Quick, name this sport!

Sorry, it’s not pool. It is the third most covered sport in China, behind basketball and soccer. It attracts Chinese players from all backgrounds and is considered a “gentlemen sport” by the Chinese government. What is it? Find out on p.13.

Business & Economy

Minnesota export statistics, small growth in first quarter

Minnesota exports grew to $5.4 billion, representing growth of 1.5 percent between the first quarters of 2018 and 2019, according to an end-of-May report released by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). U.S. exports grew 1.4 percent during the same period.

Minnesota exports grew to markets within Europe (up 14 percent) and North America (up 4 percent), but fell within Asia (down 8 percent) and Central and South America (down 1 percent).

“Even within an uncertain and challenging trade environment, Minnesota businesses continue to pursue their export strategies, expanding their reach into world markets,” said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. “Minnesota continues to strengthen its business relationships in countries around the world.”

Figure 1, Exports Grow from 23 States, DC

Canada ($1 billion) and Mexico ($621 million) were the state’s two largest export markets in the first quarter of 2019, with Mexico generating the largest gain in value among all markets. Other export market leaders were China ($606 million), Japan ($535 million), Germany ($310 million), Korea ($247 million), the United Kingdom ($161 million), Belgium ($142 million), Singapore ($141 million), and France ($129 million).

Optics and Medical goods led the list of top exported products, with $1.1 billion in exports, representing an increase of 6 percent between the first quarters of 2018 and 2019. Other top exports were machinery ($879 million), electrical equipment ($728 million), plastics ($361 million), vehicles ($305 million), pharmaceuticals ($163 million), food by-products ($139 million), aircraft and spacecraft ($115 million), stone, plaster and cement ($96 million), and iron and steel products ($87 million).

The full first quarter report is available on DEED’s website, mn.gov/deed at Export and Trade Statistics. ♦
Greetings:

By the time this edition of China Insight hits the newstands, I sincerely hope that summer has finally arrived in Minnesota and you will be able to celebrate the nation’s birthday under clear blue skies. Be sure to read the article, “The Chinese American immigration journey” on page 10 highlighting the chronological journey of Chinese immigrants to the United States along with its effects on Chinese assimilation, and reason to celebrate the 4th of July.

As this issue went to press, Andrew Yang, the first Chinese American Democratic candidate for president of the U.S., participated in the first of the Democratic debates. Since we do not purport to be political analysts, we will not attempt to evaluate his performance but nevertheless urge all voters to participate in the democratic process by supporting the candidate that best reflects the values you seek in a candidate to become president of the U.S.

The outdoor summer activity not to be missed is the annual Dragon Festival on July 13 & 14 at Phalen Lake Park, Saint Paul. This is the largest Pan-Asian event of the Twin Cities and is totally free! The event will feature dragon boat races, arts & crafts, cultural performances, martial arts and Asian cuisine, canoe rides and children’s activities. Kicking off the Dragon Festival this year will be the official grand opening of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden on July 13th. Also, everyone is invited by the City of Minneapolis to an event on Sunday, July 21 as it celebrates all 12 of the Minneapolis Sister Cities with FREE ice cream on Nicollet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis. See pages 15 and 16 for more information on these summer events.

We again wish to direct your attention to the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese-American Veterans of World War II. A law has been passed to create the medal and a replica medal will be provided to all who are properly registered. (Instructions at www.caww2.org.) A printed copy of the instructions is available on page 12 as well. It is imperative that the families of WWII veterans follow through so they get the recognition they so deserve. Please help spread the word, especially in Chinese communities and Chinese senior centers, where English is not spoken and the message needs to be provided in Chinese. Unfortunately, I am not fluent in the Chinese language, but I certainly can be of assistance as to the process for getting the veterans registered, so please don’t hesitate to contact me if you need additional help.

Please note that China Insight will not be publishing a separate issue for August. Our hardworking volunteer staff needs a break! We will return in September. During our summer hiatus, the Minneapolis Aquatennial will take place July 24-27 and the countdown to the Great Minnesota Get-Together, otherwise known as the Minnesota State Fair, starts Aug.22 and runs through Sept. 2. Another fun outdoor activity, the Renaissance Festival, begins on Aug.19 and runs until Sept. 29.

We hope you enjoy your summer and thank you for your continued support. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you would like to suggest a topic, or have any comments or ideas to share on how China Insight can better serve the community.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh
President - CEO
China Insight, Inc.

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China Briefs

Praise the Lord!

Glory hallelujah! Religious gatherings in Hong Kong do not need a permit, whereas, protests do. So, the hymn “Sing Hallelujah to the Lord” has come to be the unofficial anthem at protests! At the June protests over a controversial extradition bill, protesters began singing the hymn when staring down police brutality. Never mind that only 10 percent of the Hong Kong population self-identify as Christians.

Don’t shoot, don’t swear

In the same June protests against the extradition bill in Hong Kong, a group of mothers held a sit-in at the center of town waving placards with a message to the police: “Don’t shoot our kids.”

Police at the June 13 protests fired tear gas and rubber bullets into the crowds, which resulted in many protesters ending up in hospitals. A week later, after the chief executive of Hong Kong announced the bill will be temporarily shelved, more rounds of protests were directed at the police for their anti-riot tactics, including the use of foul language. Tik, tok.

Don’t p.o. your neighbors

Condo residents take heed. Next time you want to flip off your neighbors, don’t! A 69-year-old man in Taiwan took revenge on his neighbors by peeing and pooping in his complex’s common water tank frequently.

He was sentenced to 20 months prison time and fined US$5,160. Was he remorseful? He rented out his unit to the telephone company on his neighbors by peeing and pooping in his water tank frequently.

Bachu harvest in Xinjiang

Bachu County of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygar Autonomous Region is a fertile growing ground for honeydew melons. Located on the western edge of the Taklimakan Desert, Bachu County features sandy soil and a big temperature difference between day and night. It also has more than 200 frost-free days per year, which is very favorable for growing honeydew melons.

So far, the planting area of honeydew melons in Bachu County total approximately 666.67 hectares and the total output value is expected to exceed US$ 5.11 million.

According to Chinese sources, honeydew melons were introduced to China in only a few minutes. These robotic arms to take over

The robotic industry is booming in China. Any kid growing up in mainland China and Hong Kong knows about White Rabbit candy, that ivory-colored creamy, chewy cylindrical sweet wrapped in edible rice paper. Its slogan is, “Seven White Rabbit candies is equivalent to one cup of milk.”

Well … the hot trend now is to drink your tea and eat your candy too. To show their support for home-grown products, Chinese consumers are queuing up for four-to-five hours for a cup of White Rabbit milk tea! Not only are they willing to stand in line, they’re also willing to shell out US$72 for a cup of the tea. You read that right, that’s seventy-two USD a cup!! “The tea doesn’t really have the White Rabbit confectionery taste,” said a shopper who spent two hours in line for a cup. “But we don’t care since it is an honour to have a chance of tasting it.”

Hmmm … I know I won’t “die” for the tea, but its price will absolutely kill me!

Hierarchical management systems, according to a semiannual ranking of the Top 500 published June 17. This list is considered one of the most authoritative rankings of the world’s supercomputers and is compiled on the basis of machine performance on the Linpack benchmark by experts from the United States and Germany.

China dominates a list of the world’s fastest supercomputers by the number of systems, according to a semiannual ranking of the Top 500 published June 17. This list is considered one of the most authoritative rankings of the world’s supercomputers and is compiled on the basis of machine performance on the Linpack benchmark by experts from the United States and Germany.

By American Secretary of Agriculture Henry W. Wallace in the 1940s.

In the U.S., California and Arizona are the two top honeydew-producing states.

China Insight, p. 11 (www.chinainsight.info)

Lucky grads

Thanks to the generosity of Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing, undergraduates at Shantou University in Guangdong Province will pay no tuition for the next four years!

From 2019-2022, the Li Ka-shing Foundation will be donating US$14.4 million annually to cover tuition for every undergraduate enrolled. The university was founded by Li in 1981, who was born just north of the area in 1928. Li’s family fled the mainland for Hong Kong when he was a child. You can read his rags-to-riches account in the May 2018 paper. His info, select “Past issues” tab.

