What happened to Lucy?

Hmong women from the U.S. joined with their Changsha sisters circling around Nkauj Hmoob Lucy singing a blessing song for the sister-city relationship.

See page 9.

Community

Chinese Senior Citizens Society celebrates 34th Anniversary with banquet

By Greg Hugh

The Chinese Senior Citizens Society (CSCS) recently held its 34th Anniversary Banquet Celebration at the Peking Garden Restaurant in Saint Paul, Minn., that was attended by more than 200 members/guests.

The evening began with membership registration and social hour followed by a welcome from President Agnes Fok, annual report and introduction of the 2019-2020 CSCS Board of Directors. Then came the 2019 CSCS Senior Citizen Awards to Ms. Fong Oi Zhu and Mr. Mou Zhi Moy, followed by the 2019 Mulan Awards to Miss Mona Wong and Mrs. Yujie Chen.

The 13-course banquet began immediately following the awards. It was accompanied by entertainment and talent performances by CSCS members throughout the meal service along with drawings for door prizes donated by Peking Garden, Mandarin Kitchen, Hong Kong Noodle and Keefer Court. The grand prize this year was an iPad. ♦

Photos: Ben Fok
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

As the last leaves fall and we put away the patio furniture, we must now prepare for our most challenging season of the year… winter. As hearty Minnesotans, we try to convince ourselves that we actually enjoy the change of seasons as we transition with the arrival of football season and deer hunting. Soon we will celebrate Thanksgiving and, despite the many tragic situations in many parts of the world, we hope that you will nevertheless have cause to give thanks for all that you are able to enjoy.

In addition to Thanksgiving being celebrated in November in the U.S., we also observe Veterans Day, which occurs on November 11. This is the day we honor our military veterans and let them know that their service to our country is deeply appreciated. In other parts of the world, it may be celebrated as Armistice or Remembrance Day.

The Chinese American community is pleased that Chinese American Veterans of World War II are finally going to be recognized with a Congressional Gold Medal (article on page 14 on the preparations for the ceremony that will take place in the Spring of 2020). In addition, not to mention on page 5 is an article by retired Major General Bill Chen, U.S. Army, that recaps the storyline of the Chinese American World War II veterans.

As many of you know, Andrew Yang is a Chinese American running for president of the United States. At the end of October, Eden Prairie resident Jeff Jiang, has announced he is running for Minnesota Senator. Although China Insight has a policy not to endorse any political candidates, we are encouraged to see Chinese Americans becoming more involved in politics and hope our readers will give these candidates due consideration.

Also, please be aware of the November 17, 2019, deadline for applying to the Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM) for a student scholarship. Details on page 15. Do note this edition of China Insight is a combined November-December issue and that there will not be a separate edition published for December 2019. Thus, in addition to our best wishes for a great Thanksgiving holiday, all of us at China Insight wish you a joyous, prosperous and healthy holiday season.

We will resume our publishing schedule in January and we invite you to submit any events or announcements you wish to publicize. However, because of the holidays, deadline for the January 2020 issue will be Dec. 15, 2019.

Sincerely,

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

China Insight
China Insight is a Member of The
Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM) for a student scholarship. Details published for December 2019. Thus, in addition to our best wishes for a great Thanksgiving holiday, all of us at China Insight wish you a joyous, prosperous and healthy holiday season.

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President – CEO
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FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Entry Form

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

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

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Employment Sector __________ Employment Status __________

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Gender __________ Male __________ Female

Ethnicity __________ Asian __________ Caucasian __________ Hispanic

Employment Status __________ Ethnicity __________

Other (please specify) __________ Other (please specify) __________

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One entry per month. Please return entry to: China Insight 750 Mainstreet, #230, Hopkins, MN 55343

China Insight welcomes guest articles and letters to the editor. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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

360-721-4872
articles@chinainsight.info

Happy Holidays

From China Insight

11_12-2019

10 issues - $24 for a domestic subscription and $40 for international.

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Good pay

The Shenzhen educational authority in Guangzhou Province offered new teachers an annual salary of US$42,000. As expected, a large number of highly qualified candidates applied. Eighty-six percent of the 35,000 applicants had post-graduate degrees from renowned universities. The authorities said offering higher pay helped meet the growing demand for qualified teachers for the area’s primary and middle schools.

New satellite

On Oct. 17, China launched a new communication technology experiment satellite into orbit. The satellite will be used for multiband and high-speed communication technology experiments mainly. The satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology Corporation.

