Getting high ...

... on what? Where? Why?
You'd get a high too if you were where they were! No, they were not testing fate, not entirely. These folks paid USD58 each and signed a waiver confirming they can handle height for the privilege of being 1,115 feet in the air with no safety barrier. Find out more on page 8.

Government & Politics

China, US celebrate 48th anniversary of 'Ping-Pong Diplomacy'

Xinhua | Updated: 2019-08-23 17:37

LOS ANGELES - The national table tennis teams of China and the United States gathered Thursday evening at the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Orange County, California, to mark 48th anniversary of "Ping-Pong Diplomacy."

In a historic first and at the invitation of the United States Table Tennis Association (USATT) and the US Olympic Committee, China's national table tennis team, including several Olympic champions, is in Los Angeles from August 5 to 25 to practise with their US counterparts.

Ping-pong, or table tennis, has a unique and storied place in the diplomatic relations between the United States and China. In 1971, nine American table tennis players were invited to Beijing for exhibition games with Chinese players, helping break the ice between China and the United States and laying the groundwork for the eventual establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In his address to hundreds of attendees, Liu Guoliang, president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association, pointed out that the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum is a historic place to celebrate the 48th anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

"Since the small ping-pong ball played a big role 48 years ago, China and US table tennis players have kept close contact and communication and developed a long-term friendship with each other," said Liu, adding that the two teams reinforced their historical bond by joining together for practice in Los Angeles.

Virginia Sung, CEO of USATT, noted that the unprecedented joint training sessions of Chinese and American national table tennis teams "continues the legacy of Ping-Pong Diplomacy" and "opens a new chapter in our joint efforts to promote table tennis on the world stage."

"I am pleased to note that, over the years, the legacy of Ping-Pong diplomacy has been well carried forward by generations of ping-pong athletes from both countries. By playing matches and having joint training sessions, they have not only improved their skills, but also fostered a deep friendship. They have contributed to the mutual understanding and friendship between our two peoples," said Zhang Ping, Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles.

"Under the current situation, it is more important that we carry forward the legacy of Ping-Pong Diplomacy, bringing into full play the role of a small ball rotating a big globe. We need to strengthen people-to-people connections, further deepen our friendship and make concerted efforts to maintain a stable and sound development of China-US relations," he noted. ♦
Greetings:

All of us at China Insight hope that your summer has been a fulfilling one and are pleased to reconnect with you again after enjoying our own summer hiatus that we normally take during the month of August so that our all-volunteer staff has a chance to recharge.

During our summer break, the Twin Cities community celebrated many events such as the grand opening of the Chinese Garden at St. Paul’s Phalen Regional Park, article on page 16, and highlights of other events are featured throughout the paper.

While Minnesotans still await Labor Day signifying the end of summer while awaiting the arrival of Indian summer, Chinese Americans get to celebrate yet another holiday. The Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, falls on the 15th day of the 8th Lunar Month, which this year occurs on September 13th and will be celebrated at Mall of America on Sept. 15th. See page 9 for details.

As noted on page 10, the US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) will be holding its 27th National Convention here on October 18-20, 2019. USCPFA was founded as a national organization in 1974, celebrating at Mall of America on Sept. 15th. See page 9 for details.

The top two articles that interested me the most in this issue are:

Please send me free China Insight for a year if I am one of the first 10 respondents this month

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As noted on page 10, the US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) will be holding its 27th National Convention here on October 18-20, 2019. USCPFA was founded as a national organization in 1974, focusing on people-to-people diplomacy between Americans and Chinese. Nearly 35 chapters in four regions spanning the U.S. comprise the organization. National policies are established by the membership, which meets biennially at a national convention. Please be sure to welcome these visitors and show them what “Minnesota Nice” is about. Better yet, if you aren’t already a member, you are invited to join and become part of the convention and if you are already a member, please register to attend.

The convention is seeking a few sponsors for the convention so contact me if you are interested in this opportunity.

We need your help in spreading the word about the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese Americans of World War II as noted on page 12. The deadline for registering is fast approaching so we are asking everyone to spread the word to family and friends of those veterans to get registered so they are recognized. For details go www.caww2.org/.

Soon 2019 will be in our rear view mirrors and we enter the year 2020 which is a US presidential election year as well as the year that the US is required to hold a census. We encourage individuals to get involved with the Census by making sure we take part in the process to the level that one feels comfortable. See article on page 12.

Unfortunately there is much turmoil taking place in the US as well as the rest of the world and while it is not the policy of China Insight to comment on controversial topics or political matters, suffice it to say that we all need to get along. Not all issues can be determined to be only black or white or “either/or” questions. As a society, we need to respect each other’s opinion and seek common ground on issues on which we don’t totally agree. It would be nice if we could replace much of the ugliness with some open-minded listening and civil conversation. It’s a long election process.

As always, thank you for your support and please don’t hesitate to contact me you would like to share any ideas about what we can do to make China Insight the newspaper for the community.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh
President – CEO
China Insight, Inc.
China Briefs

Smart monkey

A monkey at a Henan Province zoo pounded on the glass wall of its enclosure with a rock until the glass shattered. Zoo staff said this particular monkey is more intelligent than others and is an expert at “using tools” for cracking open walnuts. This time, it may have been shocked by the shattered glass. Next time, it’ll probably know better and makes its escape. But then … why bust out to the unknown when all your needs are taken care of on the inside? Maybe backing away from the shattered glass enclosure is a demonstration of its superior intelligence?

Headaches gone

A man in Guangzhou who had been suffering from headaches and dizziness since 1989 finally got relief. Instead of epilepsy, a recent scan showed a 4-inch worm inside his head!

The parasitic worm was removed by surgery. It continued to wriggle in the dish after being removed from its abode for the past 30 years. Eeeew! The doctor told him that drinking unboiled water from the stream and eating uncooked frogs and snakes might have introduced the parasite into his head.

Killer girlfriend

Guys, listen up! If you value your life, NEVER come between your wife/girlfriend and her ice cream.

Some unknown guy in Henan Province supposedly to his girlfriend she was too fat to eat ice cream when she wanted an ice cream cone. The woman kept silent after the insult. She went to a store and bought a pair of scissors and proceeded to stab the boyfriend four times. The guy died from losing too much blood.

The couple had only been dating for less than a month.

Back to you

Two women, one in a black sedan, the other in a white SUV, were arguing at a stop light. The driver in the black car chucked the plastic bottle out her window and then took off as the light turned green. The woman in the white SUV stepped out and picked the bottle off the street and went in pursuit of the sedan. At the next light, she stood up through the sunroof and pitched the bottle through the passenger window of the black car!

A video of this was captured and uploaded by a third party in a third car. Was it real or staged?

Not your ordinary pop-up

Pop-up kiosks don’t just appear around Christmas time. In Hong Kong, there is a pop-up store, National Calamity Hardware, that sells some highly sought-after commodity: helmets, goggles, gas masks, bottled water.

The enterprising owner of this protest supplies pop-up said business was brisk, selling 50-60 sets of gas masks in the first hour of business. Hong Kong’s pro-democracy protesters had been donning protective gear as police had been scaling up in their use of tear gas and rubber bullets at the mainly peaceful protests. The store announces its location via messaging apps and give students deep discounts.

However, with new “ruling” that no masks are allowed at protests, how will that affect business?

UN headquarters relocating to Xi’an

A group of con artists scammed Chinese investors with forged documents seeking investments for the preparation project of the United Nations Headquarters from New York City to Xi’an. They set up the Xi’an Hepingyuan Construction Management Company in June to raise US$6.2 billion for the project. “Executives” met with investors when one of them became incredulous that the UN would relocate to Xi’an and reported it to the police.

