

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NWCC Members,

Hard to believe we're already halfway through 2026! Where did the time go? I hope you had a good 4th of July weekend: celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary!!

How admirable of the Chinese-American community that a series of [lion dances](#) was performed at July 4th celebrations all across the country to commemorate this momentous occasion. Not only due to the tremendous amount of preparation involved, but especially because of all the historic hardships that Chinese immigrants to the US have had to endure, including the Chinese Exclusion Act. But at the same time, the last 80 years in particular have seen this resilient, resourceful community make great inroads into establishment in American life and break barriers to achieving the freedom, dignity, and empowerment they deserve, with Chinese immigrants and their descendants now represented in numerous sectors of society. *Jia you* ("add oil"), let's cheer them on to even greater heights!

The summer 2026 issue of the *China Council Quarterly* makes for (mostly) breezy reading. Page 2 features an article by NWCC Past President Jim Mockford about the recent World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, this year held in Dalian, China. Since 2007, this meeting has served as the Forum's flagship platform for entrepreneurship, innovation and next-generation growth companies, and so Dalian is certainly a fitting choice of a host city due to its status as a financial, shipping, and logistics center for East Asia. You'll also be charmed by a cameo appearance by Jim's family. Turn the page to see what I mean!

Page 3 is a round-up of the latest community events with our partner organizations and others out of town. Learn more about the fabulous mission of Jin Ren Parent Group, and be sure to fill your calendar with the various events listed on the bottom half. The one in Seattle is certainly unique, and thankfully we still have a few *years* to go see it!

Page 4 introduces the history of Chinese immigrants in Newfoundland, Canada, where they struggled to forge new lives for themselves amidst unjust government policies that



cost them much money and prevented women and children from immigrating as well. But following measures many decades later to redress these wrongs, a monument in memory of these immigrants was established in Newfoundland and Labrador's capital city St. John's. I'm pictured with it below. It is very important to their Chinese community (and should be to all of us) that these discriminatory policies are never forgotten.

Page 5 is a continuation of the Newfoundland theme, albeit more upbeat: the relationship between Chinese immigrants and the island's restaurant sector, as well as their entrepreneurialism on the island in general. All I'll say here is that Chinese restaurants are all over the place, which shouldn't be a surprise given this cuisine's well-deserved worldwide fame and immigrants' drive to bring business to new places where none of their compatriots had ever set foot before.

If you've never participated in our Movie Chats or at least viewed a movie from our 2026 lineup, you sure will be interested in our June selection, which is probably the funniest movie I've seen in all my years with this program. Alert: I encourage you to watch it soon after July 4! Learn about the Cold War satire *Window to America* on page 6.

Finally, page 7 presents the Movie Chat Program's summer viewing lineup. Chinese national sports, martial arts, and art school travails are all in store for you. None of these will be as funny as *Window to America*, but will be inspiring, thrilling, and entertaining all the same.

The Northwest China Council Board of Directors and I wish you a safe, happy, and healthy summer! We all look forward to seeing you at our Movie Chats, language classes, and activities from our partners during the "lazy days" of summer as the next few months just fly by. Moon cake season will be here before we know it.   
–Shireen Farrahi





# Annual Meeting of the New Champions Dalian, People's Republic of China 2026

## “NO POWER NO AI” - A WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM PROGRAM IN DALIAN

The 2026 World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as “Summer Davos”, was held June 23-25, in Dalian, China, under the theme *Innovating at Scale*. Among the questions discussed throughout were issues related to shifting trade patterns, China’s future direction in technologies, and, of course, artificial intelligence today as well as the future of AI and the impacts of energy demand on competitiveness.

CGTN (China Global Television Network) Global Business and Biz Talk Anchor Michael Wang moderated the session “No Power No AI” with questions about how to build the energy systems that AI will require. He also made some stunning projections of what the demand for energy may be in the years ahead.

China and the US are expected to create about 80% of the energy growth needed for data center development, which raises the question: “Not just how do we build more AI but how do we build the energy systems that AI will require - systems that strengthen instead of strain our existing energy systems, economies, and societies?”

It is worth listening to the video for even a few minutes to hear some of the information that was discussed during [“No Power No AI.”](#)

Panelists included Nyam-Osoryn Uchral, who was appointed Prime Minister of Mongolia on March 30, 2026. One might not think of Mongolia as part of a global community that is focused on a future that includes AI but he noted that Mongolia is open to technology investment and data center development. Places such as Hunnu City have created special economic zones for data centers which are located near Chinggis Khaan International Airport (also known as New Ulaanbaatar International Airport) which opened on July 4, 2021. Needless to say, just dining at a local Mongolian grill will not be enough to prepare Americans for a visit to Mongolia itself, which is pivoting from the past stereotype we may have held about it being a vast empty space with the Gobi Desert to the reality of it now being a participant in the latest developments in global technology advancement.