Fast rail

Beijing residents who want to go skiing will be able to take advantage of the 108-mile high speed railway from Beijing to Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province.

Soccer dreams

Xi Jinping’s dream is for China to become a soccer powerhouse. Young girl players are the new generation that will help Xi achieve his soccer dream. However, girl soccer players are few and far between in China. Women’s soccer in China lags far behind its foreign counterparts. There are still opposition for girls to take up soccer.

In July, female soccer received a much-needed boost—Alipay put forward a US$141 million donation to support girls and women soccer over the next 10 years.

First celebration

Chinese Americans in a deep sense of their heritage and to appreciate the courage and values of their ancestors and will foster unity among the various Chinese communities.

China Plans to Launch the Chang’e-5 Probe in 2020 to Bring 2 Kg of Moon Samples Back to Earth. The probe will include a lander, an orbiter, and a returner.

China’s current largest launch vehicle, the Long March-5 carrier rocket, will be used to send the probe into space. China’s space engineers have spent more than two years figuring out what went wrong with the second Long March-5 launch in July 2017. The third Long March-5 rocket is being transported to the Wenchang Space Launch Center for the new flight. The success of this flight will be key to China’s future space missions.

Speed up

How do Chinese youth make the most of every second of their days? More than 76 percent of respondents of a social survey of 1,993 young people between 18–35 who live in China’s first- and second-tier cities speed up video playback when watching online content. The respondents said their contemporary lives required it.

The information age and higher self-expectation are two major reasons young people live a fast-paced life. China’s young people have to adapt to the country’s quickening lifestyle. The proliferation of smartphones makes for endless production and consumption of online content.

Moon probe

China plans to launch the Chang’e-5 probe in 2020 to bring 2 kg of moon samples back to Earth. The probe will include a lander, and an orbiter, and a returner and a returner. China’s current largest launch vehicle, the Long March-5 carrier rocket, will be used to send the probe into space. China’s space engineers have spent more than two years figuring out what went wrong with the second Long March-5 launch in July 2017. The third Long March-5 rocket is being transported to the Wenchang Space Launch Center for the new flight. The success of this flight will be key to China’s future space missions.
Jeff Jiang to run for Minnesota State Senator for District 48

By Greg Hugh

At a packed meeting room at the Eden Prairie Community Center on Oct. 27, Jeff Jiang officially announced he was running for Minnesota State Senator of District 48. Jiang is currently an education counselor and lives in Eden Prairie with his family (wife Nan and sons Michael and Daniel) and will be running as a Republican candidate.

According to his campaign literature, Jiang is a first-generation American who has lived in Minnesota for more than 20 years. Attracted by the greatness of the U.S., its freedoms and democracy, he came to the United States as an international student to pursue a graduate degree in political science at the University of Minnesota. His graduation in 2001 coincided with the devastating September 11 attacks on our country. As he witnessed the American people unite against terrorism and fear, he experienced the greatness of this nation in a profound way, and knew he wanted to become part of this great country and people. Years later, when he was proudly sworn in as a U.S. citizen, he put his whole heart in every line of the Oath of Allegiance.

“Getting involved and service is always in my spirit because I believe building a stronger community will benefit everyone in it. I contribute my enthusiasm, vision, care and cross-cultural expertise to each organization that I have served. I am passionate about motivating younger people to love our country, plan for their future and build their characters,” Jiang said.

To learn more about Jiang, visit www.Jiangformn.com.

What is a census and why is it important?

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States, creating national awareness of the importance of the census and its valuable statistics. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the Constitution. It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than $675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

HOW THE CENSUS BENEFITS YOUR COMMUNITY

Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Your community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. People in your community use census data in all kinds of ways, such as these:

- Businesses use Census Bureau data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and these create jobs.
- Local government officials use the census for public safety and plan new schools and hospitals.
- Real estate developers and city planners use the census to plan new homes and improve neighborhoods.
- Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

The next census is coming in 2020. Counting an increasingly diverse and growing population is a massive undertaking. It requires years of planning and the support of thousands of people.

Ultimately, the success of the census depends on everyone’s participation. The Census Bureau depends on cross-sector collaborations with organizations and individuals to get people to participate.

The 2020 Census is important for you and your community, and you can help. Learn more about the 2020 Census at https://2020census.gov/en.

Taiwan sovereignty

In the “Hong Kong today, Taiwan tomorrow” article (October 2019), Taiwan was described as an “independent self-governing democracy since 1949,” with which a reader took issue.