After three months of investigation, Xi’an police arrested more than 40 people who swindled close to US$300,000 from 27 victims.

Contract talks

Jeremy Lin is reportedly in advanced negotiations with the Beijing Shougang Ducks of the Chinese Basketball Association for a $3 million-a-year contract. Lin has played with eight teams in nine seasons; last with the Toronto Raptors, when they won the NBA finals this past June. He is on a personal trip visiting Zhejiang Province in August. He is already a big star in China, but by signing with Beijing, he would probably become a superstar.

Taiwan, US cautioned

China is not pleased with the proposed arms deals between Taiwan and the U.S., claiming the sale will damage Sino-U.S. ties. spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense wrote online that the U.S. selling F-16s to Taiwan is a “complete mistake,” and “very dangerous.” He further said that China will impose sanctions on US companies involved in recent proposed arms sales. China promised similar sanctions when the U.S. State Department approved in July the sale of $2.2 billion worth of tanks and anti-aircraft missiles to Taiwan.

Apart from sanctioning U.S. companies, the executive vice president of the China Strategy Culture Promotion Association said China should also sanction Taiwan personnel and companies involved in the transactions. “We have to let them know buying weapons is inviting trouble,” he said.

Cloned K9 ready

China is deploying its first cloned police dog. The 8-month old wolfdog will be working with the Kunming Police Dog Base in Yunnan Province. It had been participating in a professional police dog training program since March. It passed the police dog assessment in late August and is now ready for work.

Family shamed

A well-known Hong Kong judge’s 43-year-old niece is dragging the family’s name through the mud with her frequent run-ins with the law. In January, she was arrested for driving on a suspended license. In March, she was charged for attacking her parents in their home, and then failed to report to the police. In August, she was caught with a small amount of cocaine. Her “rap sheet” goes all the way back to 2001 and range from assaulting the police, vandalism, drug possession.

Just goes to show black sheep appear in the best of families.

Call for Articles...

Concerned about misconceptions about China?

ChinaInsight is a local newspaper fostering U.S.-China cultural and business harmony. We are interested in publishing articles that engage audiences in America. Potential topics range from understanding daily life in China (or for Chinese in America) to discussions of business markets from both an American or Chinese viewpoint.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact Greg Hugh at 612-723-4872 or email gghugh@chinainsight.info.
Chinese Language Corner (漢語角落): Chinese regional accents you may encounter

By Pat Welsh, contributor

The language taught in the Language Corner is Standard Mandarin. This is what is used and taught in China’s schools. It is based on a semi-formal version of the Beijing dialect of Mandarin.

In the spring of 1980, I attended the World Economic Convention held in Hangzhou and its follow-up meetings in Beijing as an American delegate. A Taiwanese-born fellow delegate who spoke fluent Standard Mandarin (Putonghua) confessed to me that he frequently had difficulty understanding the informal street language of Beijing. Looking into this matter more deeply I learned that the Putonghua Mandarin of that day had pretty much culled out much of Beijing’s street language. In Chinese bookstores, I noticed that books teaching Putonghua Mandarin had few of the common words I had learned from my Beijing-raised instructor Huang Chi-chou at the University of Kansas.

It should be mentioned here that when I first attended graduate school at University of Kansas, the Mandarin I spoke had a heavy Eastern Sichuan accent because my Mandarin acquaintances came from that area of China before World War II. My tones were different from the Standard. Some pronunciations of consonants and vowels were different. Many common words were different. For two years Professor Huang made it a point to get me to adopt his Beijing-accented Mandarin. Since 1972 I have abandoned the Sichuan accent and used Professor Huang’s Beijing-based accent when I speak Mandarin.

Comparing the Beijing dialect to Standard Mandarin, some features will stand out. You may well encounter them in watching Chinese movies. The Beijing dialect frequently has many nasal “r” sounds at the end of words. These nasal “r” sounds will often replace final consonants. I have heard this especially with names. This feature will seem to change some common vocabulary items. For example, “jintián” (today), “zuòtiān” (yesterday) and “míngtiān” (tomorrow) may often be heard in Beijing as “jiēr̃,” “sǐbā” and “míngtiān”.

Zhèlǐ (here), nǎlí (there) and nǎlǐ (where?) will often be heard as “tùjī, nār and nǎfèi. Street Beijing has two words for “we”: if the listener is included within the ‘we,’ the word to use is “tzā-men;” if the listener is excluded, the word to use is “wōmen.” There were other vocabulary items that I had to relearn.

Recently I saw a film from Taiwan where the speakers spoke Mandarin with heavy Taiwanese accents. In that movie several of the speakers were common people much like those I had encountered in Taiwan years ago. Fortunately, many of the variations in their speech were fairly similar to what I had learned from my Sichuanese acquaintances.

When one travels south and west of Beijing, eventually you may hear the following changes in Mandarin-speaking areas:

1. Zh and z both sound like z (t).  
2. Sh and s both sound like s.  
3. Ch and c both sound like c (ts)  
4. Syllabic initial r will usually change, often to x or y.  
5. The syllabic final -en tends to become -en.  
6. The syllabic final -ing tends to become -in.

7. Ancient Chinese once had a high and low entering tone that Beijing no longer has. Words in these tones usually ended with a short vowel followed by a -k, -p, -t, or glottal stop. In Beijing, words once of the high tone have all lost these final consonants and the preceding vowel has often changed. In Beijing, these entering-tone words are now uttered in all of Beijing’s other tones. Most non-Mandarin dialects, however, have kept this tone. In southern and southwestern Mandarin dialects, all that remains of this tone is that the entering-tone words tend to become a low-falling or a low-level tone. In most southeastern Mandarin-speaking areas, the entering tone remains in existence and is frequently heard as a short high tone ending in a glottal stop.

I have brought this up because many of the Mandarin speakers and listeners I frequently encounter have strong non-Standard accents. In this country you are likely to encounter Mandarin speakers that will sometimes betray their native accents in their speech.

Government & Politics

The People’s Republic of China celebrates the 70th anniversary of its founding this year

By Greg Hugh

So just like all Americans celebrate their nation’s Independence Day on July 4, the Chinese partake in annual national birthday celebrations on October 1 and this year the PRC will be 70 years old.

Learning more history of a country demonstrates wisdom. Certainly, many Westerners have some familiarity with Chairman Mao, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and China’s current President Xi Jinping, but people should start digging into how the CPC came into power so that we can understand why many Chinese continue to support the present-day leadership.

During China’s civil war (1945-1949) and earlier when the Japanese military invaded the country during World War II, Chinese citizens were at one of their lowest points in history and little hopes of success. It seemed as if China’s civilization would vanish, never to rise again, but the Chinese refused to surrender and because of a spirit of perseverance, today’s China has emerged to become the world’s most populous nation, second-largest economy and one of the most influential countries in diplomatic circles. There are amazing achievements in the short span of 70 years. However, is China at crossroads? Are limits of its Party-led model showing?

To be sure, when it celebrates later this year the 70th anniversary of its communist “revolution,” China can truly be proud of its remarkable achievements. An impoverished, backward nation in 1949, it has risen dramatically and now commands respect and awe in the world.

China is today the world’s largest, strongest and longest-surviving autocracy. This is a country increasingly oriented to the primacy of the Communist Party. But here’s the paradox: The more it globalizes while seeking to simultaneously insulate itself from liberalizing influences, the more vulnerable it is becoming to unforeseen political “shocks” at home. The most recent are the protests taking place in Hong Kong. It is not the intent of this writer to chronicle the history of China’s development over the years nor approve or disapprove of its methods, but rather simply to note that the international factors that aided China’s rise are eroding. The changing international environment also holds important implications for China domestically, including the Communist Party monopoly on power. Xi Jinping, who in October 2017 ended the decades-old collective leadership system to crown himself China’s new emperor, now no longer looks invincible.