Li, 91, retired last year and at last year’s graduation ceremony, he told the graduates, “Empathy and generosity are a choice. It brings you joy and a sense of fulfillment. It unites us to achieve a bigger dream.”

Robotic arms to take over

The robotic industry is booming in China. Some estimate that by 2020, China will be producing 150,000 robots annually, mostly for domestic consumption. RoboBusiness in 2018 reported that “30 percent of worldwide automobile production takes place in China. For refrigerators, this share accumulates to 50 percent, and for smartphones and computers, it’s over 80 percent.”

Traditional ways of sewing may turn tepid when robotic arms replace humans. Researchers in Zhejiang Province in eastern China have developed a 3D sewing robotic arm about the size of a human and can quickly scan pieces of cloth with a laser scanner, sew based on programmed patterns, and cut threads, in only a few minutes. These robotic arms are currently employed in sewing automotive interiors.

With different “heads,” the arms can be used in many other fields, including aerospace.
Little-known Chinese dispensary in Bloomington, largest in Midwest

By Rob Karwath, contributor

Dispensing Chinese herbs at the dispensary.

Tucked inside Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington is a unique health resource that most Twin Cities-area residents have no idea exists.

One of the largest herbal dispensaries in the Midwest operates like a natural medicine Walgreen’s or CVS. More than 800 plant-based substances — most in their raw forms, including roots, leaves and parts of plants — are prescribed to patients of licensed acupuncturists. The patients receive prescriptions for health issues ranging from everyday pain to more serious ailments such as autoimmune disorders.

The Edith Davis Herbal Dispensary, named after its local pioneer in acupuncture and integrative medicine, provides up to 200 prescriptions a week for Twin Cities-area patients of acupuncturists. It also provides a unique training ground for students at NWHSU pursuing degrees in acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine as well as a window into the centuries-old health practices of Chinese medicine for those learning other disciplines.

“It was established as a small teaching center to help with the part-time students when the acupuncture college was just a few hundred square feet,” says Jessica Frier, manager of the herbal dispensary and an adjunct professor at NWHSU. “It had a handful of people working there. But it grew as the school grew, and now it’s one of the biggest in the Midwest.”

Deb Bushway, president and CEO of NWHSU, says, “We’re proud to have such an extensive and busy herbal medicine dispensary on our campus. It’s part of what makes education and care unique at our university.”

Walk inside the dispensary and you’ll see rows and rows of substances in glass containers, from powders to patented compounds to plants in raw form. The dispensary specializes in raw substances, which are a staple of traditional Chinese medicine.

“We are considered a compounding pharmacy, so we can make anything customized for each person,” Frier says. “The essence of true Chinese medicine is to make something customized for each person. Chinese medicine is all about working with the internal aspects of each individual.”

She adds: “For example, if you and I walk in with headaches, the practitioner would order, and our dispensary would make, two compounds for each of our headaches. It’s not just about treating the pain but also about treating who we are as individuals.”

The dispensary works in partnership with the natural health clinic on NWHSU’s Bloomington campus, but it also fills prescription orders from any licensed acupuncturist.

“Chinese medicine can treat anything from headaches to low back pain to internal issues such as infertility and autoimmune disorders. We treat the gan (gum),” Frier says. “We provide not only ingestibles but also topical medicines for skin issues and soaks for musculoskeletal rehab.”

She adds: “There are two sides of the dispensary. We are, first and foremost, a teaching dispensary. We provide an opportunity for our students to learn about Chinese herbs and how to prescribe. The medicines are used in our student clinic, our public clinic and in our classrooms.

“We also have a public side that can fill orders from any licensed acupuncturist in any state, though most of our prescriptions come from acupuncturists in Minnesota. Our business is about half and half. We have a pretty robust external arm.”

With increased interest in treatment options beyond traditional medicine, the dispensary’s effort to stay true to the practice of Chinese medicine also sets it apart.

“All of our herbs come from China,” Frier says. “That is unique because people try to get these medicinal herbs in the United States, and they are not of the same quality. They don’t have the same properties. Chinese herbalism is special and has specific properties. For our practitioners and our patients, that is especially meaningful.”

“All herbs that are imported from China go through a testing process that is managed and vetted by the FDA. The herbs are tested for quality, heavy metals, pesticides, and toxins. The companies that provide the herbs are also made to follow Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP) which is an FDA standard for the manufacturing of herbal products.

“Once the herbal products pass inspection and are imported into the U.S., the distribution companies that our dispensary orders from will conduct additional independent testing, which is often at a more sensitive level to ensure not only high quality, but also that we are getting the specific plant species.”

Since many Chinese herbs are on the tariff list, prices for both raw products and pre-made herbal products have increased. Some herbs, such as ginseng, were already expensive ($150 or more per pound of high-quality Chinese ginseng) and with the new tariffs just announced, there’s an additional 15 percent tariff to that product alone. “We have seen the price of pre-made herbal products increase as much as $2.00 per bottle depending on the ingredients,” said Frier.

Interestingly enough, ginseng is a plant that can be grown in Wisconsin at a nearly identical medicinal quality to those grown in China. Wisconsin ginseng farmers have been having a similar issue with the 15 percent tariffs impacting their ability to sell to countries like Canada. So, it cuts both ways.

The dispensary is open during the summer from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, a 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays. For more information go to nwhealth.educlinics and click on “Bloomington Clinic” and then “Edith Davis Herbal Dispensary” or call 952-885-5444.

As the year 2018 witnessed the first decline in the number of Chinese visitors to the United States in 15 years, the American travel and tourism industry is worrying about the prospect of losing more business from China amid protracted bilateral trade tensions.

Data released last month by the U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office showed that the number of Chinese tourists traveling to the United States fell 5.7 percent to 2.9 million in 2018, despite that the total outbound trips of Chinese tourists registered remarkable growth.

“We are very concerned about this decline of Chinese tourists,” Christopher Heywood, executive vice president of global communications for NYC & Company, the official destination marketing organization for the largest U.S. metropolis, told Xinhua in a recent interview. “We are monitoring the situation very closely.”

According to a report released by the United States Travel Association (USTA) in March, the travel and tourism sector supports 15.7 million direct and indirect American jobs, with 1.2 million of them directly associated with international inbound travel.

“Any decline in international visitation will impact jobs. There’s no question about it,” Roger Dow, president and CEO of the USTA, told Xinhua in a separate interview.

The United States also enjoys a positive balance of trade in travel and tourism, as spending by international visitors on the U.S. soil, which is considered as U.S. travel export, far exceeds Americans’ spending overseas.

This surplus dropped from 99 billion U.S. dollars in 2015 to 69 billion dollars last year due to the decline of tourists from not only China, said Dow. “But of that 69 billion, 31 billion comes from China. So that’s a bigger trade surplus than all other industries combined, and that’s why it (the Chinese market) is extremely important to the United States.”

However, in the last couple of years there have been continuous reports of U.S. authorities tightening up visa restrictions on Chinese applicants, many of whom were either denied a visa or put through lengthy additional screening.

On June 4, China’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism also issued travel alerts for Chinese citizens planning to visit the United States, citing surging incidents of unwarranted harassment by U.S. law enforcement agencies in addition to unrelated incidents of murder, robbery and theft.

Things like these could have a “chilling effect” on inbound travel from “one of our top source markets,” Dow said.

One of the most serious hurdles that are put in place, the more difficult it could be to attract travelers at a time when there is fierce competition. We have other destinations globally that are rolling out the welcome mat for Chinese travelers,” said Heywood of NYC & Company.

Despite the current difficulties and great uncertainties about the future, both the USTA and NYC & Company are hoping that things would smooth out so that the tourism sector could get back on the track of sound and rapid growth.

“We will continue to sell New York City in the Chinese market,” said Heywood, who just returned from a travel trade fair in China. “There’s so much in a place like New York, and there’s such a great affinity at least between New York and China.”

“One thing we can assure the Chinese travelers is that New York City welcomes them,” he added.

Dow pointed to the fact that when bilateral ties are experiencing a period of difficulties, it is all the more important for the two countries to promote two-way travel, which could help create better understanding between their peoples.

“The more we spend time with each other, the more we realize how much we are alike,” said Dow.
Chinese Language Corner (漢語角落): What is it?