The article was not meant to be a history of Taiwan, and it also was not focused on its various forms of governance. Taiwan, since the 1940s, had not been under any foreign entities. However, to add clarity to that point, we are including the following information from PBS.org, which presents Taiwan’s sovereignty issue clearly.

1946: The Constitution of the Republic of China (ROC) is adopted. It guarantees human rights and freedoms and establishes a centralized government with five branches, or yuan: executive, legislative, judicial, examination, and control. The judicial system has three tiers: the Supreme Court, the High Courts, and the District Courts.

1947-1948: The ROC constitution is promulgated on mainland and applies to Taiwan as a territory of China. It protects human rights and provides independent judiciary and democratic legislation. But when the Nationalists lose China and retreat to Taiwan, they declare martial law. All rights are suspended, including the right to reelect legislature. Those in office retain their seats for the next 40 years.

1949-1986: Nationalists establish an authoritarian regime that tolerates no freedom of expression and association, and also controls legislature, administration, and the judiciary with party organization that penetrates all levels of state and society. A constitution exists, but in the name of “taking back the mainland,” it is merely a skeleton, with no life in reality.

1987-1990: Martial law is lifted. The National Security Law is put in place.

Eradicating Chinglish

Public signage in China isn’t known for its usage of proper English. In preparation for the November International Import Expo event in Shanghai, 6,500 high school students have been recruited to report bad signage. They have been credited for changing the use of “first last train” to “first and last trains” and switching from “subway” to “metro.”

In December 2017, the government introduced a new English translation standard to clear up ambiguous and, often, embarrassing signage ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics. The success of this campaign will mean the possible disappearance of a charming and great source of “entertainment” for foreign visitors as evidenced by the examples below. What would life be without them?

Happy Thanksgiving

Taiwan sovereignty

The Story of How an Asian American Troublemaker Took on SCOTUS

Nov 8, 2019
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Hamline University
Kris Center
Kay Fredericks Room
(3rd Floor)
1527 W. 6th Street
St. Paul, MN 55104

Simon Taub spent a lifetime in the shadows of Americans called the “trace.” Only later to know that the music would come from the studio’s state pension fund, and the stage at the Supreme Court, where the fascinating role of how the world of civil rights and international law collided when an ordinary teak-wood carved cello turned into an iconic journey for self-identity and honest hope between art and activism.

Simon Taub wanted to change the world by creating an Asian American brand called The Trace. Only later to know that the music would come from the studio’s state pension fund, and the stage of the Supreme Court, where the fascinating role of how the world of civil rights and international law collided when an ordinary teak-wood carved cello turned into an iconic journey for self-identity and honest hope between art and activism.

The 2020 Census is important for you and your community, and you can help. Learn more about the 2020 Census at https://2020census.gov/en.
On May 10, 2019, at Promontory Summit, Utah, the recognition and honoring of Chinese railroad workers at the 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad completed the story arc of Chinese railroad workers. Along the way, Chinese railroad workers endured hard work, danger, risk of life, and sacrifices while also being ignored, forgotten, excluded and snubbed. Progress in recognition has been slow - the completed arc gave closure to the first major contribution of Chinese in America - the building of the First Transcontinental Railroad.

While not a historian, I would say that the second major contribution of Chinese in America and Chinese Americans was their service in World War II. Here I distinguish between Chinese in America and Chinese Americans, where the former were Chinese, not American citizens in America; and the latter predominately are native or natural-born Americans of Chinese origin.

Using some poetic license on what a story arc is – this article recaps the story-line of the Chinese American World War II veterans.

The story begins in the pre-World War II period, before Pearl Harbor, with Chinese Americans who performed with distinction even before America entered the war, such as Arthur T. Chinn, from Portland, Ore., participated in the Second Sino-Japanese War. He was part of the first group of U.S. volunteers combat aviators. He gained U.S. veteran status and is recognized as America’s first flying ace in World War II. During the Sino-Japanese War, Chinese American communities, as in San Francisco, raised funds for China relief and also organized Chinese American volunteers to fight against the Japanese. Among those was Bill King from Locke, Calif., who went to China in 1939. He flew for the Chinese Air Force and was a decorated pilot in the Chinese American Composite Wing of the 14th Air Force under Gen. Claire Chennault of the legendary Flying Tigers.

At the time of World War II, the total population of Chinese in America and Chinese Americans was about 100,000. They were largely in major cities, mostly in Chinatowns across the country though some were in rural areas. For the most part, they were isolated and largely interacted with other Chinese and Chinese Americans. Chinese and Chinese Americans in the territory of Hawaii probably were more integrated with the general population than on the U.S. mainland.