Historian Paul Cohen has described the PRC as “an emotional bridge between present and past,” which the CCP has continually exploited to inspire nationalistic loyalty as capitalism and globalization brought dramatic change to China.”

Might the CCP’s iron grip on history impede its ability to learn from past mistakes? It’s certainly possible, but the Party has always been an astute student of history, conducting sober historical research to glean insights on how to fortify its rule. The Party’s monopolization of force and discourse also means it is well prepared to do whatever is required to ensure the “harmonious” passage of anniversaries—between 1998 and 2014, political detentions more than doubled during significant months in the “dissident calendar.”

In October, the CCP will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the PRC with a once-a-decade “major celebration,” including a military parade on Tiananmen Square. The tragedy is that the more Beijing controls the Party’s iron grip on history, the less potential this history has to shape Chinese politics, because the public is inoculated from all but state-approved memories. In China, anniversaries are increasingly ceremonial affairs, stripped of their subversive potential.

In any respect, we congratulate the PRC on its 70th anniversary celebration.◆
This month, in addition to looking at ways to indicate possession and give simple descriptions, I will also present information on regional accents (page 4). Since language is fluid and regional variations do creep in to daily use and can be heard in many Chinese movies, I will try to include these as well, especially those Beijing variations.

### Pronunciation reminders

This system follows Chinese Pinyin with the exception that the letter “u,” which has two pronunciations. Sometimes it has the value of ü (“ee” as in see with rounded lips). At those times we use the symbol “ü” instead of Pinyin “ü.” In making this sound, it is most important that the vowel more resembles an “ee” sound and definitely not sounding like a “oo” sound as in “moon.”

#### English Pinyin Chinese characters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>short in stature</td>
<td>矮</td>
<td>ài</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>short in length</td>
<td>短</td>
<td>duǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not</td>
<td>了</td>
<td>le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive suffix added to nouns and pronouns to indicate possession</td>
<td>的</td>
<td>de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tall, high</td>
<td>高</td>
<td>gāo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy, pleased</td>
<td>高兴</td>
<td>gāoxìng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very</td>
<td>这</td>
<td>zhè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tired</td>
<td>累</td>
<td>lèi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sad, depressed</td>
<td>伤心</td>
<td>nán-guò</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friend</td>
<td>朋友</td>
<td>péngyŏu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractive, good-looking, beautiful</td>
<td>漂亮</td>
<td>piàoliang</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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à</td>
<td>High level pitch (55)</td>
<td>Regarding Tone à 1. when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone ă becomes tone à. Thus “hén hào” (very good) changes to “hén hăo”. 2. occurring directly before any other tone, Tone à will change to a mid-falling tone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>á</td>
<td>Mid-Rising Tone (35)</td>
<td>Regarding Tone à When occurring before another à tone The first tone à reduces its fall to 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ă</td>
<td>Dipping (213)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ă</td>
<td>An unstressed neutral tone. Following other syllables, syllables in this tone tend to be slightly lower than of the previous syllable. The tone exception is when it occurs after tone à when the neutral tone is often slightly higher.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### English Pinyin Chinese characters

| My money | 我的钱 | wǒde qiánbǐ |
| Your (sing.) money | 你的钱 | nǐde qiánbǐ |
| His money | 他的钱 | tāde qiánbǐ |
| Our money | 我们的钱 | wǒmen de qiánbǐ |
| Your (plural) money | 你们的钱 | nǐmen de qiánbǐ |
| Their money | 他们的钱 | tāmen de qiánbǐ |
| Whose money? | 谁的钱 | shéi de qiánbǐ |

When talking about family members and friends, the word ‘de’ is usually omitted.

| My father | 我父亲 | wǒ fùqīn |
| Your mother | 你母亲 | nǐ mǔqīn |
| His brother | 他哥哥 | tā gēge |
| Her younger brother | 她弟弟 | tā diđi |
| Our older sister | 我们姐姐 | wǒmen jiějì |
| Your (plural) Younger sister | 你们妹妹 | nǐmen méimié |
| Their friends | 他们朋友 | tāmén péngyŏu |
| Whose younger sister? | 谁的妹妹 | shéi de méimié |

This is how to indicate possession:

| My money | 我的钱 | wǒde qiánbǐ |
| Your (sing.) money | 你的钱 | nǐde qiánbǐ |
| His money | 他的钱 | tāde qiánbǐ |
| Our money | 我们的钱 | wǒmen de qiánbǐ |
| Your (plural) money | 你们的钱 | nǐmen de qiánbǐ |
| Their money | 他们的钱 | tāmen de qiánbǐ |
| Whose money? | 谁的钱 | shéi de qiánbǐ |

### 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 résumé to Greg Hugh at ghugh@chinainsight.info or call 612-723-4872

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**About Pat Welsh**

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welsh 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.
Hong Kong is not China, right or wrong?

By Elaine Dunn

Protesters inside the Hong Kong International airport on Aug. 12, 2019.

The answer to that million-dollar question is not black and white. As the saying goes, “It’s complicated.”

Unless you’ve been living under a rock in a deep well, you would have been made aware of the Hong Kong protests in national and local media.

Where, when and how will these protests end? Will they hasten Hong Kong’s demise? Or will the million-strong protesters stave off Beijing’s power grab?

Whether we side with the pro-democracy protesters or the pro-Beijing camp, we have to admit there are differences in the way things were run in the past and now, and how things will be.

So, is Hong Kong China?

Hong Kong was ceded to the British by the Chinese as a result of being defeated in the two Opium Wars in the 1800s (1839-1842 and, again, 1856-1860). It was handed back to the Chinese in 1997 under the agreement the former British colony would enjoy another 50 years of autonomy and to be known as a Special Administrative Region (SAR). This is where China’s “One country, two systems” come into play. Hong Kong will retain its own currency, legal system (completely distinct from Beijing’s and is based on British common law) and parliamentary system until 2047. The official languages are English and Cantonese, as opposed to mainland’s Mandarin.

Culturally, too, there are differences. Hong Kong may maintain Chinese traditions and observe the many cultural festivities, its exposure to international media and influences make its citizens take on a much more metropolitan view and ideology than the Chinese in the mainland, who have known nothing but Communist rule.

In 2015, a Hong Kong designer posted a series of “Hong Kong is not China” illustrations on Facebook depicting the differences between Hong Kong and China in terms of cultural habits, socio-political, censorship, judicial structures, etc. with the purpose of telling the world how Hong Kongers differ from the Chinese mainlanders and to “Mourn the fact that Hong Kong has been ‘colonized’ by mainland China.” Albeit some may be tongue-in-cheek, differences, real or perceived, are there. Following are some illustrations from the series.

Continues on page 7
Huawei launches own AI computing framework

Source: Ma Si, China Daily, Aug. 23, 2019

Huawei Technologies Co officially launched its own computing framework for artificial intelligence on Friday, as the Chinese tech giant aims to develop a better alternative to Google’s TensorFlow platform amid US government restrictions.

The company also announced the commercialization of Ascend 910, an AI chip Huawei called the world’s most powerful AI processor and one which can outperform the U.S.-based NVIDIA in terms of speed.

The moves represent crucial efforts by Huawei to build a full, all-scenario AI portfolio and make AI more pervasive and accessible. They are also designed to beef up Huawei’s in-house research and development capabilities, as Washington’s ban on the company continues.

