>2</sup>Yiquan: "Mind/Intention boxing." Yiquan is an esoteric martial art derived from Xingyiquan which attempts to establish a deep connection between the practitioner's mind and body.

<sup>3</sup>Bagua means "Eight Archetypes" and refers to the eight trigrams of the Yijing (I-Ching). Baguazhang is a martial art inspired by the changes of the bagua using palm strikes. It translates as "Eight Trigram Palm."

## CHINESE FILM AND LITERATURE PROGRAM

The NWCC is creating a new “Chinese Film and Literature Program”. The first presentation was in the



Film and Literature Program Chair Hong Chou introducing the first presentation

Bamboo Room at The Center for Philanthropy on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This program is an effort to promote understanding of contemporary and traditional culture through film and literature. It will take place every month on the third Sunday afternoon 2:00-4:00pm.

This presentation of the “Film and Literature Program” collaborated with the Asian Film Festival. Director Antonio Termenini gave a broad introduction of the Chinese film directors over the last 25 years from China,

Hong Kong and Taiwan. He spoke of the directors of the sixth generation such as Jia Zhangke (贾樟柯), Wang Xiaoshuai (王小帅), and Guan Hu (管虎), as well as the directors of the fifth generation Zhang Yimou (张艺谋), John Woo(吴宇森), Chen Kaige (陈凯歌), Tian Zhuangzhuang (田壮壮), Feng Xiaogang (冯小刚), He Ping (何平), Chen Yiwen (陈以文), and their contributions to the cinema of contemporary China.

Thanks for the support from the Institute for Asian Studies at PSU and the members of the NWCC. Our next film presentation will be April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 2:00-4:00 pm.

*-Hong Chou, Program Chair*



## DR. JEFFREY KINKLEY TALK

Be sure not to miss what promises to be a fascinating presentation by retired professor Dr. Jeffrey Kinkley (St. John’s University, New York), entitled “Some Other China Dreams: Chinese SF (“Science Fiction” & “Speculative Fiction”)”. This event is hosted by the Confucius Institute at Portland State University. According to the presentation description, “Chinese writers have ventured into Science Fiction territory since the late Qing dynasty and created fantastic journeys for explorers of imaginary realms long before that. SF has become a hot subject again in recent decades, marked internationally by a Hugo Award for Best Novel conferred on Liu Cixin’s *The Three-Body Problem*. Now that contemporary China itself is

changing so rapidly in real life, its “SF” often veers into “speculative fiction,” imagining alternative pasts, presents, and futures for China, the world, and the cosmos.” Dr. Kinkley is a Courtesy Professor of History and of World Languages and Literatures at PSU. His major publications, besides translations of modern Chinese literature, are on Chinese intellectual and literary history, Chinese fiction about justice, legal reform, and official corruption, and Chinese historical novels.

The presentation will be held on Friday, April 22, 2016, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Smith Memorial Student Union, Rm. 236, at PSU. Watch for info on his May 15th discussion following our *Girl From Hunan* viewing in our Film & Literature Series.



## OREGON-CHINA TRADE EVENT

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the NWCC co-sponsored an event with the Portland Business Alliance and the U.S. Export Assistance Center which focused on Oregon's trade with China. Featuring Senior International Trade Specialist Kellie Holloway, the event drew a healthy crowd that was interested in hearing about how China's slowing economy might impact Oregon's economy during a period of international trade growth.

"It was a tumultuous end to 2015 with the stock market and the GDP coming out lower than expectations," said Holloway to the group of Portland Business Alliance and NWCC members. She continued to explain that slower growth was still relative growth. "But it's so important to keep that in perspective. Our trade with China increased 43 percent in our biggest sector, electronics. Our overall trade increased 13 percent. Things still look really good."

She said that since only 30 percent of the Chinese GDP is tied to the stock market, and only 20 percent of people are invested in the stock market, such stock market plunges have less impact than they would in a place like the U.S.

"Another thought is, size matters. China's economy is five times larger than it was in 2005. A five percent growth rate in 2007 is the equivalent of 15 percent growth now."

This means that China still remains a very attractive region for many Oregon companies. "Is China going to remain the world's manufacturing center? Yes."