Of the 100,000-plus population of Chinese and Chinese Americans (hereafter referred to as Chinese Americans), about 20,000 volunteered or were drafted and served in the U.S. Armed Services. Of the approximately 20,000 who served, about 40 percent were not U.S. citizens - at that time, Chinese immigrants had been denied U.S. citizenship.

Chinese American World War II veterans served in every theater of war and in every branch of the services: Army, Army Air Forces, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. In contrast to other minority groups such as Japanese Americans and African Americans, Chinese Americans were predominately integrated into the U.S. Armed Services. The only all-Chinese American units were the 14th Air Service Group and the 987th Signal Company assigned to the China Burma India theater.

While there were Chinese Americans who earned every type of award for valor up to the Congressional Medal of Honor, the basis for the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American World War II Veterans was not for bravery or valor. The basis for the award was that they served and fought for America as Americans in spite of the discriminatory aspects of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, in place until December 1943.

Along the trajectory of the story arc, many Chinese Americans distinguished themselves. Some notables:

- Francis B. WAI, awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions during the recapture of the Philippines.
- Gordon Pai’ea CHUNG-HOON, awarded the Silver Star and Navy Cross, later promoted to Rear Admiral, the first Asian American flag officer in the U.S. Navy.
- Dewey LOWE, pilot in China Burma India theater; later promoted to Major General, the first Chinese American general in the U.S. Air Force.
- Wuu Kai KONG, the first Chinese American fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Forces.
- Randall CHING, the only Chinese/Asian American in the Rangers in WWII; fought from Normandy, June 6, 1944 until the end of the war in 1945.
- Loren L. LOW, awarded Silver Star in the invasion of Saipan.
- Pak On LEE, member of American Volunteer Group, the original Flying Tigers, later integrated into the U.S. Army Air Forces.
- K. J. LUKE, achieved rank of Major during WWII; highest ranked Chinese American officer in the U.S. Army during WWII.
- John C. YOUNG, designed and helped to implement a plan to tunnel, install, and detonate U.S.-supplied TNT beneath the Japanese garrison in the Battle of Mt. Song -- resulted in opening the Burma Road; returned from war as a major.
- Clarence YOUNG, lead navigator, Lazon raid.
- Leo SOO HOO, P-51A Mustang fighter pilot, 14th Air Force.
- Hazel Yang LEE & Maggie GEE, first and second Chinese American Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) who tested aircraft, ferried aircraft, and trained pilots.
- Jesse Yi LLAN, Women’s Army Corps, believed to be the first of the first to enlist in the San Francisco Bay area.
- Moon F. CHIN, distinguished civilian Hump pilot who flew Jimmy Doolittle out from China to India; was granted U.S. veteran status.

But the real heroes were the Chinese Americans in the U.S. Armed Services who made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in action in World War II. It is highly noteworthy that St. Mary’s Square in San Francisco has a memorial plaque saluting Americans of Chinese ancestry who gave their lives for America in World War I and II. Likewise, in New York City, the Kimmel American Legion Post has an arch that is in memory of the Americans of Chinese ancestry who lost their lives in defense of freedom and democracy.

Collectively, what did these Chinese American World War II Veterans do? They:
- Made known to the American public who Chinese Americans were and their abilities.
- Demonstrated their skills, competencies, loyalty, and patriotism.
- ... demonstrated highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor in face of discrimination,” as stated in PL 115-337.
- Were proud to serve and served with pride as Americans.
- Paved the way for future generations to serve in the U.S. Armed Services.
- Opened up opportunities for Asian and Chinese Americans to be in Mainstream America post-WWII.
- Launched the Legacy of Progress of Chinese Americans in the United States, as initially established by the Chinese railroad workers, and they enabled follow-on generations to live the American dream.

The storyline of Chinese American veterans continues after their separation and honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Services. They continued to work hard, brought wives to the United States based on the War Brides Act, or married women already in the United States, and raised families. They viewed their war experiences as seeing a whole new world outside their family traditions - making friends and acquaintances from all walks of life in America. Many veterans of the G.I. Bill and began businesses or attended college and started their professional careers. They provided a better life for their families and encouraged their sons and daughters to attend and graduate from college – to live the American dream and be an integral part of mainstream America. Indeed, the Chinese American World War II veterans were part of America’s Greatest Generation, although no book on the Greatest Generation captured their lives and stories.

