

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NWCC Members,

Happy New Year and *xiexie* for starting 2026 with the Northwest China Council. Not only will we soon be galloping into the Year of the Horse, but 2026 is also our nation's semiquincentennial (250th) anniversary!! What a potent combination that might turn out to be!



As you can see, there has been a change in leadership, with more information on page 2. You might know my name already: I'm Shireen Farrahi, and I serve as the NWCC's newsletter editor as well as the host of our monthly Movie Chat program. I have been with the NWCC since 2001, as a regular member and then serving in various capacities. I am very excited to be the next president and look forward to what the next few years will bring. Many thanks to Past President Jim Mockford for his two dynamic terms. The Board of Directors looks forward to his continuing service, now as Treasurer.

As we're now moving into arguably the most exciting time of year in Chinese culture, you'll see much material in this issue about Lunar New Year. Page 3 features an announcement of the annual cultural fair that will again be taking place at the Oregon Convention Center, and the NWCC will be there with a booth. There's also a mention on page 8 of the 10th Annual Lunar New Year Dragon Dance & Celebration, which is organized by the Portland Chinatown Museum and co-presented with the Oregon Historical Society. For a couple of additional twists, see page 10 for a brief exploration of the significance of the Year of the Fire Horse, and page 5 shines a culinary spotlight on tang yuan dumplings, a popular dessert during Lunar New Year!

Of course, our own (Gregorian calendar) New Year cannot be forgotten, and for that you'll want to see page 4 about my visit along with Jim & Cheryl Mockford to the City of Milwaukie's 3rd annual Bing in the New Year celebration on December 31. It was a cold evening, but this bustling family-oriented event was filled with community warmth as Chinese nursery foreman Ah Bing was honored for his achievement of cultivating the first Bing cherry in Milwaukie back in about 1875. Booths, activities, food, and

entertainment were all to be found in abundance—along with attendees, who packed the Milwaukie Farmers Market parking lot this year. I hope this unique event will keep growing as it continues to receive such great publicity.

On the topic of publicity, we're always happy to spread the word about upcoming lectures and presentations by our partners. First up, page 8 features a lecture on January 22 organized by the PSU Institute for Asian Studies and co-sponsored by the PSU Department of Sociology titled, *Authoritarian Absorption: The Transnational Remaking of Epidemic Politics in China*, which portrays the rebuilding of China's epidemic response system from 1978 to 2018. Then WorldOregon will be holding a lecture on February 12 as part of their Great Decisions 2026 series, titled *Strategic Options for US-China Relations*, detailed on page 5. Following that, the Northwest China Council will be hosting a talk on March 7 by Jane Leung Larson, who will be here from Maine! She'll be presenting her book, *A Chinese Reformer in Exile: Kang Youwei and the Chinese Empire Reform Association in North America, 1899-1911*. More about that on page 9. You'll also see our regular list of announcements of other events on page 3.

Of course, you can always count on finding our other regular features within these pages as well. These include a description of Willow Zheng's Winter 2026 Mandarin language classes on page 9, plus my own lineup on page 11 of Winter 2026 movies for our Movie Chat program.

I would also like to make mention of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's call for volunteers for a digital archive project they're immersed in. See page 2 for more details and how you can help.

Finally, you'll love Jim Mockford's spread on pages 6-7 about his family trip to Asia late last year, including visits to Yokohama Chinatown and the Hangzhou Kite Festival!

Please note that the Oregon Community Foundation sponsor logo on page 10 has been changed to reflect the support of the Keane Family Fund. The Keanes have been generous donors to the NWCC for many years and we are so very grateful for their continued support.

Once again, thank you so much for being a part of our NWCC family and the Board of Directors looks forward to hopefully seeing you at our events throughout 2026 and the Year of the Horse!

-Shireen Farrahi

NWCC ANNUAL MEETING RECAP & MAJOR ARTHUR CHIN'S BIRTHDAY

The NWCC enjoyed its 2025 Annual Meeting as a buffet luncheon to allow for driving during daytime. It was held on Thursday, October 23 at FJ Buffet, located at 11930 SE Division St in Portland, which features extensive, all-you-can-eat pan-Asian fare. The event began with a brief business meeting during which outgoing President Jim Mockford gave a report on the 45th year of NWCC activities. Following that, the composition of the 2026-2028 Board of Directors was confirmed. It included: President, Shireen Farrahi; Secretary, Joanne Wakeland; and Treasurer, Jim Mockford. The board bid heartfelt farewells to outgoing board members Michael Bloom and Jeffrey Kinkley as well as gave a hearty welcome to incoming board member Steve Chang. In her introductory speech, Shireen thanked Jim for his four fabulous years as President and expressed gratitude for his continuing on the board as Treasurer. On the top right, Jim is passing Shireen a baton used by Jim's father who had been a track coach.