American panelist Vanessa Z. Chan, PhD, from University of Pennsylvania was named the inaugural Vice Dean of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Penn Engineering and spoke about American NIMBY (“not in my backyard”) issues related to data center development. The session summary notes that “As AI scales into critical infrastructure, energy availability, rising security concerns and grid readiness are becoming defining constraints of its next growth phase. This risks driving unsustainable growth trajectories and widening regional gaps in who benefits from AI-driven productivity gains.”

This WEF meeting for 2026 has concluded with many of its sessions available online [here](#). *-Jim Mockford*

For those who may not know much about the host city of Dalian, a video series was recently produced about foreigners who live there, including the family of NWCC past president Jim Mockford. His son and daughter-in-law, shown below, operate an Arts and English school there and enjoy the quality of life in this modern Chinese city. For those who don’t have WeChat: [We like Dalian!](#)



## THE LATEST ON JIN REN PARENT GROUP

Jin Ren is thrilled to support study trips for Albina Mandarin Immersion Program high school students this summer. Jefferson High School rising Seniors, Grace and Oliva Edwards-El are completing a month of intense study in Shanghai. They received scholarships from the Council on International Education, which Jin Ren matched. They've lived with a host family, enjoyed so much great food and deepened their understanding of Chinese culture. They'll also earn college credit for their hard work.

Jin Ren also continues to raise funds to support tutoring for students at the elementary level, serving over a dozen families with access to native-speaking educators who provide one-on-one support. Fundraising to send out our largest class of 8th graders on their Taiwan Research Residency in spring of 2027 has also started. As Portland Public Schools grapples with budget gaps and declining enrollment, Jin Ren continues to work closely with the principals in our schools to extend the opportunities of Mandarin DLI to the historically underserved Albina community.



**Jin Ren 金仁 is a parent-run nonprofit 501(c)3 supporting the Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary Harriet Tubman Middle School and Jefferson High School Mandarin Immersion Program (MIP).**

**We provide cross-cultural learning opportunities and language education support for MIP students and families at MLK Jr. Elementary, Harriet Tubman Middle School, and Jefferson High School. We are supported through donations, grants, and fundraising activities.**

**Learn more about our work [here](#).**

## COMMUNITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lan Su Chinese Garden:** Lan Su is blooming with summertime events. *Lian: The Lotus Festival* (July 3-Aug 22) celebrates the peak bloom of the garden's rare lotus collection. *Garden Tea Tastings* (Suns & Mons Jul-Aug) explores seasonal Chinese and Taiwanese teas. During *Koi Tales & Feeding Time* (Tues & Sats through Sept 30), learn about the garden's resident koi fish, their care, and their significance in Chinese garden culture, all while they're being fed. More on Lan Su events [here](#).



**Portland Chinatown Museum:** Join fellow mahjong enthusiasts every second Sunday 11am-3pm for [Mahjong Sundays](#), which is an ongoing program at the museum. Instruction is free on the purchase of admission, and pre-registration is not required. Meet new people, work on your Mandarin skills, and try your luck! Also, if you have friends or family visiting Portland this summer, consider booking a [group tour](#) of the museum. Their [Beyond the Gate](#) permanent exhibit is sure to fascinate any visitor!



**Portland Art Museum:** The [Portland Art Museum](#) is featuring *Heaven and Earth: Chinese Art from the Collections* through November 30, 2026. Included with general admission, this exhibit showcases powerful works of art across the museum's collections, spanning creative practices in China through several millennia. The variety of works provide various perspectives on how we make meaning of the world and the diversity and creativity of Chinese artists and makers. More info on this exhibit [here](#).



**Seattle Art Museum:** *Qiu Zhijie: Map of the History of Science and Technology*, is on display in SAM's Olympic Sculpture Park through January 31, 2029. In this map, Qiu interweaves scientific and technical advancements in Asia and the West from ancient to contemporary times, such as the discovery of bronze and iron, the invention of the wheel and plow, global feats of engineering, and much more. Born in Fujian in 1969, Qiu is a leading figure in conceptual art and new media. Learn more [here](#).



## THE CHINESE IN NEWFOUNDLAND: EARLY IMMIGRATION

In late May and early June I toured the eastern Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador (yes, they're one province, with Labrador being part of the Canadian mainland while Newfoundland is an island). Visiting Newfoundland had been a dream of mine ever since seeing a TV program in the early 1980s about white-bearded researchers studying the island's puffins, presumably for conservation purposes. So one thing I did was take a cruise to see a major puffin sanctuary, as well as visit lighthouses, view icebergs off the winding coastline, delve into the island's Irish and Viking heritage, and enjoy the cold wind!