By Pat Welsh, contributor

This month, we will learn how to ask and identify places and things in the home and in the city. Some of the words we will be using for this month.

English | Chinese characters | Pinyin
--- | --- | ---
room | 房间 | fáng-jì
will be, will likely be | 会是 | huì shì
over there, on that side | 那边 | nà biān
what | 什么 | shén me
there is, there are | 有 | yǒu

Situation: You are examining a new house being built but not yet finished. You are asking a contractor about the rooms and facilities that are being built.

English | Chinese characters | Pinyin
--- | --- | ---
What room is this? | 这是哪间房? | zhè shì nà jiān fáng?
What room will this one be? | 这个会是什么房间? | zhè ge huì shì shén me fáng jiān?
This is the living room. | 这是客厅。 | zhè shì kū tīng.
This is the dining room. | 这是餐厅。 | zhè shì cān tīng.
This is the kitchen. | 这是厨房。 | zhè shì chuáng fáng.
Is this the bathroom? | 这是一间卫生间吗? | zhè shì yī jiā wèi shān hú jiān mā?

What is in the kitchen?

shower stall? | 一间淋浴间 | yī jiā lín yù jiān
bath tub? | 一个浴缸 | yī ge yù gāng
bathroom sink? | 一个洗手池 | yī ge shǒu shī chí
kitchen sink? | 一个洗碗池 | yī ge xǐ wān chí

What is in the kitchen there is?

In this kitchen there is...

… a refrigerator | 一台冰箱 | yī tái fēng xīng
… a stove | 一个炉子 | yī ge lú zi
… a counter top | 一个台子 | yī ge tái zi

Situation: Two of you are looking at a map of a small town.

English | Chinese characters | Pinyin
--- | --- | ---
What place is this? | 这是什么地方? | zhè shì shén me dì fāng?
This is ... | 这是 ... | zhè shì ...

a grocery store. | 一家杂货店 | yī jiā zá huò diàn
a hardware store. | 一家文具店 | yī jiā wén jù diàn
a bank. | 一家银行 | yī jiā yín háng

Over there is ... | 那边有 ... | nà biān yǒu ...

a post office | 一个邮局 | yī jiā yóu jú
a school | 一家学校 | yī jiā xué xiào
a library | 一家图书馆 | yī jiā tiān lú diàn
a restaurant | 一家餐馆 | yī jiā guǎng chǎn
a movie theater | 一家电影院 | yī jiā dié yǐn diàn
a museum | 一个博物馆 | yī jiā bówù diàn

Pronunciation reminders

This system follows Chinese Pinyin with the exception that the letter “u” has two pronunciations. Sometimes it has the value of ü (“ee” as in see with rounded lips). At those times we use the symbol “ ū” instead of Pinyin “u.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>your normal low pitch</td>
<td>1. occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone 1 becomes tone 4. Thus, “hèn hăo” (very good) changes to “hēn hăo.” 2. occurring directly before another tone, Tone 1 will change to a mid-falling tone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>mid low pitch</td>
<td>5 = your normal high   4 = mid-high   3 = your normal mid pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>a dipping tone</td>
<td>The first tone à reduces its fall to 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>high falling pitch</td>
<td>5 = your normal high   4 = mid-high   3 = your normal mid pitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>high level pitch</td>
<td>2. occurring directly before any other syllable, syllables in this tone tend to be slightly lower that of the previous syllable. The tone exception is when it occurs after tone 1 when the neutral tone is often slightly higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>a high falling tone</td>
<td>1. when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone 6 becomes tone 2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tones Using numbers: 5 = your normal high 4 = mid-high 3 = your normal mid pitch 2 = mid low pitch 1 = your normal low pitch

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Happy 4th of July from China Insight

About Pat Welsh

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welch was asked to give a speech where he was introduced to the audience as a “pioneer of Chinese-American relations” as a result of his cooperative work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, Welsh has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both professionally and personally to enhance his understanding of Chinese and Asian affairs. He uses Beijing Mandarin most frequently when meeting with senior Chinese government officials when conducting business in China.

For 17 years, Welsh taught Chinese, German and Spanish in two local high schools. Now fully retired, he currently resides in Georgia where he used to lecture on China to a number of classes at Dunwoody High School.
Here is the most comprehensive account you are ever likely to find of the building of the western section of America’s transcontinental railway. Gordon Chang has certainly set himself a difficult task, as he seeks to document the daily life of the roughly 20,000 Chinese who contributed to building the Central Pacific section of America’s first transcontinental line in the late 1860s.

Chang begins his tale in the Toih Saan region of China’s Guangdong Province, the source of the overwhelming majority of the workers, describing the everyday life of those tempted to seek their fortunes in America. They were, almost to a man, peas-ant farmers who migrated or were recruited to California specifically to build the railroad through recruiters and not as individuals. Pay was remitted to the gang bosses, who distributed it to the workers. The “ghosts” of the title is alliterative but not particularly literally appropriate. There were certainly many fatalities, but Chang can present no accurate figures except through a very, very few bilingual gang bosses, so any complicated work such as carpentry had to be assigned to workers the managers could talk to. An interesting corollary is that the managers never knew even the names of the vast majority of their Chinese staff. Pay was remitted to the gang bosses, so any complicated work such as carpentry had to be assigned to workers the managers could talk to. An interesting corollary is that the managers never knew even the names of the vast majority of their Chinese staff. Pay was remitted to the gang bosses, who distributed it to the workers. The “ghosts” of the title is alliterative but not particularly literally appropriate. There were certainly many fatalities, but Chang can present no accurate figures because the workers were hired indirectly through recruiters and not as individuals. The remains of many of those who died were shipped back to China as custom demanded, but the data are sparse. In terms of Chinese belief, the ghosts are those whose remains were never recovered. About them, little can be said. Even their number is unknown, let alone any names. But the Chinese workers insisted on being paid in gold. Those who died suddenly presumably left small hidden stashes of gold all along the line which must persist even today.

Chang’s intention is to tell the story from the perspective of the Chinese navvies who did 90 percent of the work, though in that he’s severely handicapped by a lack of first-person source material. Chang hopefully asserts that, “... recovery of a lost past is possible if imaginative efforts are made to understand the rich and expansive historical materials that do exist.” Chang at one point describes his subjects as literate, but that’s surely an exaggeration. Before on-screen composition, even Chinese college graduates lost much of their ability to write easily in Chinese after just a few years in another culture. Chang and his colleagues still ardently seek a navvie’s preserved diary, but that seems far-fetched. A bundle of letters transcribed on behalf of a navvie by a series of professional scribes is probably the best they can realistically hope for.

Chang lapses into imagined episodes and dialogue here and there, but his account is for the most part dispassionate and even scholarly. For Professor Chang is indeed a scholar—a professor of history at Stanford and the curator of the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America archive. As a result, perhaps 10 percent of the text consists of quotes from period documents, especially newspaper reports and company correspondence. With such sources, Chang is able to freeze motion. As reproduced in the text, most of these are of little interest, but the painting on the dust jacket by Mian Situ is truly spectacular. Chinese laborers break rocks far above a rushing river with rock chips flying. Strangely, Prof Chang renders any Chinese terms in Mandarin, a language none of his subjects would have spoken, and using a Latin orthography developed by the communists a century later. Not perhaps what one might expect from a specialist scholar. But overall, “Ghosts of Gold Mountain” is an engrossing account, which will interest any student of Chinese or American history.◆

About the reviewer

Bill Purves is a Canadian writer based in Hong Kong. Some of his other books include “Three Chinas,” “Barefoot in the Boardroom: Venture and Misadventure in the People’s Republic of China,” and “China on the Lam: On Foot Across the People’s Republic.”
“Under Red Skies” is being plugged as the first English-language memoir by a Chinese millennial, which already sets it apart from other books about China’s younger generation. Books like Alec Ash’s “Wish Lanterns” or Zak Dychtwald’s “Young China,” for all of their merits, were written by expats. In contrast, Chinese-born Karoline Kan tells the story of her life from its beginning in her own words.