There were also brief talks by former NWCC Board Director and former Lan Su Chinese Garden Executive Director Gloria Lee about her current community-related projects, pictured with Jim at lower right; and Ling Chen, Co-Chair of the First Saturday PDX Committee, who spoke about upcoming events co-sponsored with the NWCC.

The luncheon was also an occasion to toast the 112th birthday of Major Arthur Chin, the "first American Ace" to have flown in World War II. See our Fall 2025 newsletter issue for more about him.

The event was cheerful and a time for NWCC members and friends to come together on a sunny day for good food, great company, and a sentimental celebration of the Northwest China Council past, present, and future.



CCBA DIGITAL ARCHIVE PROJECT: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

From JoAnn Lee, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association:

The Oregon CCBA (Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association) is scanning and digitizing valuable documents and artifacts that are part of an essential part of our Chinese cultural heritage.

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who are passionate about preserving our rich history and ensuring that future generations can access and appreciate these invaluable treasures. By participating in this project, you will not only gain a deeper understanding of our cultural roots but also contribute to a meaningful cause that will leave a lasting impact on our community.

The scanning project will involve handling delicate historical documents, photographs, and artifacts, and carefully scanning them to create digital copies. These digital copies will be used to create an accessible online archive, making our heritage available to scholars, researchers, and anyone interested in learning more about our Chinese culture.

We welcome volunteers of all skill levels, so whether you have experience with scanning and digital archiving or are simply eager to learn, we encourage you to join us. Your dedication and support will play a crucial role in preserving our cultural legacy for years to come.

If you are interested in volunteering for the CCBA Digital Archive Project, please contact JoAnn Lee, Director and History & Museum Committee Chair at joann_lee@msn.com or 503-784-9386 and we will provide you with further details on how you can get involved. We look forward to working together to safeguard our heritage and share it with the world.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CULTURAL FAIR AT OREGON CONVENTION CENTER

With Lunar New Year fast approaching on February 17, you won't want to miss the annual cultural fair held at the Oregon Convention Center, this year on Saturday, February 28, 11am-5pm! Organized by the *Portland Chinese Times*, Portland Art & Cultural Center, and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, you'll be treated to a dazzling variety of programs, cultural activities, and vendor booths.

As taken from the Lloyd Eco District [website](#): *The fair offers a lively and family friendly atmosphere where guests can explore traditional and contemporary performances, browse goods from local vendors, and take part in activities that honor the arrival of the Lunar New Year. It is a joyful community event that invites attendees of all ages to experience the richness and beauty of Chinese culture.*

With such a colorful lineup of festivities how can you afford to miss what once again is sure to be a memorable day of Lunar New Year celebrations? We hope to see you there on February 28 and support the Chinese community in welcoming in the Year of the Horse. Don't forget to stop by the NWCC booth and extend your heartiest Gong Hey Fat Choy or Xin Nian Kuai Le!



COMMUNITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lan Su Chinese Garden: *Lantern Viewing Dragon & Light Show:* Enjoy unique and vibrant Lunar New Year festivities at Lan Su with glowing lantern sculptures from China, a magical zodiac animals light show by Noble Robot, and a live Dragon Dance procession by Portland Lee's Association. Every Weds–Sun, February 18 – March 1, 2026, 5:30-7:00 PM and 7:30-9:00 PM. A more tranquil alternative is *Music & Lantern Viewing Nights*, held March 4-8, 2026. More info about both on their [website](#).



Portland Chinatown Museum: Their *Hidden Histories II: Oregon's Hidden Chinatowns and Chinese Worker Settlements* series continues with a Zoom [webinar](#) on February 14, 2026 titled *The Lung Family: Lineal Descendants Connect the Past and Present at Auburn, Oregon*. Family and community historian Linda Lung and archaeologist Catherine Dickson will explore the history of the Lung family, whose journey through many western states to a multi-generational home in Colorado illustrates the events of the late 1800s to the present in a manner rarely told.