And urbanization in China continues at a frenetic pace. More than half of China is now urban and it is expected to be 75 percent by 2020. People are buying more, and China is importing more.

"So what are they buying? Goods and services that are lifestyle-related. Now that they have disposable income there's hobbies and passions. The outdoor retail segment is going gangbusters. There are festivals of all kinds, rock climbing, kite surfing — things that didn't exist before."

She talked about the "Alibaba Effect" and how Chinese people love online shopping. They have specialty ecommerce platforms, and buy everything from organic apples to Mercedes online. They are demanding a cleaner environment and are interested in health and natural products from places such as Oregon.

There are other areas where similarities between today's China and Oregon can also be seen. "Innovation is a key word, in terms of

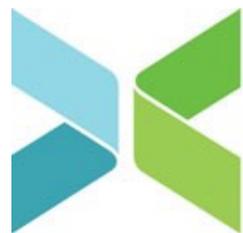
incubators and labs. The buzz 20 years ago was foreign trade zones. Now it's incubators, and the training of students to be more creative thinkers."

So the economic news from China does not mean that Oregon's economic relationship with China has soured. Although Oregon exporters were hurt last year by falling prices for agricultural products and the labor dispute at Terminal 6 at the Port of Portland, Oregon's exports to China grew last year, including agricultural products, and prospects for continued growth in exports to China is expected.

Thank you to the Portland Business Alliance for hosting the event, the U.S. Commercial

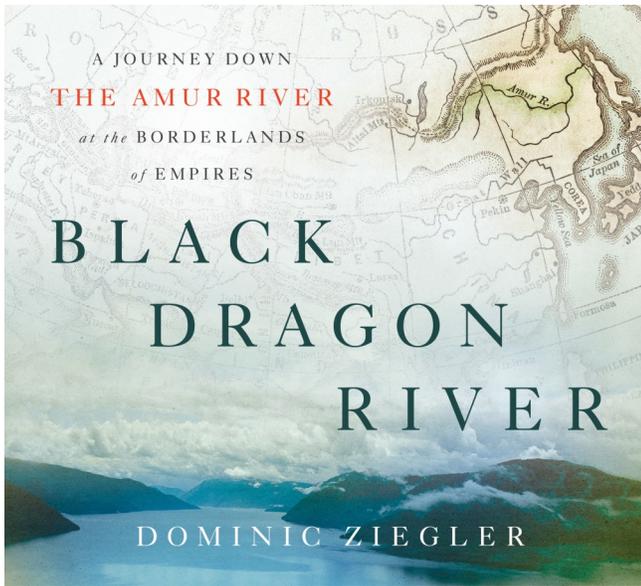
Service for co-sponsoring it with the Northwest China Council, and to J. Gallivan for providing quotes.

-David W. Kohl



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## BOOK REVIEW: *BLACK DRAGON RIVER*



***Black Dragon River***  
by Dominic Ziegler  
Penguin Press, Nov. 2015, 368 pages

Our NWCC book group read about the geography and history of Siberia's Amur River region in *Black Dragon River* by *The Economist's* Asia Editor, Dominic Ziegler.

The book excitingly sprawls with related historical details pertaining to specific places along the trail of the author's travel narrative as he hikes, rides horseback, goes by jeep, by train (the Trans-Siberian Railway), and by river boat over the course of the Amur River flowing from Mongolia for 2,826 miles towards the east through the Strait of Tartary all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Along part of its course, the Amur becomes a portion of the border between Russia and China. In the Amur region along with the native peoples, are found "... the Russians, the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Koreans ... In many ways the Amur is the meeting ground for Asia's great empires and peoples."

Genghis Khan was born near one of the Amur's headwaters in Mongolia. He eventually established "the biggest continuous empire the world has known."

In 1689, China's first treaty with a European country was signed with Russia in the Amur watershed at Nerchinsk. It "was a treaty negotiated on the basis of strict equality" as opposed to the "series of 'unequal' treaties with Western Powers" imposed on China in the nineteenth century. China remembers.

Similar to America's westward push, claiming its "Manifest Destiny," Russia visualized its route to expand was in the lands to the east "to enlighten 'the tribes of Asia' with science and Christianity" in Siberia, an area larger than the

continental United States. As a result of this eastward push, many tribal people, their lives and traditions, were eliminated; animals were driven to the edge of extinction for their body parts, skins, and furs; fish species were lost; plant species and trees were over-harvested. In addition to the Russians, Chinese and other peoples made and continue to make extraction claims on this vast territory.