Xu Zhijun, the rotating chairman of Huawei, said AI computing frameworks are critical to making AI application development easier, making AI applications more pervasive and accessible, and ensuring privacy protection.

“But so far, we have not seen a framework that is adaptable to all scenarios, across all devices, edges, and cloud environments, and that provides on-demand cooperation between them. That is why we launched the MindSpore AI framework,” Xu said.

According to him, MindSpore will go open source in the first quarter of 2020, and he hopes that this framework will help software developers build advanced AI applications with ease and train their models more quickly.

Washington at first put Huawei on the Entity List in May, banning it from buying and accessing technologies originating in the U.S. without special government approval.

No said the ban has had no impact on the company’s AI strategy and business at all.

Currently, Google’s TensorFlow is widely used by Chinese software developers to build AI applications and it has a relatively vibrant ecosystem in China.

Xu said, “The biggest challenge for MindSpore is whether we can build a vibrant ecosystem. Our edge lies in our large number of smart devices and strong computing power. The framework coupled with our own AI chip series can greatly boost efficiency and help software developers build advanced AI applications with ease,” Xu added.

Huawei also said that whether the AI market can really boom depends on whether traditional sectors are willing to adopt AI in scale. Currently, the application of AI is still in its infancy, thus offering an opportunity for Huawei to build its own ecosystem.

Counting the casualties of trade wars

Ninth District states have seen exports dip in 2019

Source: Tu-Uyen Tran | Senior Writer, FedGazette, July 11, 2019

Soybeans, car parts, pork, adhesive films and tapes, combine harvesters, paper towels. These were some of the biggest losers in Ninth District states (Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin) as exports took a hit earlier this year.

Half the states in the Minneapolis Fed’s six-state region managed to continue growing their exports in 2018, the year trade wars with America’s top trade partners began, according to U.S. Department of Commerce statistics. But, in the first four months of 2019, all the states saw exports drop compared with the same months in 2018.

North Dakota got hit the hardest, followed by South Dakota. Minnesota had the lowest impact but still saw exports shrink 1 percent (biggest losers were soybeans).

While Commerce Department statistics can be misleading at the state level and it’s difficult to establish cause and effect, retaliatory tariffs imposed by China, Canada, the European Union, and Mexico did seem to make a difference. In each market embroiled in a trade war, exports targeted by retaliatory tariffs generally saw bigger decreases than other exports.

Gabrielle Gerbau, executive director at the Minnesota Trade Office, said the impact of tariffs in 2018 was probably muted by the fact that they weren’t imposed until at least halfway through the year, leaving plenty of time for last minute deals. “We saw a real increase in Q1 and Q2 [2018] of trade and export to China,” she said.

Though China looms large in headlines, Commerce Department data show that it ranks no higher than fourth among major export markets for states in the Minneapolis Fed region, trailing behind Canada, Mexico, and the European Union. Minnesota, which has the most exposure to China among the states, sends only 10 percent of its exports to that country; it sends twice that amount each to Canada and Mexico.

As of early July, the trade war with China has lifted, that with Mexico is on pause, and that with the EU seems set to intensify. The trade war with China has, for now, not gotten worse, but there are growing fears of a new norm for businesses.

Despite the breadth of China’s retaliatory tariffs — Chinese tariffs targeted nearly 6,100 categories of goods, while Canadian tariffs targeted about 220 — their impact was less severe in the Ninth District in 2018 than across the nation. Exports to China from district states were down 2 percent in 2018 and 12 percent in 2019. These official statistics, because they don’t reflect the true size of soybean exports to China, may significantly underestimate the actual decline in trade.

U.S. exports to China were down 10 percent in 2018 and 22 percent in 2019.

Gerbau cautioned that it’s too soon to tell what the long-term impact of the trade war will be because it often takes a while for the economy to change course. Right now, it’s more businesses lacking the confidence to move forward, she said. “The uncertainty is always what is slowing down any potential future export or trade.”

Hong Kong is not China, right or wrong?

Continued from page 6

The proposed extradition bill that caused one in seven Hong Kong residents to march in protest was only a catalyst that ignited the unfinished business from the 2014 Umbrella Movement. The more Beijing tightens the noose around Hong Kong, the more Hong Kongers will fight to preserve their unique identity and distance from China. To them, freedom is more than just another word.
Destinations to scare yourself silly

By Elaine Dunn

There are people who travel thousands of miles and pay big bucks to have the scare of their lives. If you are one of them, then seriously consider visiting China to get your fright fix! It’s a lot more than a roller coaster ride, too.

China has been constructing some of the world’s tallest, longest and highest glass-bottomed structures in the world. The trend for fear-inducing glass-bottomed structures as destination points has been rising in China. Their appeal? According to architect Keith Brownlie in an interview with BBC, he said, “These structures tread the boundary between those two contrasting senses and people like to challenge their rational mind in relation to their irrational fear.”

Since it’s probably impossible to visit all the 40-plus glass bridges and walkways in China, all of them built in marvelous scenic areas, consider visiting the following five glass-bottomed bridges to scare yourself silly:

Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge: world’s highest glass-bottomed bridge

This bridge is 1411 feet long, 10-plus feet wide and 984 feet high and provides its visitors a striking view. Its steel frame is supported by four pillars on the edges of the canyon. The walkway has three layers of more than 120 glass panels, each of 2-inch thick tempered glass. To prove its strength and safety, a car filled with passengers was driven across the bridge during opening promotions. The Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge connects the two sides of the Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon in Hunan Province, the filming location of the popular movie “Avatar.”

Hongyagu Glass Suspension Bridge

Located at Hongyagu Scenic Area in Hebei Province, this 1,600-ft. long and 13-ft.-wide glass bridge is suspended by cables 715 feet above ground. It opened to the public on Dec 24, 2017. The bridge is made up of 1,077 1.5-in. thick glass panels and can accommodate up to 600 people at a time. It has a vertical drop of 715 feet and its sway from the suspension cables is a thrill feature for its visitors.

The first 3D glass bridge in Ningxia

How about walking onto a glass cantilevered bridge that ends in midair? The horseshoe-shaped Yunyang Longgang Glass Bridge is located in the municipality of Chongqing, in the heart of the Three Gorges Reservoir area. It was built in 2015 and has an 85-ft. overhang (17.5 feet longer than the Colorado Grand Canyon Skywalk). It is 2,355 feet above the Shisun River.

The first suspension glass bridge in Luizhou, Guangxi Province

Considered the most beautiful, this glass bridge in China’s southeast Guangxi Province spans the Shuanglong Ditch Primeval Forest. It is close to 660 feet long and sways – yes, it moves under your feet as you walk across it – 170 feet in the air above the dense virgin forest below.

Pingjiang Shiniuzhai glass bridge in Hunan

Nearly 600 feet above the ground, the all-glass suspension bridge connects the peak of the Shiniuzhai Geopark to Stone Buddha Mountain. It is 984 feet long and is one of the first high bridges converted from wood to glass in 2014. Are all the bridges beginning to look alike? Don’t despair. There are other glass-bottomed structures to visit, such as:

Yunyang Longgang Glass Bridge: world’s longest overhang glass bridge in Chongqing

During its construction, an idea for another cantilevered skywalk was conceived: the longest in the world (until the next one comes along, that is)! The result is the A-shaped cantilevered bridge also in Chongqing municipality. It was opened to the public on April 1, 2017, and extends 292 feet from the cliff wall close to 660 feet above ground level. Only 30 people can be on it at any given time.