Currently, the U.S. Mint has completed its design of the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American World War II Veterans. The obverse side of the medal will have images of servicemen in all branches of the services. Also, a female nurse is included to represent the service of Chinese American women in the armed services. “Proudly Served as Americans” is also inscribed on the obverse side. The reverse side shows how Chinese Americans fought in World War II – on land, sea, and air, with images of a Sherman tank, battleship USS Missouri, and the P-40 fighting “Flying Tigers” fame; with a 48-star American flag serving as a backdrop. The official award ceremony to be presided by the Speaker of the House on Capitol Hill for presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal is projected to be held in the spring of 2020. Subsequently there will be regional award ceremonies held in major cities for living veterans and/or their next-of-kin for those who cannot attend the Washington, D.C. ceremony.

Similar to Chinese railroad workers, progress in the recognition of Chinese American World War II Veterans has been slow and late, as many veterans have passed away, or are aging. September 2, 2020, will mark the 75th anniversary of the surrender of Imperial Japan and the end of World War II. Hopefully, we can say by then that the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American World War II Veterans finally gives recognition and honor to these veterans – and completes the arc for Chinese American World War II Veterans.

Maj. Gen. Bill Chen, U.S. Army, retired, is a veteran of 32 years active duty service. He served as the commander, general, U.S. Army Missile Command, and program executive for Missile Defense. He is a descendant of a Chinese railroad worker, as well as a descendant of a World War II veteran.

Editor’s note: Go to www.caww2.org to register known Chinese American veterans of WWII and to establish eligibility for a free replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that is now estimated to be awarded in the spring of 2020.
The whistleblower who truly made a difference

By Elaine Dunn

Dr. Wang Shuping, Oct. 20, 1959-Sept. 21, 2019

On Sept. 12, following a performance of “The King of Hell’s Palace” at London’s Hempstead Theatre, the Chinese whistleblower received a standing ovation from the audience.

The play, one the Chinese government pressured the whistleblower to cancel, is based on the whistleblower’s life and tells of the spread of the HIV epidemic in eastern Henan Province in the 1990s. According to a statement posted by the whistleblower on the theater’s website, the Chinese government feared the play would “cause embarrassment” to the government “and damage the reputation of specific officials.”

In the early 1990s, Henan Province had a thriving commercial blood harvesting industry where hundreds of thousands of poor farmers were recruited to sell blood for a few dollars, which contributed to the spread of hepatitis C and HIV. Dr. Wang Shuping was the Chinese whistleblower. She collected evidence and exposed efforts to conceal an AIDS epidemic in rural China. She became aware of cross-contamination of plasma bought from poor farmers at a plasma collection station run by Zhoukou city’s epidemic prevention center. The stations’ equipment was often not sterilized properly. “Leffover” blood was often mixed in tubs and transfused back into the blood sellers so they can sell more blood more quickly.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Wang reported the issue to officials at the local health bureau. That drew no response from the local authorities. She then reported it to the Ministry of Health in Beijing, but was asked to falsify her data about the HIV epidemic among plasma donors. She refused because she knew, if unchecked, the contaminated plasma would enable the HIV virus to decimate poverty-stricken rural communities.

Her refusal to keep quiet brought on unspeakable hardships for her and her family. It cost her marriage. Her parents were forced to don dunce caps on a stage in front of thousands of people. She was physically attacked. She lost her job.

Despite all that, Wang stayed the course in her quest to stem the bad blood issue. She defied the Chinese government not once, but twice: first by refusing to cover up the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s and then, in 2019, exposed the pressure tactics used to intimidate her throughout.

In a statement published Sept. 3, 2019, Wang said, “They pressured me to close the clinical testing center but I wouldn’t give in. And then Zhoukou health bureau sent people to cut off the electricity and water supply to my lab, forcing it to discard thousands of blood samples from blood donors. Eventually, they collaborated with the Henan provincial health bureau to close the clinical testing center.

“I am an America now, and I am a U.S. citizen. I tell myself that I protected vulnerable and helpless people and that I have to be strong against evil powers. I hope the play helps expose and stop the kinds of corruption and bullying Chinese doctors, health officials and AIDS activists like Dr. Guo Yaoqin, Wan Yanhai and myself endured.”

The Chinese government quietly closed the plasma collection stations in 1996 and introduced HIV-screening tests, as recommended by Wang originally. Unfortunately, by then, countless (the BBC estimates more than half a million) people had already been infected; many families were affected. And it is believed an underground trade in tainted blood continued to flourish. In 2001, the Chinese government admitted there was a serious AIDS outbreak in central China, and established a special health clinic to treat AIDS-related illnesses.