But one other aspect of Newfoundland [history](#) that is not as well-known is that of the presence of Chinese people. I myself knew nothing about it until my first day there when I discovered the [Chinese Headtax Redress Monument](#), top right, in downtown St. John's on the site of the city's first Chinese hand laundry. Detailed signs about the history of Chinese immigration to the province flank either side, describing how men started arriving in 1895, many of whom were from Guangdong in southern China, escaping poverty and difficult farming conditions. But in time, the Dominion of Newfoundland adopted the Canadian policy of imposing a hefty \$300 head tax on newcomers from China, equivalent to three year's wages. This requirement was an extra burden for immigrants who then often established or found work in the city's numerous hand laundries, but had to work up to 20 hours, six days a week, for low wages. A map of these laundries is second from top. A total of 334 men paid the tax. This law was in place from 1906 to 1949, when the now-province officially joined Canada. This monument was erected to preserve the memory of this dark chapter in Newfoundland history.

The inscription on the monument, in English on the left side, states: *In 1906, the Government of the Dominion of Newfoundland imposed a \$300.00 (three hundred dollars) head tax on each Chinese immigrant entering the country. This discriminatory legislation remained in effect until 1949. This monument is dedicated to the memory of those Chinese immigrants who travelled from their homeland seeking a better life.* The accompanying plaque is second from bottom, with a photo of head tax records below.

Incidentally, St. John's is the nearest major city to the Titanic (350 mi), which six Chinese men survived, as documented in this amazing [book](#). You may recall that St. John's was also the launch point for the ill-fated Titan submersible expedition in 2023, with images circulating in worldwide media of recovered debris from the wreckage site that was then brought into the city's harbor .



LANDED IN NEWFOUNDLAND						
DATE OF ARRIVAL	NAME	AGE	NF 63:	CONVEYANCE:	HEAD TAX:	FILE:
Sept. 12 1899	NAME: Tong Sun	AGE: 24	NF 63: 243	CONVEYANCE: Fort St. George	HEAD TAX: 300.00	FILE:
	BIRTH: Hi Sun	OCCUPATION: Laundryman				
Oct. 24 1899	NAME: Ton Sing	AGE: 21	NF 63: 244	CONVEYANCE: Caribou	HEAD TAX: 300.00	FILE:
	BIRTH: Hi Ping.	OCCUPATION: Laundryman				
	NAME: Hong Yuen Long	AGE: 24	NF 63: 245	CONVEYANCE: Caribou	HEAD TAX: 300.00	FILE:
1899	BIRTH: Hi Ping.	OCCUPATION: Laundryman				
	NAME: Tom Ming Dewy	AGE: 21	NF 63: 246	CONVEYANCE: Caribou	HEAD TAX: 300.00	FILE:
Jan. 16 1900	BIRTH: Hi Ping.	OCCUPATION: Laundryman				
	NAME: Chin Yook	AGE: 18	NF 63: 247	CONVEYANCE: Caribou	HEAD TAX: 300.00	FILE:
Apr. 3 1900	BIRTH: Sin Ming.	OCCUPATION: Laundryman				

## THE CHINESE IN NEWFOUNDLAND: ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

In contrast to immigration struggles, the [history of restaurants](#) in Newfoundland and Labrador is a rosier topic. According to a historian, it was Chinese immigrants who first brought the concept of “dining out” to the province in the 1920s. This was because prior to then, the only public eateries in the provincial capital of St. John’s were to be found in hotels and boarding houses. But the quick saturation of the local Chinese hand laundry business meant that these resourceful immigrants needed to find new ways to earn livelihoods. Since eating out at the time was done only out of need, not out of desire, these entrepreneurs had to find a way to promote eating as an experience to be enjoyed, and they immediately met with success, serving popular local dishes such as pork chops and fish and chips. These eateries multiplied during the decade and led to an expansion of Chinese restaurants all across the province.

That is not to say that there were never any challenges in these endeavors: starting restaurants in new towns where there were no other Chinese families meant isolation - especially for the children - and incidents of racism. But conditions improved over time as the public started getting to know Chinese culture. Today, rising food prices are more of an issue than racism.

The restaurants on the top and in the center are in St. John’s. It’s interesting that they both refer to Hong Kong. The one on the bottom is in the town of Corner Brook in western Newfoundland. I spotted other restaurants around the island but didn’t always have a chance to take photos. I also saw a van, below, in St. John’s with Chinese characters that translate as “Building a foundation as solid as Mount Tai.” You might be interested in learning the story of [AMBZ Property Service](#) as a contemporary example of recent Chinese immigrants applying entrepreneurial know-how in Newfoundland.