Kan—a former New York Times reporter, and currently an editor at China Dialogue—is a clear and straightforward writer, walking readers through her own life and that of her family. “Issues” start immediately upon her birth: Kan is a second child, conceived in violation of the One Child Policy. “Under Red Skies” continues through Kan’s life right up to the present day, starting in her early childhood marked by disagreements between her paternal grandparents and her headstrong mother, to a move to a small rural town in pursuit of a better education, and finally capped by Kan’s move to Beijing to attend university.

Kan’s story is an impressive one. Through sheer determination, she broke into the English-language media sphere in Beijing. She did not study overseas, nor did she grow up in any elite urban circle. In some ways, “Under Red Skies” is a Chinese version of a story told time and time again in Western markets: a young man or woman from the countryside reaches the big city in Western markets: a young man or woman from the countryside reaches the big city

It’s also a telling insight into the life of the local staff that supports much of the foreign reporting about China. Kan worked as a “researcher” at the New York Times: a title that hides the depth of work local staff do in reporting, fact-checking and writing, in support of the foreign reporter dispatched from overseas. Several foreign reporters in China swear by the dedication and hard work of their staff, but we haven’t—up to now—seen a story that reflects where these people come from.

It can be striking how familiar much of Kan’s story sounds. Her time in rural and semi-urban China feels like it could have been a story told by someone a decade, or even two decades, older. It’s only when Kan references external events, such as the SARS epidemic or the Beijing Olympics that the reader is reminded of when Kan is coming of age: the late ‘90s and early ‘00s.

Kan is a former New York Times reporter who writes about millennial life and politics in China. She’s currently an editor at China Dialogue. She lives in Beijing.

“What I want to show is a part of what it’s like in China, a glimpse of what a common Chinese family went through in the past 30, 40 years because I think it’s a rare opportunity for people who don’t live in that country to read those inside stories,” Kan said in an interview on NPR’s Here & Now.

Kan—originally a New York Times writer, and currently an editor at China Dialogue—is a clear and straightforward writer, walking readers through her own life and that of her family. “Issues” start immediately upon her birth: Kan is a second child, conceived in violation of the One Child Policy. “Under Red Skies” continues through Kan’s life right up to the present day, starting in her early childhood marked by disagreements between her paternal grandparents and her headstrong mother, to a move to a small rural town in pursuit of a better education, and finally capped by Kan’s move to Beijing to attend university.

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It’s a reminder that, even as China was opening to the outside world in the ‘80s, ‘90s and early ‘00s, many of the indicators of “prosperity” had yet to percolate to China’s rural heartland. It can be easy to forget that China’s development did not penetrate (and in many ways, still hasn’t penetrated) very far outside of China’s big urban centers. Kan’s memoir is a reminder of how far parts of China still need to go.

This tells us that the bigger generational split in China may not be between “Generation X” and millennials, but between millennials and what might be called “Generation Z.” Millennials like Kan, especially those who may have grown up outside of the major cities, still lived lives that were roughly the same as their parents, only seeing China’s massive growth after they had come of age. In contrast, China’s “Generation Z” have only ever known an increasingly prosperous China, which may influence their views about China and its society.

It is, of course, too early to tell how this generational difference might express itself. One might expect that younger Chinese may be more confident, due to China’s successful rise. Millennials, who likely still remember a time when things were less prosperous, may be more circumspect. Alternately, China’s “Generation Z” may be less willing to excuse certain social problems in China as “the cost of development”: burdens that previous generations may have been more willing to bear.

That being said, it’s hard to shake the feeling that Kan’s story is one that appeals almost perfectly to a Western audience. The arguable climax of Kan’s story is her discovery of the June 4th Tiananmen massacre, which drives her to question both China and her own personal choices, and is eventually what pushes her towards the truth-seeking world of English-language media. Kan’s story is her waking up to the injustices of her own country, and pursuing the truth despite disapproval from her family.

This is not to doubt the sincerity of her story; in fact, Kan’s earnest descriptions of her colleagues and friends might lead to some sheepish conversations among her Beijing-based network. But, instead, it’s to strike a note of caution against celebrating “Under Red Skies” as somehow indicative of what Chinese millennials think about politics—as the book is currently being marketed and endorsed as.

“Under Red Skies” is perhaps best read as a personal story of one particular Chinese millennial. Assuming that most Chinese millennials have followed her path—or, alternatively, that they are merely one revelation among many—may be expanding too much from one anecdote. Burdening Kan with being a spokesperson for all Chinese millennials may be asking too much of “Under Red Skies” which is, at its core, a personal story about growing up in the Chinese countryside right before the Chinese economy exploded, and one person’s determination to find a unique path for herself in an unfamiliar environment. That should be enough.

About the reviewer
Nicholas Gordon (himself a millennial) works at a think tank in Hong Kong. His writing has also appeared in The South China Morning Post, The Diplomat, China Daily and Caixin.
Landscape Arboretum’s Chinese Garden

Pagoda as seen from the observation platform

A Lasting Memento: John Thomson’s Photographs Along the River Min

Date: Through May 17, 2020
Location: Peacock Essex Museum (PEM), 161 Essex St., Salem, Massachusetts

See China in a new light. Embark on voyage into 19th-century China through the eyes of Scottish photographer John Thomson, who established a photography studio in Hong Kong in 1868 and traveled and photographed throughout China for the next four years. He returned to Britain in 1872 and remained there until his death in 1921.

Thomson is considered one of the first photographers to document East and South Asia. His focus was on fine art, landscape, and architectural photos, and was often credited with being one of the first photographers to use pictures in conjunction with journalistic commentary. He compiled 80 of the photos from his 160-mile journey along the River Min from Fuzhou to Nanking in 1870-1871 into an album titled “Foochow and the River Min,” which is accompanied by introductory text, presenting a pictorial journey featuring the character of the growing city of Fuzhou, the beauty of the landscapes surrounding the River Min, as well as his studies of the people he encountered there.

Thomson sold his album “Foochow and the River Min” by advance subscription to the foreign residents of Fuzhou — tea planters, merchants, missionaries and government officials — who wanted a way to share their experiences with friends and family back home. Of the 46 copies originally published, fewer than 10 survive today and PEM is privileged to own two of them, both of which are featured in the exhibition.

More than 40 striking landscapes (including his famous view of the floating island pagoda), city views, and portrait studies captured by Thomson as he traveled in the Fujian Province in Southeast China are on view. Among them are an extraordinary series on the Yuen Fu monastery, tucked high up a steep, rocky ravine. A strain of wistful romanticism is present, particularly in landscape photographs that incorporate a solitary figure.

These prints are complemented by a selection of photographs by contemporary artist Luo Dan, who was inspired by Thomson to undertake his own journey in southwestern China in 2010.

“Many people have a conception of China as very industrialized and modern, even sterile, but these photographs complicate that notion and reveal the country’s incredible beauty and geographic diversity,” says Sarah Kennel, PEM’s Byrne Family Curator of Photography. “The roots of China’s rapid modernization go back to the 19th-century and are part of a larger history of maritime culture, trade, and globalization that are also entwined with PEM’s origin story. This exhibition affirms how photography can bring us back to another place in time and can change the way we see the world.”

“This combination is a sure hit...,” says Duane Otto, who has been designing the gardens for 31 years. While there, be sure to check out the Chinese garden. “It’s a beautiful garden that’s in progress,” says Erik Lemke, the designer currently assigned to the project.

The first two design phases of the garden are complete. Plantings include bamboo to symbolize resilience, tree peonies to represent wealth, and lotus for purity of heart and mind. And if you’re patient, you can watch for wildlife around the pond.

Apart from replacing the tiles on the pagoda and Moon Gate to improve stability, there are no plans to work on the garden in the short term. Contingent on funding, future phases include a pathway around the pond, bridges and a pavilion.

The arboretum is seeking $1 million in new funding before proceeding with the next phase of construction. Donations may be made online at the Arboretum website, https://z.umn.edu/ChineseGarden, or contact Jennifer Peterson (jempet@umn.edu or 612-301-1262) at the Development Office.

This exhibit will close May 17, 2020.♦
"Beauty Unites Us," Chinese religious works from Vatican’s collection displayed in China

Date: Through July 14, 2019
Location: Palace Museum, Forbidden City, Beijing

In 1925, Pope Pius XI organized a major exhibition at the Vatican to showcase the beauty of cultures from across the globe, bringing together over 100,000 superb works of art, which aimed to demonstrate the Catholic Church’s high regard for the culture and artistry of the world.