Wang was born in Henan Province in 1959. When Mao Zedong’s Cultural Revolution began, her parents (mother was a village doctor, father was a math teacher) were attacked for their backgrounds. At 8, her education was cut short because of the persecution. Five years later, an uncle took her away from her home village, adopted her so she could resume her education. In 1991, shortly after graduating medical school, she began work at a plasma collection center in Henan.

In 1997, Wang moved to Beijing where she found others as alarmed by the AIDS epidemic in rural Henan Province as she. In 2001, she moved to the U.S. by herself, leaving behind her young daughter and husband, and eventually became a U.S. citizen and continued her medical research work. She remarried in 2005. She never returned to China because she said she “did not feel safe.”

“I ran into huge troubles, which involved the power and money against the lives of the poor and the powerless. I made the decision to stand up for innocent people who were infected by the severe HCV and HIV viruses. I didn’t concern myself with my own fate. This is the first rule as a doctor,” Wang said in a recent interview.

On Sept. 21, she died of a heart attack while hiking in Utah with friends and second husband Gary Christensen. She was 59.

An anonymous, partisan federal employee in Washington, D.C., blew the whistle on a presidential diplomatic phone call in 2019 resulted in a namby-pamby impeachment “inquiry.” A doctor in central China blew the whistle on shoddy government practices and saved thousands of lives. Whistleblowers are not created equal!

---

Wang, center, taking a bow on the Hempstead Theatre stage on the play’s opening night.

Call for Articles...

Concerned about misconceptions about China?

**CHINA INSIGHT** 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 ghugh@chinainsight.info.
Occasionally the number “one” (yī "一") is omitted before the measure word when the words follow numbers and demonstrative pronouns. Some of the words used for this month are called “measure words.” In Chinese, many Chinese movies, I will try to include these as well, especially those Beijing variations.

Ways to ask what something is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Mandarin Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for books and pamphlets</td>
<td>本</td>
<td>běn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Concrete or solid) thing, object, article</td>
<td>东西</td>
<td>dōng-xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for newspapers</td>
<td>份</td>
<td>fèn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for people and many common objects</td>
<td>个</td>
<td>ɡe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for the words meaning ”thing”</td>
<td>件</td>
<td>jiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That</td>
<td>(In Beijing, you might hear &quot;ni/ instead.)</td>
<td>Ñá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which</td>
<td>哪</td>
<td>(In Beijing, you might hear &quot;ni/ instead.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What (This word is a common, but less formal, expression than shén-mé.)</td>
<td>哪子</td>
<td>nà-zi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What? (This word might sound like shén-mé in rapid speech.)</td>
<td>什么</td>
<td>shén-mé</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for computers and television sets</td>
<td>台</td>
<td>tái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for many furniture items and flat objects</td>
<td>张</td>
<td>zhāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This</td>
<td>这</td>
<td>(In Beijing, you might hear &quot;zhū/ instead.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for stick-like objects such as pens and pencils.</td>
<td>支</td>
<td>zhī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for clocks, watches, body parts, suitcases and other objects.</td>
<td>只</td>
<td>zhī</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ways to verify the identity of something

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Mandarin Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is this a book?</td>
<td>这是一本书吗？</td>
<td>Zhè shì yī-bĕn shū ma?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is this book?</td>
<td>这是这本书吗？</td>
<td>Zhè shì yī-bĕn shū ma?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this a book?</td>
<td>这不是这本书吗？</td>
<td>Bú duì, zhè shì yī-bĕn shū ma?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, this is not a book.</td>
<td>这不是一本书。</td>
<td>Bú duì, zhè shì yī-bĕn shū ma?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 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 “u.” In making this sound, it is most important that the vowel more resembles an “ee” sound and definitely not sounding like a “oo” sound in “moon.”

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>5</td>
<td>High level pitch (55)</td>
<td>Regarding Tone 5. When occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone 5 becomes tone 3. Thus “bǐn hào” (very good) changes to “bǐn hào” occurring directly before any other tone, Tone 5 will change to a mid-falling tone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mid-Rising Tone (35)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dipping (213)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>High falling pitch (51)</td>
<td>An unneutralized neutral tone. Following other syllables, syllables in this tone tend to be slightly lower that of the previous syllable. The lute exceptio is when it occurs after tone 3 and the neutral tone is often slightly higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Now fully retired, he currently resides in Georgia where he used to lecture on China to a number of classes at Dunwoody High School.
Hot tea … cold winds

By Bill Waddington, contributor

Jasmine, cinnamon, ginger, chrysanthemum, orange peel, cardamom, anise, hibiscus, brown sugar, and strong tea are but a few of the tweaks people make to their tea-drinking as winter approaches.