First Saturday PDX: The April 4, 2026 [program](#), *Painting in Ming Dynasty Suzhou: The Marketing of Scholarly Tastes*, will be presented by Ann Wetherell, Ph.D. She will profile some of the best known scholar artists of Ming Dynasty Suzhou, the role of their paintings within their personal networks, and the subsequent commodification of Confucian painting to address the burgeoning market for Suzhou souvenirs.

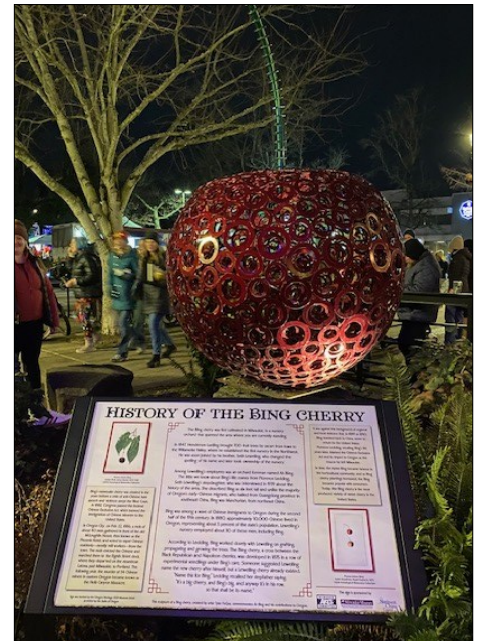


Seattle Art Museum: The Seattle Asian Art Museum is currently featuring the [Ai Weiwei Water Lilies](#) exhibit at the South Gallery, located at 1400 East Prospect St. in Seattle, WA, until March 15, 2026. See our story on page 10. Also, in 2026 SAM will be presenting Ai's [Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads \(Bronze\) \(2010\)](#) exhibit, which is based upon 12 zodiac heads that once decorated an 18th-century Qing imperial fountain before they were looted during the Second Opium War (1856–1860).



BING IN THE NEW YEAR 2025

A wintry cold celebration of Milwaukie history and community spirit, bedecked with a sparkling 7-foot cherry overhead, once again drew thousands of enthusiastic participants to downtown Milwaukie as NWCC President Shireen Farrahi joined Treasurer Jim Mockford and his wife Cheryl there on New Year's Eve for the 2025 Bing in the New Year event. Now in its third year, Bing in the New Year is establishing itself as an annual community tradition honoring the legacy of Chinese nursery foreman Ah Bing, who cultivated the first Bing cherry in Milwaukie circa 1875. Lion dancers and other Chinese performers dazzled the crowds, who also browsed tables stocked by various local Chinese vendors and nonprofits. The evening culminated in the lowering of the cherry at a family friendly time of 9pm, in keeping with New York City's Times Square midnight ball drop. The trio then visited the steel cherry sculpture and explanatory plaque by artist Tyler Fuqua. A very cherry end to 2025 indeed!



WORLD OREGON
Great Decisions February 12
Strategic Options for
U.S.-China Relations



Police conduct border patrol in Altay, Xinjiang, China on September 29, 2025. PHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Relations with China remain tense, with tariffs, military modernization, and pressure on Taiwan. Does Trump have a coherent China policy, and will his tariffs on Rare Earth minerals be effective? What are America's strategic options? Come find out the answers from Sam Kaplan, Director, Center of Excellence for Global Trade and Supply Chain Management, in his lecture, "Strategic Options for U.S.-China Relations", part of the Great Decisions 2026 series.

The event will be held at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, Rm 327, on Thursday, February 12 at noon. WorldOregon is generously allowing NWCC members to pay the WorldOregon member admission rate of \$10. The nonmember rate is \$15, and PSU staff, faculty and students are free. Click [here](#) for full details and to register.

A LUNAR NEW YEAR TRADITION: TANG YUAN DUMPLINGS

Are you familiar with tang yuan (sweet sesame) dumplings? This rich and comforting dessert can be enjoyed at any time of year, but it tends to be favored during Lunar New Year. Glutinous rice flour dumplings are filled with a black sesame paste and float in a sweet ginger syrup until shiny like pearls. When you spoon one up, you want to be sure to spoon up the syrup in the next bite for the perfect balance of flavors, with the warmth of the ginger sharply enveloping the rich filling.

They're not only easy and fun to make but can easily be personalized, with options to color the dough naturally including mashed pumpkin and purple sweet potatoes. So with recipes aplenty available, why not start your own Lunar New Year tradition?