Cantilevered structures not your thing? Not to worry. How about a glass-bottomed walkway that hugs the side of a mountain or urban skyscraper? There are many of those in China also.

Skywalk in National Mine Park, Tongren city, Guizhou Province

Opened in October 2015, this 3,300 feet long and 5 feet wide glass walkway is the first such structure in Guizhou Province. It connects wooden sections that had been in place before and stands close to 330 feet above the valley below.

Jin Mao Tower, Shanghai, glass ledge

In July 2016, the Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai opened its glass walkway to visitors. This walkway has no handrails. Instead, visitors have to don safety harnesses attached to an overhead rail along the 200-ft. long walkway off the 88th floor observation deck that’s approximately 1,115 feet off the ground. Only 15 visitors are allowed on the walkway at a time, accompanied by two safety personnel.

How safe are these structures? So far, there have been no real serious issues. There have been incidents of glass panels cracking. However, since there are multiple layers of glass, there was never any real danger. In fact, there have been publicity stunts the sound of cracking glass is piped in to heighten the thrill / fear factor! Ready to go? ♦
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Moon Festival Celebration, Present Chongqing, Miao Cultural Performance 2019

In the Spirit of Chongqing City Show

Chongqing and MOA Minnesota Moon Festival Celebration
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1-6PM
Rotunda 7104 E Boardway, Bloomington, MN 55425

Diverse office of Chongqing Municipal People's Government Party Committee of the Tujia Autonomous County of Pongmu Miao Nationality, Alliance of Miao and Tujia Organisations, Empowering Among Women Inc., Overseas Chinese Education Center of Minnesota, United Vic Group of Minnesota

Mai Shua
The Minnesota Chapter of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association will host the 27th National Convention

Forty Years and Beyond: Friendship, Successes, and Challenges

October 18–20, 2019
Airport Hilton
3900 American Blvd., Bloomington

Convention attendees will participate in national USCPFA business meetings, attend lectures, presentations, and a gala dinner (watch “40 Videos for 40 Years” project), and a field trip to the newly constructed St. Paul–Changsha Chinese Friendship Garden as well as the world-class Asian art collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. A delegation from Minneapolis’ Sister City, Harbin, China, is expected to attend along with other local, state and international guests.

The convention is for USCPFA members only. Not a member yet? Join in now and be eligible immediately. A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For complete detail visit https://uscpfa-mn.org/ or scan bar code

Event is presented in collaboration with the Midwest Region and the national leadership of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association.

Cultural Community Partnership grant application deadline is Sept. 13

The Cultural Community Partnership grant program, designed to enhance the careers of individual artists of color and indigenous artists, is accepting grant applications now until Friday, Sept. 13, 4:30 p.m.

Proposed projects must take place between March 1, 2020, and Feb. 28, 2021. Those considering a first-time application are urged to review the program’s overview and application instructions, and speak with program officer Sherrie Fernandez-Williams prior to beginning an application. She can be reached at (651) 539-2672, toll-free at (800) 866-2787, or via e-mail at sherrie.fernandez-williams@arts.state.mn.us.

The Arts Board uses WebGrants, an online grants management system, for all applications. Registration is required of all applicants before beginning an application to any Arts Board program. It is only necessary to register once. To register, visit the Arts Board Web site, arts.state.mn.us. Scroll down the home page to WebGrants instructions and registration information.

Applications Open for Governor’s International Trade Awards

SAINT PAUL – The Minnesota Trade Office, at the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), is accepting nominations for the 33rd Annual Governor’s International Trade Awards.

The Governor’s International Trade Awards honor Minnesota companies that have shown exceptional progress and success in foreign markets. In addition to honoring individual recipients, the award recognizes the tremendous positive impact that exports and trade have on the state’s overall economy.

“Last year, Minnesota businesses exported a record-high $23 billion worth of goods to countries all over the world,” said Governor Tim Walz. “I am thrilled to recognize Minnesota businesses with an eye on the international marketplace.”

“Minnesota exports support nearly 118,000 jobs statewide,” said DEED Commissioner Steve Grove. “The work done by the Minnesota Trade Office ensures that any business in Minnesota, regardless of size, can compete internationally.”

Nominations for the Governor’s International Trade Awards will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 13, 2019. Recipients will be recognized at an awards ceremony on Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Additional information, as well as nomination instructions, can be found on the DEED website. (mn.gov/deed).

Cost: $35 (includes light breakfast)

Register at minnesotachinabusinesscouncil.org/eventregistration

Speakers will address the current U.S.-China trade environment and will help business leaders devise global trade strategies accordingly. Attendees will have an opportunity to network before and after the presentation.

The event is presented in collaboration with Fredrikson & Byron.
Pulling up the welcome mat: America is becoming a less welcoming place for many Chinese nationals

Source: James Catchin, U.S.-China Today, December 17, 2018

U.S. President Donald Trump’s controversial immigration policy has been making headlines since he announced his candidacy in 2016. While his harshest rhetoric has been directed against Mexico, the policy has also taken an increasingly aggressive stance on Chinese nationals in America. During one August closed-door discussion, in the context of diaspora on China, he reportedly told a group of business leaders that, “almost every student that comes over to this country is a spy.”

But nearly two years into Donald Trump’s presidency, how much has really changed for Chinese students trying to get U.S. visas and green cards?

Quite a bit according to Albert Lum, 84, founder of the Lum Law Group and an immigration attorney for the last 53 years. “The current administration is across all the agencies handling immigration,” Lum said. “I’ve lost more [immigration] cases in the last year than I have in the last 10 years.”

Lum said he has noticed much greater scrutiny on U.S. green card applications and less willingness to work with people to resolve potential issues. Particularly when the applicant’s case rests largely on humanitarian grounds.

“There’s a lot less consideration of individuality” said Lum. “They’re expecting people to be able to fully support themselves before they arrive in the country.”

Lum said that even marriage cases, in which someone applies for a green card by virtue of their marriage to a U.S. citizen, have become a much more intensive process. Nearly every aspect of a couple’s relationship is now scrutinized to determine if their union is genuine.

“I’ve been in hundreds of these over the last 55 years and I can tell you that the level of detail is substantially different,” said Lum, speaking of the interviews required of marriage green card applicants. “We’re even looking through their cell phones now to see how much they [the spouses] have been communicating with each other.”

Tsung Hsi Liu, an immigration attorney in San Gabriel, said he has noticed similarly increased levels of scrutiny, as well as longer interviews. “There’s a lot less consideration of individuality, it’s now scrutinized to determine if their union is genuine.”

The nationwide backlog of immigration court cases is currently at an all-time high of over 750,000, according to data from the Transactional Records Clearinghouse. The courts handle cases for foreign asylees, non-U.S.-citizens applying for green cards, and have moved past that hurdle, it’s often far exceeds the U.S.’s yearly quota, and have moved past that hurdle, it’s often far exceeds the U.S.’s yearly quota, and have moved past that hurdle, it’s often far exceeds the U.S.’s yearly quota, and have moved past that hurdle, it’s often far exceeds the U.S.’s yearly quota. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign had the highest number of Chinese students in the United States. Last year, the university took out a $424,000 insurance policy to be “triggered” in the event that Chinese enrollment in the school’s business and engineering colleges were to drop by more than 20 percent in a single year. The policy stipulates certain events, such as tightening visa restrictions, which may prompt a decline in enrollment and a payout of $60 million.