Within our book group, we appreciated learning more about a history and geography we'd not heard about before. This book introduced plenty of material for further study.

- Myrla Magness

## CRATER LAKE & MT WUYI RELATIONSHIP

Crater Lake National Park and Mount Wuyi World Heritage and Cultural Site, which is located in the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian, recently established an official Sister Park relationship via an agreement signed by Crater Lake Superintendent Craig Ackerman and Chinese officials during ceremonies in China in late February. This new relationship is expected to stimulate tourism from China to Oregon and Crater Lake, as well as from America to Fujian and Mount Wuyi. To best accommodate the increase in Chinese tourists, who have a strong interest in national parks, welcome signs and some park publications and brochures will be translated into Mandarin, especially those describing ranger-led activities.

Oregon and Fujian have had a sister state relationship since 1984. How exciting that this new connection will be serving to bring our two states even closer together!

-Shireen Farrahi



**Crater Lake & Mount Wuyi**

## UNITED CHINESE DINNER CRUISE

On Saturday evening, February 27th, a merry group of elite partygoers met on the Portland Spirit for a dinner cruise organized by the United Chinese Association of Oregon and the Pacific Education and Cultural Exchange Center. Co-sponsors included China Media, the Chinese Friendship Association of Portland, the Vancouver Chinese Association, and the NWCC.

The event was sold out with nearly 200 attendees occupying the entire upper deck of the cruise ship. Jenny Dong and Zheng Liying of PECEC did a great job as Mistresses of Ceremonies...often in the face of an ambient din of jolly revelers.

It seemed everybody who is anybody in the Portland metro area Asian community joined the fun. Business leaders, community activists, mayoral candidates, and elected officials of all ethnicities came to enjoy the dinner and entertainment. Several took the opportunity to promote their candidacies and causes. The Consul General came up from San Francisco to offer a few words about U.S.-China friendship.



**NWCC board members Ming Brink, Paul Millius, Victor Lam, Hong Chou, and Merrill Keane on right**

The NWCC was well-represented by half a dozen board members, including Board President Merrill Keane, Ming Brink, Victor Lam, Hong Chou, and your writer.

The event turned out to be an impromptu fashion show. Many of the ladies came in their most beautiful cheongsams and embroidered jackets and blouses. Those in western dresses did not take a back seat in the fashion finery department. There was glamour galore.

The guests were treated to Asian and Western-themed musical and dance performances. There were ballet and tango dancers; and music performed on traditional Asian instruments.

All present took the opportunity to connect with old and new friends. Table hopping and noisy happy conversations were the norm.

As the boat made its way up and down the Willamette River, we enjoyed the shore lights of a winter evening. When we arrived back at Waterfront Park, the attendees happily disembarked. It was a great evening out for all.

*-Paul Millius*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Film and Literature Program: Ricki's Promise**

**Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2:00-4:00pm**

Center for Philanthropy, Bamboo Room (3rd floor), 221 NW 2nd Ave, Portland, OR 97209

### **Confucius Institute: Dr. Jeffrey Kinkley (See page 3)**

**Friday, April 22, 2016, 6:30-8:00 pm**

Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, Rm. 236

### **The Golden Age of Flight: Chinese American Aviators in Oregon 1918-1945**

**Saturday, April 23, 2016, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Center for Philanthropy, Bamboo Room (3rd floor), 221 NW 2nd Ave, Portland, OR 97209

### **National Committee on U.S.-China Relations: The State of Intellectual Property Protection in China**

**Friday, May 6, 2016, 12:00-1:30pm**

UO White Stag Building, 70 NW Couch St, Portland, OR 97209

### **"A Night in Shanghai" Benefit Auction & Soiree**

**Wednesday, June 8, 2016**

Watch website for more information.

*For more information on these and other programs, please visit: [www.nwchina.org](http://www.nwchina.org)*

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL

### **Dragon Circle (\$5,000+)**

Anonymous, Hainan Airlines

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In Honor of Jane Larson: Prof. Jeffrey Barlow and Christine Richardson-Barlow

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