YOKOHAMA CHINATOWN TOUR IN NOVEMBER 2025

On November 9, 2025 my wife and I left Portland for a month-long trip to Asia that took us to Japan, China, Hong Kong, Thailand, and also a side trip to Guam. Our first stop in Japan was highlighted by a reunion with the Tanaka family who I lived with for a year in 1974-75 as an exchange student at Waseda University. Mrs. Tanaka is now 92 years old and as healthy as ever. We talked about how much Japan and the world have changed over the past five decades.

I also met former Japanese Consul General Yuzo Yoshioka, shown below, who was stationed in Portland from March 2023 to March 2025 and we had a delightful evening walk in Yokohama Chinatown to see the brilliantly lighted gateways - with two pictured middle and below right, plus buildings, streets, and especially the [Yokohama Mazu Temple](#) (top right) that displays its official name “Yokohama Great Tianhou Temple,” open since 2006. I visited Chinatown Yokohama many years ago but never at night, which I highly recommend, with these photos showing the clean, festive community that it is today.

Yokohama Chinatown has a history going back to 1859 with the opening of treaty ports and settlements by foreigners that had previously been restricted to Nagasaki where an older but smaller Chinatown was established during the 17th century. The growth of Yokohama Chinatown began after the [Sino-Japanese Trade Treaty](#) in 1871 that encouraged Chinese immigrants to establish businesses in the district. Now it has about 250 Chinese-owned or themed shops and restaurants and a multinational community.

The complicated relationship between China and Japan has impacted this community over the decades that have seen war and continuing diplomatic and trade friction between the countries after normalization of Sino-Japanese relations in 1972. A recent story in the South China Morning Post explained [Why Japan’s largest Chinatown is unlike any other around the world](#) and how the district today is “less of a Chinese enclave and more of a tourist attraction for locals.” I think it can also be considered a tourist attraction for international visitors to Japan.

– Jim Mockford



HANGZHOU KITE FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 2025

Continuing my travels in Asia in November 2025...we flew from Haneda Airport to Shanghai Pudong Airport and then caught a train for Hangzhou where I was a participant in the Hangzhou Kite Festival November 14-15. A student with a bird kite is pictured below, a kid with a festival balloon is pictured at right, and Cheryl and I are with friend Eddie Lai at bottom right. This event is a newer kite festival in China and it was my first time to visit Hangzhou but not my first time to a kite festival in China. That personal history goes back to 1987 when I was a participant in the 4th Weifang International Kite Festival and won a beautiful dragon kite trophy that is now in the collection of the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, WA. Thirty years later I returned to Weifang in 2017 and became reacquainted with the kite flying community in China and around the world. We also participated in the First Dunhuang International Kite Festival in 2017 and then visited Dalian where my first grandson was born in April 2017. Now we fly kites with two grandsons in China and three grandkids in the US.



In 2020 I published a bilingual Chinese and English illustrated children's book about the adventures of the two oldest grandchildren flying kites, [The Kite That Touched The Sky](#).

My plan to attend other festivals was delayed during the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 but thanks to the invitation from Mr. Liu Zhiping of the Weifang Kite Festival and the 2nd Hangzhou International Kite Festival we were able to join kite fliers at Xiaoshan, Hangzhou on our way to our eventual Thanksgiving holiday in Phuket, Thailand where we flew kites with all five of our grandchildren.

The Xianghu Lake area of Hangzhou is a beautiful area to fly kites with mountains in the background and winds that come from across the lake to make excellent conditions for the China Sports Kite League Youth Group to hold flying competitions for children. In addition to local student participation there were students from nearby Ningbo city flying kites too. The event was well organized for children who enjoyed the entertainment at the opening ceremonies too.

If you have an interest in Chinese kites please visit the World Kite Museum in Long Beach and check the calendar for kite festivals to be held in Oregon or Washington during the year where you may find international kite fliers attending events in the US too. -Jim Mockford



PORTLAND CHINATOWN MUSEUM DRAGON DANCE PARADE 2026!

It's that time of year again - the 10th Annual Lunar New Year Dragon Dance and Celebration will be taking place on Saturday, March 7, 10am-1pm, to welcome the Year of the Horse. So come downtown to cheer the procession on their route which starts in Old Town Chinatown, heads down SW Third Avenue, and ends at the Oregon Historical Society. You'll especially delight in the Portland Chinatown History Foundation's 150-foot dragon which heads up the parade. The event is organized by the Portland Chinatown Museum and co-presented with the Oregon Historical Society. For more details please visit the Museum's website [here](#). This is a fantastic annual Portland tradition and is not to be missed.