The University of Southern California (USC) ranked second in number of Chinese students hosted, according to the Foreign Policy analysis. Kevin Hostetler, lead policy analyst for the Transactional Records Clearinghouse. The nationwide backlog of immigration court cases is currently at an all-time high of over 750,000, according to data from the Transactional Records Clearinghouse. These courts handle cases for foreign asylees, non-U.S.-citizens applying for green cards. In response to this backlog, the Trump administration has placed quotas on immigration judges. The new rules, which took effect on Oct. 1, require judges to handle 700 cases per year in order to receive a “satisfactory” rating on their performance evaluations.

Cao was allowed to work in the U.S. for more than two years after graduation without a skilled worker visa. This was thanks to an extended OPT period provided to graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related (STEM) fields. While all students are available for OPT following their graduation, the length of this allowance can be doubled for STEM majors.

Some Chinese graduate students are already facing pre-graduation restrictions. In June of 2018, the U.S. Department of State cut the length of visas for Chinese science and technology workers in high-tech manufacturing, aviation and robotics from five years to one. These changes were first signaled in the Trump administration’s December 2017 National Security Strategy, which stated that the U.S. would look to tighten visa procedures to, “reduce economic theft by non-traditional intelligence collectors.”

The administration is reportedly considering further restrictions and additional vetting procedures on all Chinese students in the near future. Investigating student’s phone records and personal U.S. and Chinese social media accounts prior to enrollment is some of the newest possibilities according to a Reuters citing U.S. government and university sources.

A September 2018 change to U.S. immigration policy has made it easier for government agencies to deny new visa applicants. The official memorandum from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security removes requirements for agencies to provide notice or request additional information before denial. Tsung Hsi Liu said that the new policy has meant that all document-seekers must now be extremely careful when filling immigration applications, as they stand a much greater chance of immediate rejection.

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It is a move which Judge Ashley Tabaddor said that, while his school has not noticed any negative things about China in the media, I haven’t personally noticed much change,” said Cao.

Cao is part of a select group who, through a combination of skill and luck, have been largely unaffected by the U.S. government’s new stance on immigration.

Cao was allowed to work in the U.S. for more than two years after graduation without a skilled worker visa. This was thanks to an extended OPT period provided to graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related (STEM) fields. While all students are available for OPT following their graduation, the length of this allowance can be doubled for STEM majors.

Cao’s case may have also benefited from the timing of her original student-visa application. Cao’s student-visa and two-year OPT, the former of which predated Donald Trump’s presidency, allowed her to build a successful immigration record in the U.S.

“Once you have an established history and have moved past that hurdle, it’s often easier to continue to the next stages,” said Tabaddor.

Yet even skilled workers in technology fields like Cao may face issues in the near future, according to Albert Lum.

“They’ve been talking about cutting back the number of people in the technology industry that can get in,” Lum said. “A lot of it is related to the number of technology workers that are coming in from India. They’re saying they want those jobs to go to Americans.”

Lum said that the current environment is one of the strictest he has seen since he began practicing immigration law in 1963.

“I don’t think you should let everyone in,” said Lum. “But you’ve got to find a good balance, and I thought we were doing that pretty well.”

“Although you see a lot on Trump saying negative things about China in the media, I haven’t personally noticed much change,” said Cao.

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The 2020 Census matters for Asian Pacific Islander communities

By Jocelyn Lui

Every 10 years, the federal government is legally required to count every person living in the country, regardless of citizenship status, as part of the U.S. Census. Certain populations, however, are more likely than others to be missed. This includes Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, people with limited English proficiency, people with low incomes, and young children. AAPIs have been undercounted for decades, putting our families, communities, and neighborhoods at a disadvantage, with impacts to AAPI communities’ access to needed healthcare and quality education. Census data is used to determine federal funding for educational, Medicaid, Medicare and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. It is used to determine federal funding for educational programs, including support for low-income students, bilingual language programs, and school lunches.

Undercounting also impacts our democracy and ability to have a full voice in policy and decision-making, including federal funding allocations. Census data is used to determine where limited English speaking voters can access translated ballots, a right guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act. (State Fact Sheets. https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/census).

In January 2019, a U.S. Census Bureau study reported alarming findings on the perceptions and barriers related to the 2020 Census, most prominently, that Asian Americans were least likely of any racial group to report that they intended to complete the form. Widespread community concerns are that without substantial investments in census outreach specific to AAPIs, we will see a massive undercount of our communities (Ramakrishnan, K, & Wong, J 2019, January 29. www.aapidata.com/blog).

The ACRS Civic Engagement team began work on the census in 2018, joining other organizations in a multi-racial coalition that would become the statewide Washington Census Alliance. Much of the coalition work is currently engaged in ensuring there is adequate funding from both private and public sources, including the state government, to ensure that communities of color are counted. On top of the historical barriers to census participation, communities will need even more resources for outreach and education to overcome recent changes to the census that further threaten a complete and accurate count for AAPIs. These new challenges pose serious barriers to community participation, including the move to online collection and the prospect of a citizenship question.

As many of our community members have heard, the Department of Justice requested that the Census Bureau include a citizenship question on the 2020 Decennial Census, and advocates across the nation have argued about how this could lead to a massive undercount. In response, lawsuits have been filed in multiple states against Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and the Department of Commerce. No matter the outcome, the concern about the citizenship question is widespread and in many ways, the damage has been done.

Lastly, as of this writing, we are still awaiting more implementation details from the Census Bureau, particularly regarding the online system. Unfortunately, with a census launch date of April 1, 2020, there is no time to spare. ACRS is working with local and national partners to develop and launch tools for community outreach and education so that our communities can be well informed about the census and their choice to participate.

In addition to census planning, the year presents exciting challenges for the Civic Engagement Program. Much of the work is building on legislative policy changes, growing coalition work, and momentum on voter engagement with goals of seeing increased turnout by AAPIs in Washington state.

• Work with the Voting Justice Coalition on the implementation of new voting access policies that go into effect this year: Same-day Voter Registration; 16- and 17-year-old Pre-Registration; Automatic Voter Registration; and the WA Voting Rights Act.

• Non-partisan Get Out the Vote (GOTV) alongside statewide AAPI partners work on key municipal and county elections across the state, including several city council positions in Seattle (7), Tacoma (2), Everett (4), Yakima (4), Spokane (4 plus Mayor), and Olympia (2).

• Engage with multi-racial coalitions – Front & Centered, Salish Sea Collective, WA Immigrant Solidarity Network, and Washington Census Alliance – on issues important to our communities, including climate justice, clean water, immigrant rights, voter access, and the census.

• Work with local and national partners on building capacity for year-round community voter engagement, including access to leadership and community training, issues education, listening sessions, and effective communication to ensure communities are informed on the issues important to our communities.

There’s much to do, and we can’t do it all without your help. Every person’s effort counts. Outreach or organize non-partisan GOTV ballot parties and phone banks, share critical information about the upcoming census, or help us translate information and fact sheets so more of our community members are informed.

Jocelyn Lui is the Projects Director for ACRS (Asian Counseling and Referral Service).

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Chinese-American WWII Vets eligible for Congressional Gold Medal

By Jim Absher, Military.com, May 2019

The Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project is seeking Chinese veterans of World War II and their families who wish to be recognized with the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal.

Some 20,000 Chinese-American veterans of World War II are eligible to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony this fall in Washington, D.C.

The Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act Project recognizes the hardships and heroism of Chinese-American troops during WWII and authorizes the medal.

Nearly 1 in 4 Chinese-American people served during the war, despite 40% of them being non-citizens as a result of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which prevented their citizenship, and encouraged discrimination.

Unlike other ethnic groups like the Native American Code Talkers or the Tuskegee Airmen, Chinese-American troops didn’t serve in their own units but were integrated into the general military population. Like other non-white ethnic groups at the time, they faced personal and institutionalized discrimination on a regular basis.