That historic exhibition laid a foundation for the Chinese collections of the Vatican Museums, which acquired a number of pieces collected by early Catholic missionaries and, eventually, a range of approximately 5,000 items representing the span of China’s dynastic history.

As a historic program of international cooperation, the "Beauty Unites Us" exhibition is the first time works from the Vatican’s Chinese collections have returned to China for public display. The curatorial team has selected 76 works from the Vatican to be shown in three sections: Catholic Art, Buddhist Art, and Secular Art.

The Palace Museum has also selected a variety of masterpieces — including two first-tier cultural relics — from its collections to be exhibited alongside the visiting works. The exhibits include gifts that bear witness to centuries of Sino-Vatican relations as well as exquisite artifacts which integrate Catholic themes and Chinese aesthetics. Throughout the history of Catholicism, missionaries from across the world have returned to the Vatican with works of art from other religious traditions, as in many Buddhist artifacts from China.

One item in this exhibit is an embroidered 18th century fabric, a paper and silk scroll from the 16th century, which reproduces the development of the Great Wall, and panels of the same period with drawings of plants and birds. The Buddhist art included date from different periods and regions, such as Buddhist statues of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Also included are traditional Chinese ceramics and enameled objects that present stories from the Bible, scenes with churches and other Christian or Western influences. There are works selected by the Palace Museum, which, in a show of great friendship and generosity, added famous works by Catholic artist Wu Li (1632-1718) and Giuseppe Castiglione, a Jesuit from Milan known in China as Lang Shining (1688-1766).

The presence of considerable works by Chinese artists is proof of the encounter between Christianity and China’s own artistic traditions. This exhibit is a testament to the history of cultural interchange between the Vatican and Beijing.

Above: 20th century cloisonné cross, a faithful reproduction of the one in the Beijing Catholic Church.

Left: "Madonna and Child in a Typical Chinese Garden" Early 20th century ink and colour on paper

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Fourth of July. Independence Day. Nationalistic pride. A day off to enjoy community parades, picnics in the park, backyard BBQs and a night of fireworks. A day to celebrate one of the documents that is the foundation of the American spirit, the Declaration of Independence.

In 1776, July 4 was a declaration of independence from the king of England, that these “United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.” It was an affirmation of freedom, liberty and freedom of choice.

The second paragraph of that most sacred of documents, the Declaration of Independence, states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Yet for the Chinese who came to “the Gold Mountain” in the mid-1800s in pursuit of a better life, this sentiment did not seem to apply to them except for the few early ones whose diligent work ethic and willingness to perform tasks Americans deemed undesirable made them welcome.

Life for the Chinese immigrants in the mid-1800s was absolutely no picnic. They were feared, loathed and stereotyped. Many toiled as inexpensive railroad workers, miners, cooks and laundymen. For those early Chinese in America, they were certainly not considered equal and their pursuit of a better life, this sentiment did not seem to apply to them except for the few early ones whose diligent work ethic and willingness to perform tasks Americans deemed undesirable made them welcome.

As Chinese, we’ll never look Caucasian American. So we’ll just have to grin and bear the question, “So, where are you from?” and trust that one day, the 1931 study that concluded Chinese may be “American by birth, but not in fact” will be but a sad past.

So, what’s your Independence Day going to be like? Given the unmentionable hardships the early Chinese in America endured, we should all be celebrating with gusto! But also remember their struggles.

We cannot be too complacent. The constant bombardment of “China rising” may lead to the resurrection of “Yellow Peril” paranoia. Some of the recent political campaign messages are reminiscent of the mid-to-late-1800s anti-Chinese rhetoric.

The accompanying timeline shows the major milestones, anti-Chinese legislation and court cases of the Chinese American journey.

As a group, Chinese Americans are considered the “model minority”--self-reliant with good work ethics and strong family values.

By Elaine Dunn

The Chinese American immigration journey

target of suspicion and potential enemies of the state. Right now, with tensions between the two countries high, Chinese Americans are once again looked upon with distrust by some.

The FBI’s current campaign on economic espionage has China and Chinese Americans in its crosshairs.

In January of this year, the director of the Center for Public Health and Transnational Genetics at the University of Texas, a naturalized Chinese American award-winning epidemiologist, stepped down after a three-month investiga-
tion into her professional ties in China. (No charges have been filed against her as we go to press.) Hers is not an isolated incident. A Bloomberg article in June reported “the National Institutes of Health and FBI are target-

ging ethnic Chinese scientists, including U.S. citizens, searching for a cancer cure.” Three other top Chinese American scientists from Houston had left in recent months.

We cannot be too complacent. The constant bombardment of “China rising” may lead to the resurrection of “Yellow Peril” paranoia. Some of the recent political campaign messages are reminiscent of the mid-to-late-1800s anti-Chinese rhetoric.

As Chinese Americans, we need to exer-
cise our rights and voice our concerns, just like Norman Asing and Wong Ar Chong.

As Chinese, we’ll never look Caucasian American. So we’ll just have to grin and bear the question, “So, where are you from?” and trust that one day, the 1931 study that concluded Chinese may be “American by birth, but not in fact” will be but a sad past.

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1852 Letter to California Governor John Bigler

Bigler called for immigration restriction, claiming “Chinese immigrants” inability to assimilate.” Norman Asing, a successful Chinese restaurant owner and respected figure in San Francisco’s Chinese community challenged the governor in a letter to The Daily Alta California, using the text from the Declaration of Independence. (Copy of Asing’s letter available at chinainsight.info, search “Norman Asing”)

1854 People v. Hall

In this case, the California Supreme Court ruled that the testimony of a Chinese man who witnessed a murder by a white man is inadmissible, largely based on the prevailing opinion that the Chinese are of an inferior race and had no right “to swear away the life of a citizen” or participate “with us in administering the affairs of our Government.”

1862 Chinese Police Tax

This legislation, also known as “An Act to Protect Free White Labor against Com-
petition with Chinese Coolie Labor, and to Dis- courage the Immigration of Chinese into the State of California,” levied a tax of $2.50 per month on all Chinese residents working in production or manufacture of tea, rice, coffee, or sugar.

1868 The Burlingame Treaty

Officially known as the Burlingame-Seward Treaty, sought to ease limits on Chinese immigration and also protect against the discrimination of Chinese immigrants in the U.S., and to assure Chinese already in the U.S. would enjoy the same treatment and rights as other immigrant groups in the U.S.

1870 Naturalization Act

This act established the process for African-Americans to gain citizenship, but excluded Chinese laborers from citizenship and prohibited wives of Chinese laborers from entering the U.S.

1871 Chinese massacre

On Oct. 24, 15 Chinese were tortured and hanged in L.A. and four were shot to death by a mob of whites and Latinos ransacking Chinatown. Every building in Chinatown was looted and trashed, and nearly every resident was assaulted, robbed, or worse. Only 10 of the 500-strong mob were tried in court. Eight of them were convicted of manslaughter, but their convictions were overturned on legal technicalities.

1875 Asian Exclusion Act

This is the first immigration law to exclude groups of people, women included, from the United States. It prohibited Chinese laborers who do not voluntarily consent to come to work in America and Chinese women who are single and unemployed from entering the United States.

1876 Queue Ordinance

This ordinance required the county jail to shear the hair of all convicted Chinese pris-oners to within one inch of the scalp based on recognition that the loss of the braided queue for Chinese men caused disgrace and humiliation. The ordinance was declared unconstitutional in Ho Ah Kow v. Matthew Nunan in 1879.

1878

The Federal Circuit Court in San Francisco ruled that Chinese were ineligible for naturalization.

1879

Wong Ar Chong, a Chinese American tea merchant living in Boston, wrote a scathing letter to activist William Lloyd Garrison in response to a letter Garrison published in the New York Tribune over limiting trade and immigration with China, questioning: “The Chinese people are willing to work, they mind their own business, and do not get drunk, and why is it they have not as much right to come here, and in as large numbers as any other foreign people...”