Tea is loved in many cultures throughout the world, and as the weather turns cold, there seems to be two ways tea-making habits change:

• Make it stronger
• Add something to it

In China, particularly in the northern-most provinces of Heilongjiang and Harbin, jasmine is the addition of choice for tea drinkers. Jasmine green tea consumption goes up but they will also drink jasmine oolong tea. The addition of jasmine blossoms and scent makes for a wonderfully potent cup of tea.

By increasing the water temperature with any white, green, or oolong tea, you will automatically make a stronger, more aromatic cup that will rejuvenate you on a cold blustery day.

In other parts of China, tea drinkers may add chrysanthemum, citrus peel, even yak butter to bring more aroma, body and oomph to their tea.

Another strategy for helping tea ward off wintry weather is to shift to more full-bodied varieties; particularly toward darker oolongs, shu puers, and stronger black teas.

Some folks may simply make their tea stronger, steeping longer, use hotter water, or using more tea leaves.

In the U.S., this same tendency toward a stronger cup of tea with additional ingredients in the winter months occurs, with a nod to the traditional holiday tastes (think Christmas cookies). Cinnamon/spice tea is one of the most popular winter blends, with or without caffeine. Teas like TeaSource Spice or Montana Gold fit this bill.

When talking about cold weather teas, we have to talk about chai. Chai is a traditional Indian way of preparing and drinking tea that combines strong black tea, milk, a sweetener and some mysterious combination of Indian spices (cardamom being the common denominator in most chai recipes). There are few drinks more invigorating when the cold winds blow than a hot cup of chai. Masala chai is the most traditional of Indian Chai recipes. TeaSource masala chai combines tea, milk sweetener, cardamom, nutmeg, ginger, clove and pepper. But there are wonderful new twists on traditional chai such as chocolate chai (teaser photo on page 1), decad chai, and green tea apple chai.

Two other wonderful additions to a hot cup of black tea when the cold winds blow are chocolate and vanilla. Of course, there are those who would argue that chocolate and vanilla are wonderful additions anytime of the year! But particularly in the winter months, they can cheer up a dark cold day.

Other great winter options when talking about herbal teas are peppermint and hibiscus. Peppermint is one of the strongest, bracing herbs out there. Adding a bit of peppermint to a tea base can be wonderful. Hibiscus steeps up a brilliant ruby red with a tart, full body that can counter any wind chill. And when hibiscus is blended with dried fruit, as in red berries, it is similar to drinking hot cider, and just as restorative.

Tea sales tend to jump during the colder months. This is true in America, Europe and even in Asia, particularly in China. Tea is naturally warming (with a good nutritive profile), which is essential in colder climates. And there are so many options in the world of tea that during the winter months, you will never get tired of a particular winter tea, or run out of choices.

Production Editor Needed

Great opportunity to gain experience in laying out monthly tabloid newspaper that has been serving the community for 17 years.

The right candidate must know in Design 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 will be 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 resume to Greg Hugh at ghugh@chinainsight.info or call 812-723-4872.

food & beverage www.chinainsight.info

Bill Waddington is the founder of TeaSource, Minnesota’s own tea importer. He is a frequent guest on National Public Radio’s “The Splendid Table” and has served on the board of the American Premium Tea Institute.

Some Confucian food basics:

• Food should be served in small or chopped pieces
• The taste of any dish depends on proper mixing of all of its ingredients and condiments
• Taste of individual elements does not have great importance in food, but fine blending of ingredients results in great taste and dishes in meals must be compatible
• Blending of food also results in harmony and is an important part of the philosophy; without harmony foods cannot taste good

Yale students’ fast-casual restaurants redefine Chinese food in NYC

Source: Xinhua, October 14, 2019

A Yale University doctorate environmental science student from northeastern China learned many of the Chinese restaurants he frequented will not be around much longer because the older generations who ran them do not have kids who want to follow in their footsteps. So, driven by a craving for the taste of home, he gathered six other Chinese college friends and started Junzi Kitchen.

The first of these fast-casual restaurants opened in 2015 across from the Yale campus. Its menu mainly consisted of chun bing (flour wraps, photo above) and bowls of noodles, which are easily customized by customers to create their own combinations – much like in their own kitchens.