AUTHORITARIAN ABSORPTION: THE TRANSNATIONAL REMAKING OF EPIDEMIC POLITICS IN CHINA

Organized by the PSU Institute for Asian Studies and co-sponsored by the PSU Department of Sociology, you won't want to miss this intriguing presentation on the multi-decade evolution of Chinese epidemic politics.

Thursday, January 22, 2026 12:40 - 2:00PM

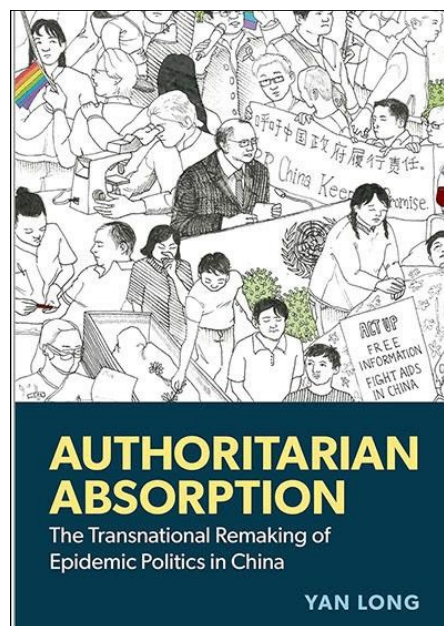
Authoritarian Absorption: The Transnational Remaking of Epidemic Politics in China, by Yan Long, PhD

** Zoom Presentation **

Why do states take some epidemics seriously but not others? This talk tackles this question by tracing China's infectious disease system between 1978 and 2018. Unlikely players - foreign health organizations, Chinese officials, and grassroots activists - together reshaped epidemic control, setting the stage for China's handling of COVID-19. Their interactions not only strengthened public health institutions but also reinforced authoritarian rule while reworking biopolitical inequality. Some groups - notably urban gay men - gained visibility and resources, while female sex workers and rural farmers remained marginalized. This transformation invites us to consider how authoritarian states absorb global liberal ideas - less to liberalize and more to consolidate power and project strength.

Please register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link. Admission is free for all. For more details contact iasias@pdx.edu.

Dr. Yan Long is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a political and organizational sociologist whose research examines how globalization and authoritarian politics intersect in domains such as public health, civic action, and digital technology. Her award-winning articles have appeared in the *American Journal of Sociology*, the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, and *Social Science & Medicine*, among others. Her book, *Authoritarian Absorption: The Transnational Remaking of Epidemic Politics in China* (Oxford University Press, 2024), has received four national distinctions, including the 2025 Best Book on Asia from the American Sociological Association.



KANG YOUWEI: A CHINESE REFORMER IN AMERICA

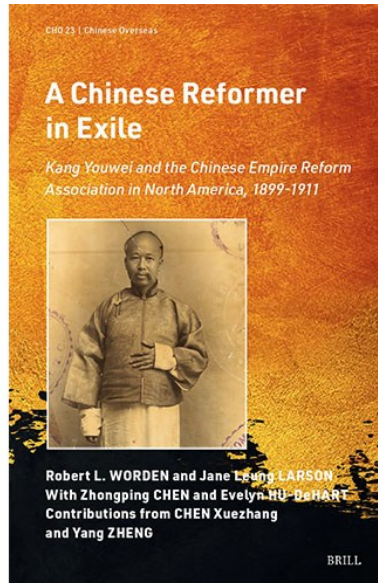
The Northwest China Council's program on March 7 will feature independent scholar Jane Leung Larson as she presents her co-authored [book](#), *A Chinese Reformer in Exile: Kang Youwei and the Chinese Empire Reform Association in North America, 1899-1911*. Based upon the 1972 Ph.D. dissertation of co-author Robert Worden, *A Chinese Reformer in Exile* is an encyclopedic reference work documenting the influence that Kang Youwei had upon the North American Chinese community in supporting sweeping reforms in China which included adopting a constitutional monarchy, modern education, and political reform, all crucial to the intellectual development of modern China. Deciphering the papers of her own grandfather Tom Leung (pictured with Kang below left), who was one of Kang's students in Guangzhou and travel companion in North America, was the original spark for Jane's interest in this topic.

This book focuses on the research methodology used to document Kang's 15 years in exile from China, particularly his activities in North America, and the political organization he founded in Canada in 1899 which through at least 160 chapters in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico transformed China's autocratic empire into a constitutional monarchy.