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act

This Act passed by Congress suspended the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S. for 10 years. It also declared Chinese ineligible for naturalization. It was the first U.S. restriction on immigration based on race and nationality. This law was renewed in 1892 for another 10 years. In 1902, Chinese immigration was made permanently illegal.

1884 Amendment to the Chinese Exclusion Act

All Chinese must obtain re-entry permits if they depart the United States, even to Hawaii.

1885 Tape v. Hurley

Chinese immigrants Joseph and Mary Tape tried to enroll their 8-year-old U.S.-born daughter in an all-white school in San Francisco. Admission was refused with the school board citing policy that barred Chinese children from attending the city’s public schools.

The Tape family sued the principal and the case went to the California Supreme Court. School officials defended their position by arguing that the California constitution declared Chinese to be “dangerous to the well-being of the state,” and the city had no obligation to educate Chinese students. The court decided in favor of the Tape family.

Continues on page 11
The Chinese American immigration journey

Continued from page 10

creating one of the pioneering decisions in the fight for equality in education. Also, in June 1885, Saum Song Bo, an immigrant and an aspiring attorney found his case was disposed of as if it were a mere matter of a minor traffic violation. He wrote an open letter to the New York Sun newspaper:

"That statue represents Liberty holding a torch which lights the passage of those of all nations who come into this country. But are the Chinese allowed to come? As for the Chinese who are here, are they allowed to enjoy liberty as men of all other nationalities enjoy it? Are they allowed to go about everywhere free from the insults, abuse, assaults, wrongs and injuries from which men of other nationalities are free? If there be a Chinaman who came to this country when a lad, who has passed through an American institution of learning of the highest grade, who has so fallen in love with American manners and ideas that he desires to make his home in this land, and who, seeing that his countrymen demand one of their own number to be their legal adviser, representative, advocate, and protector; desires to study law, can he be a lawyer? By the law of this nation, he, being a Chinaman, cannot become a citizen, and consequently cannot be a lawyer."

1888 Scott Act

Authored by representative William Scott (D-Pennsylvania) this Act prohibited the re-entry of a Chinese laborer to the U.S. unless he has property worth $1,000 or family in the country. The Act reclassified all persons of Chinese ancestry, regardless of citizenship or national identity, as Chinese and, therefore, subject to exclusion.

1892 The Chinese Equal Rights League and the Geary Act

This is the first U.S. Chinese civil rights organization. Chinese across America staged acts of civil disobedience in protest against the Geary Act, which required all Chinese residents of the U.S. to carry a resident permit — “America’s first internal passbook.” Failure to carry the permit at all times was punishable by deportation or a year of hard labor. In addition, Chinese were not allowed to bear witness in court, and could not receive bail in habeas corpus proceedings. In the same year, Fong Yue-Ting v. United States challenged the constitutionality of the Geary Act, which was upheld in a Supreme Court ruling in 1893.

1898 United States v. Wong Kim Ark

Wong was a Chinese cook born in the U.S. in 1873 to Chinese parents who had been residing in San Francisco, thus considered a citizen “by accident of birth.” Wong was denied re-entry to the U.S. after a trip to China, despite having all the certificates and papers. This case was about the government’s attempt to circumvent the 14th Amendment and keep Chinese immigrants and their children from ever becoming citizens, by any means, solely because of their Chinese race. The Supreme Court decision upheld the right of citizenship conferred by the 14th Amendment upon persons born in the United States, regardless of race.

1900 Wong Wai v. Williamson and Jew Ho v. Williamson

A San Francisco ordinance mandated all Chinese must be placed under quarantine and inoculated for bubonic plague. It was deemed unconstitutional.

1902 Woodrow Wilson’s “History of the American People” published

The former president, a Democrat, echoed the prejudicial sentiment: “Caucasian laborers could not compete with the Chinese, could not live upon a handful of rice and work for a meager salary, and found themselves being steadily crowded out from occupation after occupation by the thrifty, skillful Orientals, who, with their yellow skin and strange, debasing habits of life, seemed to them hardly fellow men at all, but evil spirit, rather.”

1906 Great San Francisco earthquake

The earthquake and subsequent fires destroyed immigration records. For the entrepreneurial Chinese, many recorded fictitious “offsprings” in China, opening the door to the arrival of many “paper sons.”

1910 Naturalization Act expanded

The 1870 Act was expanded to exclude all Asians from citizenship.

1913 California Alien Land Acts

These Acts prohibited Chinese and Japanese from owning land. Other states passed similar laws.

1922 U.S. Cable Act

Any woman marrying an immigrant ineligible for naturalization will lose her citizenship.

1932 Anna May Wong became the first Chinese American actress in Hollywood to gain international recognition. She was known for her many roles because bi-racial kissing was prohibited at the time.

1943 Chinese Exclusion Act repealed

Public response to China as a WWII ally prompted Congress to repeal the ban of Chinese immigrants, and those already in the United States were given the right to become naturalized citizens. The quota for Chinese immigration was set at 105 people per year.

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1957 The New Adventures of Charlie Chan was the first show featuring an Asian American character in a title role on U.S. television. However, the role of Chan, based on real-life police detective Chang Apana, was played by Irish American actor J. Carroll Naish.

1959 Hiram Fong of Hawaii, son of Chinese immigrants, became the first Asian American elected to the U.S. Senate.

1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965

This law abolished national origin quotas and substituted hemispheric quotas, allowing many more Asians to immigrate to the U.S.

1982 License to kill

Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was mistaken for a Japanese and murdered by two white auto workers in the Detroit suburb of Highland Park. This was a time when American auto makers were losing ground to Japanese cars, resulting in layoffs in Detroit. The two perpetrators allegedly used racial slurs during their attack on Chin. Neither assailants saw a day in jail, prompting the president of the Detroit Chinese Welfare Council to say it amounted to a "$3,000 license to kill” Chinese-Americans.

1996 Gary Locke, a third-generation Chinese American, was elected governor of Washington state, the first Asian American to head a mainland U.S. state. He was also the first Chinese American to serve as the U.S. ambassador to China.

2011 & 2012


2013 China replaced Mexico as the top country of origin for immigrants to the U.S.


2018 December 20 the president signed a bipartisan bill into law for the Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to World War II Chinese American Veterans. The ceremony will be held in October 2019.
Chinese American WWII Recognition Project Veteran Registration Instructions

All Chinese American WWII Veterans and/or their family requesting consideration for the Congressional Gold Medal must complete the intake form at www.caww2.org so that the military service of the said Chinese American WWII Veteran can be reviewed and confirmed by Verification Committee.

METHODOLOGY
Verification (via submission of any items in (i) or (ii) (highest priority in item (ii) as numbered):

i. A Veteran’s name and service appears in the enlistment and/or draft record in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) WWII records.

ii. A Veteran’s military service can also be verified by other primary sources, including:
   1. Submission of the Veteran’s Honorable Discharge or Separation Papers;
   2. American Legion and/or Veteran of Foreign War membership rosters;
   3. Other veteran organization roll call and/or publications;
   4. Photograph of Veteran in U.S. military uniform and confirmed by Verification Committee;
   5. Submission of letters which confirm military service from a state or federal agency;
   6. Submission of letters home to family and/or friends from a WWII Theatre of War;
   7. Submission of newspaper articles identifying the Veteran as having served in WWII;
   8. Verifiable artifacts with name and/or serial number of Veteran
   9. Other online registries for WWII Veterans;

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A. Scans:
   1. Documents and images must be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi (dots per inch) or in black and white.
   2. Color images are acceptable but NOT preferred as color photos were not readily available in the 1940s and may alter the context of the image.
   3. If you do not own or have access to a scanner, please go to any of the following possible resources to scan documents and images (do not send cell phone camera images):
      a. University and college libraries;
      b. Public Library – please check with your neighborhood library before going;
      c. Retail outlets such as Kinko’s/FedEx, UPS Stores & Office Depot/OfficeMax;
      d. Family member or friend.

B. Release Form:
   Publicly available Veteran’s data and images (via NARA or other public domain sites) submitted in any fashion to Chinese American Citizens Alliance for inclusion into the Recognition Project's database shall be for the purpose of verifying a Veteran’s eligibility to receive this Congressional Gold Medal and for non-commercial purposes of disseminating information to the public about merits of the Project. A release form from C.A.C.A. shall be requested from submitters of Veterans’ documents should the scope extend into ventures where the use of any documents, photographs, etc. (not available via NARA or other public domain sites) be used for the creation of commercial ventures about Chinese American WWII Veterans.