Chinese-American troops served in all branches of the military and in all theaters of operation. One was Army Capt. Francis B Wai, who in 2000 was posthumously awarded a Medal of Honor for his wartime actions. Several Chinese-American troops served in the internationally famous Flying Tigers, which wasn’t officially recognized as a military operation until 1992.

To recognize their commitment to their nation, the hardships they faced and their lack of recognition, Congress passed a law authorizing issuance of a medal to all Chinese-Americans who honorably served at any time between Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946.

The medal will be issued to the Smithsonian Institution which will display it and educate the public on the wartime history and experience of Chinese-American service members. Replica medals will be given to all eligible service members and their families.

The replicas will be paid for and provided by the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project. Replicas will also be available for sale to the general public by the U.S. Mint.

There will be a ceremony in Washington, D.C. this fall to award the medal to surviving veterans and, in their name, to the families of those who have passed.

Of the 20,000 Chinese-Americans who served during the war, only 1,000 have signed up to receive the award in recognition of their service. The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project, which is also accepting donations to provide replica medals, is actively seeking those who are eligible for the medal and accepting applications.

See their website https://www.caww2.org for more details and to apply for this long-overdue recognition.

Note: Additional details about the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese Americans of World War II can also be found at www.chinainsight.info.
At the end of a network of quiet alleys just to the east of Beijing Railway Station sits Kuijiachang Hutong—Armor Factory Alley. Few stumble across it; you have to search it out. Imperial times, as the name suggests, this was an area dedicated to the manufacture of munitions and the paraphernalia of war. It is not stretching the historical association too far, I hope, to link the street’s former purpose to the explosive potential of a work of journalism completed on this hutong in the 1930s, for few could dispute the international impact made by Edgar Snow’s 1937 work of reportage, Red Star over China.

This account of Snow’s remarkable stay with the communist forces at Yan’an—the military and political base they established at the end of the Long March—offered detailed and flattering portraits of the CCP leadership, including Mao Zedong. It set up the communists as plucky underdogs, dedicated to lifting the Chinese masses out of feudal oppression. Red Star over China was a surprise international bestseller; it was this book, more than any other, that created the romanticized image of the “cooperative, self-reliant Communist utopia” of Yan’an, inspiring international fellow travelers and burningish the CCP’s image at home.

Mao and the party leadership had exercised careful control over Snow’s visits. Julia Lovell, who foregrounds Snow’s story in an early chapter of Maoism: A Global History, recounts that every one of the 20,000 words transcribed by Snow in the course of his conversations with Mao had undergone a rigorous process of transcription, editing and re-translation by Mao and his underlings. This was the price of access, but the book which emerged from the now-destroyed courtyard house on Armour Factory Alley bears much responsibility for the perceptions of Mao—and Maoism—which were so prevalent internationally in the early decades of his rule.

What, though, is Maoism? In some ways, it was in its global heyday the political equivalent of a Rorschach test; revolutionaries and intellectuals saw in it what they wanted to see. The restrictions on accurate factual accounts of Mao’s rule coming out of China meant that these interpretations were rarely challenged by the stark brutality and unpredictability of real life under the Great Helmsman.

Even now, with a wealth of historical information on Mao’s rule, one is confronted with the reality that Maoism as practiced by Mao was mutable, unstable: the Maoism of the civil war years was quite different to that of the Cultural Revolution.

This account of Snow’s remarkable stay begins by using Mao’s own words to try to establish China as a global leader. For Lovell, a masterful and hugely ambitious global history of Maoism, Julia Lovell begins by using Mao’s own words to try to triangulate a definition of the term. Common themes emerge: violence is laudable; claims to acting for and with “the people” essential; contradiction part of its intellectual bedrock. She quotes the scholar Christophe Bergeron’s saying that with Maoism: “What began as an opinion or an idea has become a new symbol of love and pride for Hong Kong. It represents the struggle of the people, the fighting spirit, and the spirit of the Hong Kong people.”

“Skin in the game” takes on a whole new meaning, quite literally, when it comes to the Hong Kong protesters.

What began with the extradition bill and was further inflamed by the violent police response, many protesters have gone under the inked needle to commit the protest experience to memory permanently, and to show their support for the cause. The bleeding eye represents the protest. Hong Kong’s emblem.

Authors: Julia Lovell
Publisher: Knopf
Publication date: September 2019
Softcover: 624 pages

Lovell was born in 1975 and has spent long periods in China. Her curiosity about China was sparked by a book her mother gave her, “Wild Swans” by Jung Chang. She studied modern Chinese history at Cambridge and is now Professor of Modern China at Birkbeck College, University of London. She is the author of “The Great Wall” and “The Opium War,” which won the 2012 Jan Michalski Prize. Her many translations of modern Chinese fiction into English include “The Real Story of Ah Q and Other Tales of China.”


Reviewed by Jonathan Chatwin, Asian Review of Books, July 17, 2019

Skin in the game

By Elaine Dunn

Hong Kong’s emblem is the bauhinia flower. Normally colored red, many tattoos are now just black - to signify the troubles clouding the city.

The umbrella, the icon from the 2014 Umbrella Revolution, is a top-seller.

Leaves: Girl in a gas mask with tear gas floating around her.
Centennial celebration tribute to Fred Hsiao

By Greg Hugh

In honor of what would have been Fred Hsiao’s centennial birthday, the Hsiao family recently held a celebration at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum that was attended by more than 200 invited guests. Guests were encouraged to arrive early so that they could also visit the Chinese Garden of Harmonious Beauty for which Jennie and Fred Hsiao provided a generous lead gift.

For those of you who are not familiar with Fed Hsiao, he was known as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, Chinese community and business leader, sports fan, philanthropist and friend. He started Shaw Lundquist, one of the state’s first minority-owned construction firms. Hsiao was a well-respected pillar of the community and earned many awards from many business and community organizations, which was acknowledged by all of the presenters during the celebration.

The celebration began with welcoming and introductory remarks provided by Fred’s eldest son Howell (Shaw) with his wife Nina who provided Chinese translations. Zhichun Bian, Deputy Consul General of Chinese Consulate General in Chicago, delivered opening remarks about Hsiao’s illustrious life, career and contributions to the Chinese American community. Peter Moe, director of the arboretum spoke about the Hsiaos’ recent generous gift to the arboretum.

Guests were treated to a buffet dinner that was catered by the Tea House in St. Paul, which was quite unusual since the arboretum normally requires food served be handled by their own caterer. The exception was made as the Hsiaos wanted to serve their guests a very traditional Chinese buffet.

As dinner concluded, the Ha Family sisters sang several songs. There also were performances by David Hsiao (Fred’s second grandson) on the piano and Ellena Hsiao’s (Fred’s second granddaughter) gymnastics routine, followed by vocals from Meiqi Zhang, Rui Ye Duan, Wen Xin Chang and Li Lei.

Jennie Hsiao thanked everyone for attending and, in lieu of presents, suggested that donations be made to the arboretum’s Chinese Garden. However, the Hsiao family presented their guests with a 100-page booklet about Fred’s life: “A Life Well Lived: A Centennial Booklet of Life Tribute to Fred Hsiao.”

Ruth Stricker honored for lifelong contributions as a humanitarian

Ruth Stricker, humanitarian, wellness pioneer and international spokesperson for the mind-body connection was honored Aug. 9 at The Marsh with the presentation of an artistic life casting of her hands by renowned sculptor Don F. Wiegand. The life casts capture Ruth’s hands in the fluid movement of Tai Chi, symbolizing her roots, philosophy, and her life’s work dedicated to balance.