From 1980 to 1995, Jane Leung Larson was the founding Executive Director of the Northwest China Council in Portland, one of 12 regional China Councils sponsored by the national China Council of the Asia Society.

From Chinese national history to personal family history, you won't want to miss this very special lecture that not only presents this connection through a key turning point in the emergence of the China of today, but provides attendees with a rare opportunity to meet one of the NWCC's original founders, who now lives in Maine.

The talk will be at Reed College (Jane's alma mater!) on Saturday, March 7, 2026, 9:30am in Biology Building B19, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland, 97202. Please make every effort to attend. An optional no-host lunch afterwards will be held at a restaurant, TBA. More details and registration [here](#).



WINTER 2026 MANDARIN CLASSES BEGAN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6, 2026

Foundations of Mandarin

Beginning Mandarin I

Beginning Mandarin II

Beginning Mandarin III

Intermediate Mandarin III

Advanced Mandarin

10 weeks of these Mandarin Chinese language classes are being taught this winter by Willow Zheng, a native Mandarin speaker with 27 years' experience teaching Mandarin as a second language. Classes are being held online via Zoom teleconference. If you're interested in joining classes this winter, please visit the NWCC website [here](#).



2026: YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE

Action, creativity, and bold new beginnings are just a few of the characteristics that will define 2026 as Year of the Fire Horse, starting on February 17. While the Horse is known for vitality, perseverance, and success, the element of fire will infuse this year with passion and ambition, making it a perfect time for courageous decisions and innovative pursuits.

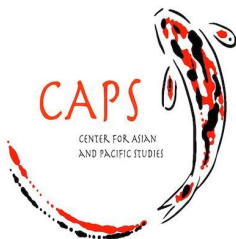
How did the Horse come to be the seventh animal in the Chinese zodiac? According to Chinese mythology, the order of the zodiac animals was determined by a Great Race organized by the Jade Emperor. The clever Snake coiled around the Horse's hoof and managed to finish ahead, causing the Horse to fall into seventh place.

If you were born in the years 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954 or 1942, your Chinese zodiac sign is most likely the Horse. Horses are lively, charming, and hard-working, plus are natural leaders. However, you are advised to wear red throughout the year in order to ward off potential misfortune. While your zodiac year may bring challenges, these obstacles may be seen as opportunities for greater wisdom and personal growth, developing resilience in the process.

How can we best “harness” the dynamism that this year has to offer? No matter our zodiac year, the Year of the Fire Horse will expect us all to be bold, energetic, and optimistic (ideally in red socks). Charge!!



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



MOVIE CHATS

Let's sled into the Movie Chat program in Winter 2026 with these three selections below. Please visit the NWCC website for more event details, including movie links. See you at the Chats, and stay cozy viewing these movies!

Jan 26: *The Velvet Queen* (2021, Kanopy) - This captivating documentary follows a French nature photographer and French writer in their quest to document the extremely elusive snow leopard in its home territory of the Tibetan highlands. Hunker down in the biting cold to await its appearance and ponder humankind's place in the natural world.

February 23: *The Red House* (2013, Kanopy) - A heartwarming portrait of a New Zealander-Chinese couple awaits us as Jia and Lee navigate the complex challenges of differing backgrounds and worldviews that often accompany cross-cultural marriages, culminating in a visit to Jia's homeland which provides a personal account of globalization.

March 30: *All In This Tea* (2007, Kanopy) - Be sure to have a pot of Chinese tea ready as you join in this exploration by a world-renowned tea expert of remote areas of China to find the best handmade tea in existence. Regions both rural and urban are visited and ancient tea-making secrets revealed.

Then, please save the dates for the following Chats in Spring 2026:

April 27: *Xiao Wu*

May 18: *Angel of Nanjing*

June 29: *Leap*



As one of the NWCC's educational programs, the objective of the Movie Chat program is to facilitate further understanding of China-oriented affairs from the perspective of cinematic expression. Join us at 7:30pm on usually the last Monday of each month on Zoom to discuss the movie of the month. Please view the movie beforehand. They are available on Kanopy and YouTube as noted.

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	\$50	Sponsor	\$150
Family	\$75	Major Donor	\$250
Senior (65+)	\$25	Patron	\$500
Student (Full-time)	\$10	Phoenix Circle	\$1,000

Please detach and return with a check payable to the Northwest China Council, 4410 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #128 Portland, OR 97214 .

To join or renew membership online, please go to: <https://nwchina.org/membership>



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