NOW IT’S UP TO YOU. . .
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   www.caww2.org
By Greg Hugh

The Toronto Raptors, winners of the 2019 National Basketball Championship, scored many "firsts" with this victory. The Raptors are now the first team outside the United States to win an NBA title, and one of its players, NBA veteran point guard Jeremy Lin (林書豪), a California native of Taiwanese descent, became the first Chinese American to earn an NBA ring.

Now, there is no doubt that Lin is a great basketball player. He will always be known for his hot run with the New York Knicks in 2012, when his unexpected dominance on the court kicked off a nationwide craze called "Linsanity." Lin's career has been repeatedly sidelined by injuries, and he has never quite regained the momentum that led to the Linsanity days of 2012. He has bounced around the league and finally landed with the Raptors this year. He didn't see much game time, however. Lin played only 27 minutes in the Raptors' postseason run, and was basically sidelined after Game 3.

But none of that matters now, does it? He and the rest of the Raptors are headed for the history books, and fans were excited to see one of the most famous NBA faces claim a historic title.

The NBA Championship celebration in Toronto was estimated to include more than 2 million fans as double-decker, open-air buses filled with players, coaches and family members, departed the Raptors' practice facility to start the championship parade. Seated with his family and close friends, Lin wore a throwback purple Tracy McGrady Raptors jersey that displayed the team's name in Chinese characters.

Lin's journey to the championship parade is an inspiring one. After going undrafted out of Harvard, Lin slept on team-mate couches and played in the D-league before finally getting his big chance in New York. He didn't waste the opportunity, igniting the global "Linsanity" craze with his incredible play.

Lin Tweeted his gratefulness after the game. "God is perfectly the same through the highs and the lows," he wrote. "Anyone who knows me knows I've believed this through all the down times, and He's just as good at the mountaintop!"

In an interview after the NBA win, Lin talked about his lack of playing time and explained that there were times when he had to tell himself that he deserved a championship. "Then when I thought about the journey, yeah, I definitely do… being a voice is very, very valuable.

Lin's career path was a great story even before becoming a champion. After breaking into the league with the Warriors in 2012, he reached the finals of the World Championship six of the last 32 (Trump in the second round). He was again defeated (by Judd Trump in the third round).

As noted by an article in the New York Times by Alex Wong, even though Lin is one of the best basketball players in the world, he has not been shielded from the stereotypes that other Asian-Americans face in everyday life, like dealing with racial slurs and being forced to prove that they belong.

Lin has said he often is not recognized by security guards at NBA arenas. He arrived at the arena for every Raptors playoff game in apparel that celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: he wore clothes from Asian-American designers like Phillip Lim; one day, he put on a black T-shirt that said simply, "Phe-nomenally Asian;" another outfit featured a T-shirt with the phrase "It's an Honor Just To Be Asian," which was popularized by the actress Sandra Oh.

Lin will turn 31 in August. His many injuries may leave his NBA future in doubt. But as he's stayed steady in his faith in Christ during the unpredictable journey he's been on, Lin will continue to trust the Lord for whatever endeavor is next. It is quite obvious that Lin, unlike most sports figures, is not concerned about his future since he feels "'Reppin' Asians With Everything I Have,' Is Bigger Than an N.B.A. Title."*  

By Elaine Dunn

Fastest growing sport in China: snooker

Once the thriving sport of Britain, snooker's popularity is slowly being snuffed out as British fans are aging by the day. But the air was really sucked out of the game in 2005 when tobacco companies were banned from sponsorship. Fortunately, the sport was adopted by the country with the world's largest population, China.

What on God's green earth is snooker, you ask? To the unininitiated, it looks like pool, except it is not pool. It is played on a larger table (12' x 6' in Europe and 10' x 5' in the U.S.) with 15 red balls and one each in yellow, green, brown, blue, pink and black with designated point values. Other visible differences besides the rules of play are the balls are smaller than pool balls and the cue sticks are longer than pool and billiard cues. And, tournament players wear waistcoats and bowties. It is considered to be "the game of experts."

At the 2019 World Snooker Championship (April 20-May 6) in Sheffield, England, six of the last 32 qualifying players for the tournament were Chinese. And China has plenty of upcoming great snooker players.

Popularity of the sport exploded in China when a teenager, 15-year-old Ding Junhui, burst on the scene and won the Asian Under-21 Championship in 2002. He turned professional at 16 and won the 2005 China Open and the UK Championship. In the 2013-14 season, he won five ranking titles and became the first Asian player to reach the finals of the World Championship in 2016.

The BBC estimated 210 million in China tuned in to the state-owned CCTV to watch its live broadcast of one of their own, Ding, play in the finals of the 2016 World Snooker Championship. Unfortunately, Ding lost to Mark Selby. Going into the 2019 championship tournament as one of the elite top 16 players, Ding was again defeated (by Judd Trump in the second round).

All six Chinese were out by the quarter-finals. In 2018, there was an estimated 70 million snooker players in China. One million play daily. China is currently the number one market for the sport. A 2018 article by SnookerHQ reports there were thousands of clubs in major Chinese cities that are "packed to the rafters with cue enthusiasts and schools that have adopted the sport into their curriculum."

Jeremy Lin wears "It's an Honor Just to Be Asian?" t-shirt

Lin donned a white tee shirt that read "It's an Honor Just to Be Asian," a reference to Sandra Oh's monologue during the 2019 Golden Globe Awards.

Jeremy Lin celebrates NBA championship win with his family

As noted by an article in the New York Times by Alex Wong, even though Lin is one of the best basketball players in the world, he has not been shielded from the stereotypes that other Asian-Americans face in everyday life, like dealing with racial slurs and being forced to prove that they belong. Lin has said he often is not recognized by security guards at NBA arenas. They couldn't miss him in May.

Ding Junhui dropped out of school at age 11 to practice snooker for 8 hours each day. His parents sold their home and grocery business and moved to Dongguan, Guangdong Province, for his career. The season has been inspired by the 2010 TV series, "Dragon Ball No. 1," based on his transformation from a shy boy to snooker celeb. Today, he practices only three hours a day, reserving free time for travel and "not thinking about snooker."
Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends presents talk on
All the Tea in China

By Pearl Bergad, Chinese Heritage Foundation

On a balmy May afternoon, the Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends presented an informative talk by Bill Waddington of TeaSource, titled “All the Tea in China.”

Waddington has an infectious enthusiasm for tea, and has been a frequent guest on National Public Radio’s “The Splendid Table.” He has served on the board of the American Premium Tea Institute and was the keynote speaker at the 2010 China International Tea Expo in Beijing.

In a high-spirited, freewheeling interactive session with an engaged audience, Waddington talked about the native origin of tea in China and its many variations, and different preparation practices in different regions of China. He highlighted the six major types of tea: black, dark, Oolong, green, yellow and white; the ages of the tea leaves and the different stages of oxidation (or none) they are allowed to go through; the effects of soil types, humidity and elevation on tea bushes; and the care one should take on keeping the ideal temperature of water or steeping time for each type of tea. He also brewed both an Oolong and a Puer tea for everyone to taste, demonstrating the differences the brewing time makes on the same type of tea.

Waddington traveled the world visiting tea growers, drinking teas and bringing back tea leaves to the Twin Cities. His business, TeaSource, currently has three locations: Eden Prairie, St. Anthony Village, Saint Paul.

The audience found the information most helpful, and the tasting, when accompanied by the special condiments personally selected by Vin Simpson, most enlightening.

After the session, audience members were given TeaSource bags of tea, with benefits that benefit both the tea grower and the environment.

Editor’s notes
Bill Waddington started TeaSource some 20 years ago with the mission of offering “some of the best values on fine teas and teas from around the world.”

TeaSource carries approximately 200 tea varieties. Waddington started “honing” his tea knowledge in the 1980s by reading UN agricultural abstracts and communicating with tea growers directly. He has visited the top five tea-producing countries: China, India, Japan, Sri Lanka and Taiwan. The TeaSource website says, “Along the way, many wise and experienced tea experts shared their knowledge with us, so we try to take that same approach with others. We are huge believers in tea education and outreach. We have conducted hundreds of tea tastings and workshops for our customers, and we have given talks and speeches about tea everywhere, from Las Vegas to Hamburg to Beijing.”