“It is an honor to celebrate Ruth Stricker and the extensive impact she has brought to humanity through her many and varied lifelong contributions. Life casting is a 7,000-year-old process used to honor and memorialize presidents, popes, and great leaders such as George H.W and Barbara Bush, as well as famous andunknown heroes throughout history. Unlike sculptures crafted to represent individuals, life casts are exact replicas of an individual’s iconic features. The life-casting process is both an artistic as well as a spiritual experience in which the person actually engages with the casting material and participates in the process that honors them.”

-Don F. Wiegand

With a global view, Stricker fully integrates Eastern and Western philosophies into her professional and personal life. In her words “the resiliency of the human spirit” makes it possible for us to find a sense of wellbeing in our lives … that our challenge is to be emotionally resilient and physically healthy to handle change and stress. Ruth and her late husband Bruce Dayton together have been very active in the community and around the world including the former Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China, supporting the fitness and spa industries, health education, medicine, mental health, the arts and culture. She generously lends support to groups, causes and hurting
Chinese seniors go on boat cruise

Neither thunder, rain nor wind could deter a determined group from the Chinese Senior Citizens Society from partaking of a cruise and lunch recently on the St. Croix River. Timing was everything since the rain stopped just as the group was boarding for the bus ride to the river and held off while they loaded onto the boat and finally cleared up for a very enjoyable cruise.

Minneapolis sister cities celebration

The City of Minneapolis recently celebrated more than 40 years of being part of the Sister Cities program. It celebrated all 12 of the Minneapolis Sister Cities with a free ice cream social at the Nicollet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis. This family event featured multicultural entertainment, children activities, ice cream and refreshments. U.S-China Peoples Friendship Association-MN Chapter organized guzheng performances by Jarrell Barton and Annelise Carlson to represent Harbin, China, a sister city of Minneapolis for more than 35 years.

U.S. Congressman Dean Philips meets with Chinese American business community

U.S. Representative Dean Phillips, (back row, 4th from left), recently invited a few members of the Chinese American business community for a meeting. During this meeting Phillips encouraged people to get involved and wanted to learn about issues that affect their community. The group expressed concerns about a variety of topics, including U.S.-China trade, immigration, EB5 Immigrant Investor Program, and profiling of Chinese citizens.

First visit to Minnesota by Chinese Consul General

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society (MCFGS) was honored to welcome Consul General Zhao Jian from the Chicago Chinese Consulate to the Ming Yuan-China Friendship Garden on his first visit to the state of Minnesota. In attendance were MCFGS board members, Advisory Group members and Hmong elders as Minn. Sen, Hawj presented the group with a Senate resolution recognizing the garden.

EPCA hosts dinner

Eden Prairie Chinese Association brought Chinese food to Tree House in Eden Prairie, a nonprofit with a mission to end hopelessness among teenagers by providing a safe and supportive environment. EPCA board members and volunteers served the students food, demonstrated Chinese calligraphy, and answered questions about China.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Host a Chinese student and make a difference...

As a host family you share American culture with a student from China and provide them more than they could learn in a classroom.

Learn about their culture, explore the differences and develop new connections.

Global Learning Alliance (GLA) is a Twin Cities based organization that serves as a facilitator to assist students from China that want to study in the United States. To ensure that the students obtain the best experience possible, GLA seeks to place the students with host families. The length of their stay could vary from a few months to a full school year and include high school and college students of both sexes.

Since we recognize that hosting a student from China may place a financial burden on some families, we will provide some financial reimbursement but expect a family to be a host because of the mutual cultural exchange that both will receive and not just the financial aspect.

While we are seeking host families in all parts the Twin Cities area, we are especially seeking families in Eden Prairie.

To learn more about being a host family, contact Richard He at 612-987-6540 or email, rhe@chinainsight.info.

CSCS celebrates Ming Tchou’s 95th birthday

On July 21, some 80 members of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society gathered together to celebrate the 95th birthday of founding member Ming Li Tchou (center). Led by David and Helen Fong, these members enthusiastically cooked up their favorite dishes for a festive potluck. There were soy sauce chicken, tea leaf eggs, sticky rice, sesame beef, noodles, steamed buns, sponge cake, bean cake, taro cake, dim sum, etc. Everything was lovingly made from scratch. Everyone had so much fun sharing food and catching up with Ming.

Following the buffet lunch there were many spontaneous performances of erhu, singing, karaoke, and of course singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to the birthday girl. Ming was overwhelmed by everyone’s good will and good wishes, and declared it was her best birthday ever!
Grand opening celebrations for Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters Garden at Lake Phalen

By Greg Hugh

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society (MCFGS) experienced an exhilarating weekend in July as they celebrated the grand opening of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willow and Flowing Waters at Phalen Regional Park in Saint Paul, Minn.

The celebration began with an evening banquet and award ceremony held at the historic St. Paul Hotel. It was completely sold out and attended by more than 300 guests, including Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, local and state representatives, a delegation of representatives from Saint Paul’s sister city, Changsha, Hunan Province, local Hmong elders and representatives from the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago.

The evening began with hors d’oeuvres, courtesy of United Home Healthcare; guzheng music by Annelise Carlson; and a silent auction. The elegantly decorated hall and silent auction display areas were meticulously arranged by Yin Simpson.

Prior to opening remarks was a qeej performance by Lang Thao. Mayor Carter then presented his remarks followed by Chinese Counselor Zhang, Kathryn Kyser, the Qu Yuan Poetry contest winner, then read her winning poem, “A Summer Stroll at the Pavilion.”

Also, the delegation from Changsha was recognized as they entered the banquet hall just before dinner was served, arriving directly from the airport.

The awards ceremony took place after dinner. The MCFGS recognized a number of individuals and groups who were instrumental in bringing the garden to reality. Donors who qualified as “Groundbreaker” donors also were recognized with certificates.

A video of the garden project followed the awards presentation along with Chinese music and a live auction as the celebration ended with winning bidders picking up their silent auction items that were donated by many generous supporters. The success of this event can be attributed to Romi Slowiak, MCFGS Board member and chair of the banquet committee, who summed up the evening by crediting all the members of the banquet committee for their tireless efforts and hard work.

Despite the tropical conditions, many of these same people along with hundreds of others, gathered the next morning at Phalen Park for the opening of the Dragon Festival and the ribbon cutting at the West Entrance Gate, which was made possible by a major donation from Ming Tchou, founder of the Chinese Heritage Foundation, to the Xiang Jiang Pavilion garden area. The day began as people gathered at the Lakeside Activity Center and after brief welcoming remarks, followed by the qeej performance, lion and dragon dances on a parade through the park, past the “Meditation” sculpture by Changsha stone master Lei Yixin, to the garden area.

Linda Mealy-Lohmann, president and co-founder of the MCFGS, welcomed the gathering as they assembled in front of the pavilion. Mealy-Lohmann introduced Saint Paul Mayor Carter who issued a Proclamation declaring July 13, 2019, as Changsha-Saint Paul Sister City Day! Next to speak were Changsha Government Vice Chair Li Ming Yuan, Chicago Consulate Min Zhang, Minn. Senator Foung Hawj, Senator Amy Klobuchar and Minn. Representative Betty McCollum, who were unable to attend, sent letters of congratulations and representatives.

The official program continued with a performance of the Qu Yuan story, another reading of the winning poem from the poetry contest, and dance performances by CAAM CDT and qeej dance performers with the ceremonial closing of Feeding of the Fish.

The Dragon Festival was quite a celebration for ending the grand opening of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters.

Complete details about the garden can be found at www.MNChinaGarden.org, or https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofthePhalenParkChinaFriendshipGarden.

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