The Chinese immigrant community in Newfoundland is nowhere near as large as those in elsewhere of Canada, but it has no less established itself as an integral part of daily life on the island, providing services such as grocery stores, restaurants, and property management. *-Shireen Farrahi*



**Hong Kong Restaurant: Chinese & Canadian Cuisine**



**Magic Wok Eatery: Traditional Chinese Food HK Style**



**Jiwen Garden Chinese Restaurant**



## WINDOW TO AMERICA MOVIE REVIEW

The NWCC Movie Chat group enjoyed a light-hearted discussion on Monday, July 29 about its June movie selection, *Window to America* (1952). A fitting choice right before the Fourth of July holiday!

This Chinese satire about American capitalism during the Cold War is an adaptation of a stage play by Soviet writer and screenwriter Vladimir Dykhovichny, famed for his satire and politically-charged works. Performed by a completely Chinese cast, it addresses the Korean War, working-class conditions, and the need for workers to unite and fight back.

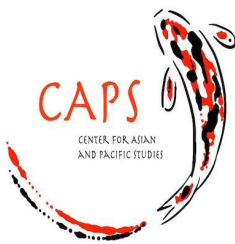
The plot: Beleaguered window-washer Charlie Kent has just finished all the windows outside on a Wall Street skyscraper, ending with the one on the 42nd floor. Facing imminent long-term unemployment, he decides to jump to his death from that very window, first informing the office's occupants of his plans. What follows is a humorous hour full of clever maneuverings, blundering buffoons, bumbling feminine wiles, and ultimately, a complete plot twist. But no need to reveal the whole thing here - best if you see it for yourself! Here's the [link](#) on YouTube. Get the popcorn ready!

We pondered how American audiences would have reacted if the movie had been released here back in 1952. Some of us thought that they would have been offended, while others supposed it would have been received in good humor despite international tensions. But now, almost 75 years later, it would be safe to say that it would just be seen as a funny movie and an interesting portrayal of China's perception of American life during that unforgettable 20th-century period of global high stakes: the Cold War.

-Shireen Farrahi



## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



## MOVIE CHATS

Spice up your Summer 2026 with the latest in Movie Chat selections below! Please visit the NWCC website for more event details, including movie links. See you at the Chats!

July 27: *Leap* (2020, Kanopy) - This sweeping biographical film follows China's women's national volleyball team coach Lang Ping from her days as a star athlete in the 1980s to her return as head coach decades later, leading her team to Olympic gold in 1984 and 2016...and national admiration.

Aug 31: *Ip Man* (2008, Kanopy) - During the Japanese invasion of China, wealthy martial artist Ip Man is forced to leave home when his city Foshan is occupied. With little means of providing for themselves, this future teacher of the legendary Bruce Lee and the remaining members of the city must find a way to survive.

Sept 28: *Art College 1994* (2023, Kanopy) - Explore the inner lives of art school students through the lens of animation as they navigate their entry into the world of adulthood, conflicted by tradition and modernity, relationships and ideals.

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

Oct 26: *Goodbye, Dragon Inn*

Nov 23: *The Arch*

Dec: No meeting—watch your own movie!

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>

---

Established in 1980, the Northwest China Council is a non-profit, non-partisan, dues-based educational organization. Our mission is to promote greater understanding of Chinese history, culture, business, contemporary affairs, and US-China relations in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. And to build a bridge between the peoples of Oregon and China.



Northwest China Council  
4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #128  
Portland, OR 97214

Please place  
US First Class  
Postage  
here

## MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL

### **Corporate Phoenix (\$1,000+)**

**Corporate Sponsor (\$500+)**  
Kumquat Kids Productions

### **Corporate Member (\$250+)**

**Non-Profit or Educational (\$150+)**  
Lan Su Chinese Garden, PSU Institute for Asian Studies,  
UO Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS)

**Phoenix Circle (\$1,000+)**  
Keane Family Fund

**Patron (\$500+)**  
Mike Hoffman & Sue Pickgrobe, Jane Leung Larson, Laura Schlafly,  
Joanne C. Wakeland

**Major Donors (\$250+)**  
Thomas & Kathryn Albert, Marilyn Beach, Ph.D., Homer L. Chin, M.D.,  
Jeffrey Kinkley, Ph.D., Stephen Wadley, Ph.D.

**Sponsor Members (\$150+)**  
Leslie Atiyeh, Joanne Jene, M.D., Merrill Keane, Franklin & Sharry Quan,  
Linda Walton, Ph.D., John M. Wong, Mae Yih

### **Board of Directors**

Shireen Farrahi, President  
Joanne Wakeland, Secretary  
Jim Mockford, Treasurer  
Hong Chou, Director  
David W. Kohl, Director  
Grace Mak, Director

### **Staff**

John M. Wong, Executive Director  
Jan Vreeland, Membership  
Coordinator  
Willow Zheng, Mandarin Teacher  
Shireen Farrahi, Newsletter Editor