At the recent World Tea Expos where the best and brightest are celebrated for their notable achievements in the tea industry, TeaSource was recognized as a finalist for Best Specialty Tea Brand and Waddington was recognized as a finalist for Best Tea Educator-Individual.

China Insight offers our congratulations to Waddington, whose articles on tea have been published in this newspaper previously.

Travel
Food and water safety while traveling in China

By Elaine Dunn

Meatballs, fishballs and sausage chunks on a stick are typical of Chinese street food.

Nine American tourists have met their untimely deaths while vacationing in the Dominican Republic in the past few months. Talk of ‘boil water’ in their hotel mini bars are under investigation. As this goes to press, their cause of death is still undetermined.

For those of you traveling to China for the first time this summer, here are a few precautions and hints to take while eating and drinking your way through the country.

Water. Stick to bottled water, readily available everywhere, including convenience stores and street vendors. Do NOT drink tap water anywhere. Most hotels provide guests with bottled water free for drinking and brushing teeth. Most restaurants will offer bottled water, but beware foreign brands such as Evian, San Pellegrino and Perrier may be quite spendy.

Street food. Chinese street food and street food vendors are as varied and interesting as you have stomach for! Always pick out the vendors with long lines of customers.

Of course, common sense dictates that you avoid meat snacks on very hot days if the vendor has no sufficient refrigeration. But any dumplings, pancakes and tofu that are fried and/or deep-fried should be safe. Restaurants. Freshness is top priority for the Chinese, be it meat, produce or seafood. Be sure to visit a restaurant where you can select the garoupa (aka grouper) of your choice from the restaurant’s fish tank. Reputable seafood restaurants have separate tanks for eels, crustaceans and fish. You look, point and a staff member will fish your selection out of the tank in a net. If you’re still happy with your choice, it’ll be taken to the kitchen and brought to your table when cooked. And, as with street vendors, always look for busy joints frequented by lots of happy locals.

Go forth! Eat, drink and be merry on your China trip. Experience authentic dishes and flavors not available here. Bon appetit! ♦

Sports
Fastest growing sport in China: snooker

Continued from page 13

Zhao Xintong, 22-year-old from Xian, Shaanxi Province, is one of the youngest and most promising Chinese professional snooker players.

The Chinese government has pumped a lot of money into the sport as well, building modern facilities, giving it media exposure, and providing financial support for players. It is one of three sports the Chinese government deem as “gentlemen sports” and is proud to have in China. (The other two are golf and tennis.)

A large proportion of the prize money for the world tour also comes from China. There is no shortage of willing promoters and TV companies. Besides, many of the world’s top snooker tournaments are now held in China, including some long-standing ones, such as the Shanghai Masters (sponsored by the Bank of Shanghai) and the Chinese Open. Between August 4-11, the Baifu Media Broadcasting Centre in Daqing, Heilongjiang Province, will be the venue of the 2019 International Championship, the second ranking event of the 2019/2020 season.

However, the sport is not without scandals. At the end of last year, it was embroiled in turmoil when two of the top 50-ranked players, Yu Delu and Cao Yupeng, admitted to fixing numerous matches at different tournaments over a two-year period. Both were banned from playing for years. The sport’s governing body called Yu’s cheating “a scourge to the game of snooker” and top player Ding called for fellow Chinese pros to exercise “self discipline.”

Love of the sport in China has not shown any signs of slowing. Why? Westerners like to say, perhaps (only half?) tongue-in-cheek, that snooker is well-suited to the Chinese demeanor because it is not a contact sport, nor does it require strenuous muscular strength. Instead, mental dexterity, skills and wits are prerequisites. It is more a mental game.

Barry Hearns, former chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association who brought snooker to Hong Kong and China in the 1970s and 1980s, said a BBC documentary that China is the sport’s sleeping giant.

Young talented players are recruited by the CIBA World Snooker Academy in Beijing. There are approximately 30 “pupils” aged from 6-22 who play from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, according to the BBC. With the government’s backing, perhaps by the time snooker is included as an Olympic sport, the gold medalist will be Chinese.

Snooker, anyone? ♦
**Grand opening ceremony of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, July 13, Phalen Regional Park**

The July 13 celebration will begin with a dragon and lion dance procession from the Dragon Boat area to the Xiang Jiang Pavilion for the ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. It will take place on the first day of the Dragon Festival at 10 a.m. at the Xiang Jiang Pavilion. St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter will attend along with other state and city officials and esteemed guests from St. Paul’s sister city, Changsha, Hunan Province, a relationship that began more than 30 years ago.

The July 13 celebration will begin with a dragon and lion dance procession from the dragon boat area to the Xiang Jiang Pavilion for the ribbon cutting ceremony. This will be followed by several short speeches, Hmong and Chinese cultural performances, and the reading of the winning poem in the Qu Yuan poetry contest. There also will be a number of cultural family friendly activities at the Pavilion until 1 p.m. including a Hmong Pansau demonstration, zongzi making, Chinese painting, big brush calligraphy, photo opportunities, and more.

The garden, officially named the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters, was erected last fall, accompanied by a Hmong Heritage Wall Sculpture to representing the cultural and historical connection between the Hmong in Minnesota and the Hmong in the Changsha area. Changsha sent a team of 13 artisans to assist and train the construction crew to reconstruct the replica gift pavilion. The West Entrance Archway entry to the garden is currently under construction. The next phase of the project will complete the landscaping from the Pavilion to the water and establish a Hmong Cultural Plaza. The garden will eventually include an East Entrance Moon-gate and Donor Wall, an enclosed classroom pavilion, a Tai Qi plaza, a covered walkway and a small viewing pavilion.

"It’s more beautiful than anything we imagined when we started this project so many years ago," said Linda Mealey-Lehm-ann, president and co-founder of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society.

To celebrate the grand opening of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden, an award ceremony and banquet to recognize and honor all of the volunteers and donors will be held at the St. Paul Hotel on July 12, 2019. Attending the ceremony will be St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter along with other distinguished guests, including Senator Foung Hawj, Representative Tim Mahoney, and several dignitaries from St. Paul’s sister city, Changsha. In addition to celebrating this sister relationship, the celebration will recognize the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States.

**State of the State Department and Diplomacy**

Tom Hanson, current Diplomat in Residence at the Alworth Institute for International Affairs at the University of Minnesota, will discuss how changes under the Trump administration are impacting ongoing relationships between the U.S. and its allies and adversaries.

Hanson’s Foreign Service experience include postings in Europe, Scandinavia and the Soviet Union, among other places. He is a frequent speaker on international issues and contributes to local and international media. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota and graduate degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the Institute of Advanced Studies in Switzerland, and the National School of Administration in France.

The program is presented by Global Minnesota, whose mission is to advance international understanding and engagement through connecting individuals, organizations and communities to the world.

**Production Editor Needed**

Great opportunity to gain experience in laying out China Insight, a monthly tabloid newspaper that has serving the community for 17-plus years.

- The right candidate must know InDesign Creative Suite and have graphics background.
- Reliability and ability to meet deadlines are critical.
- A strong interest in Chinese culture and business matters will be an asset.
- Must be willing to take creative initiative and be a team player.

This is classified as a volunteer position, but a small stipend will be provided to the right individual who demonstrates a strong passion for our mission and can work with minimal supervision.

Send resumé to Greg Hugh at ghugh@chinainsight.info or call 612-723-4872.
You’re invited to the Grand Opening Celebration of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden during the first day of the Dragon Festival on July 13, 2019

Join Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter and St. Paul’s Sister-City Changsha delegates as they lead the Grand Opening of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters at Phalen Park

- The July 13 celebration will begin with a dragon and lion dance procession at 10:15 a.m. from the Dragon Boat area to the Xiang Jiang Pavilion for the Ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m.
- Speeches and cultural performances
- Winner of First Annual Qu Yuan Poetry Contest will read winning poem
- Cultural performances and activities at the Xiang Jiang Pavilion 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For additional information on these events, see page 15