The Yale-educated entrepreneurs share an ambitious goal of making their brand the world’s largest modern Chinese food chain with over 1,000 locations, and are quite confident about Junzi’s prospect.

“The Chinese immigrants who came here some 30 years ago didn’t have the resources or support to do this. But we are born in an era of entrepreneurship in China and many investors are optimistic about our business potential,” said one of the founders.

“I think we are not just running a restaurant brand, we are actually building a new cultural symbol of China through food. I think this could be quite meaningful.”

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Saint Paul delegation visits sister city Changsha, China

By Greg Hugh

To commemorate the 31-year sister-city relationship and the completion of the first phase of the Saint Paul-Changsha Sister-city China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters, a 41-member delegation traveled to Changsha to celebrate the occasion in early October.

Minnesota Senator Foung Hawj presented to Chinese Deputy Director Liming Yuan of the Standing Committee of the Changsha People’s Congress the city flag of Saint Paul as a gesture of friendship on behalf of Mayor Mel Carter to commemorate the 31 years sister-city relation.

The delegation included members led by MN China Friendship Garden Society Board members along with Ramsey County Commissioner Trista Matascastillo, Saint Paul Ward 1 Councilman Dai Thao (co-chair), U of M Regent Board Ilean Her, representatives from other organizations, city staff, educational and cultural leaders. U.S. Counsel General J. Fouss also attended the event.

“We are committed to strengthening our sister-city relationship for the long haul and are hopeful our partnership in the various endeavors continue to thrive,” Senator Hawj told members of Changsha’s People Congress.

Hmong women from the U.S. joined with their Changsha sisters circling around Nkauj Hmoob Lucy singing a blessing song for the sister-city relation. The statue is one of five Peanut statues Saint Paul gifted Changsha in return for the pavilion Changsha provided as a gift for the Chinese garden.

Presentation of the St. Paul City Flag

Hmong women from the U.S. with their Changsha sisters around Nkauj Hmoob Lucy

Pavilion gifted by Changsha to Saint Paul for the Saint-Paul-Changsha Sister-city China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters

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Chinese calligraphy, the stylized writing of characters, is often regarded as an art form and prized above all others by the Chinese elite. It was also one of the criteria applying for civil service in the past. Each Chinese character is represented by a unique set of visually balanced strokes.

Chinese calligraphy is based on stroke order and placement. The calligrapher controls the width of strokes by varying the amount of pressure applied to the brush as well as the thickness of the ink. The Chinese written language was developed approximately 3,000 years ago. There are three formal and two informal scripts commonly used in the Chinese writing language.

The three formal ones are:
- Seal script (zhuanshu 篆書), known as such because it was mainly used on personal seals;
- Clerical script (lishu 隶書), where each character is represented by a unique set of visually balanced strokes;
- Standard script (kaishu 楷書), known as such because it was mainly used by government clerks beginning in the late Han Dynasty in the second century; and
- Clerical script (lishu 隸書), where each brush stroke is clearly articulated.

The informal ones are semicursive script (xingshu 草書) and cursive script (caoshu 草書), which developed around the time when flexible-hair brushes were invented. These brushes allowed the calligrapher to produce wave-like diagonal strokes. "Oracle bone" script (甲骨文) was the earliest set of pictograms, usually found carved onto jade, oracle bones and bronze vessels.

Depending on the purpose of the text, calligraphers select the script style they prefer and add their own flourishing touches. Some of the highly acclaimed calligraphers in Chinese history are Wang Xizhi (王羲之) and his youngest son Wang Xianzhi (王獻之), Ouyang Xun (歐陽詢), Su Shi (蘇軾), Zhao Mengfu (趙孟頫) and Zhu Yunming (祝允明).

Currently on exhibit at the Asia Society Museum (725 Park Ave.) in New York is Wang Dongling’s “Ink in Motion.” The exhibit runs through Jan. 5, 2020. Wang is widely recognized as one of the most celebrated living calligraphers from China. The artist is best known for his large-scale compositions, which are created on the floor with oversized brushes through highly physical movements. Wang’s experimental approach to calligraphy, featuring his chaos script style (luanshu 亂書) renders the texts almost completely indecipherable.

Wang was born in 1945 in Rudong, Jiangsu Province, China. The artist studied traditional calligraphy under Master Lin Sanzhi (1898–1989) and later under Master Sha Menghai (1900–1992) at Zhejiang Academy of Art (now China National Academy of Arts) in Hangzhou. He currently serves as the director of the Modern Calligraphy Study Center at China National Academy of Arts in Hangzhou.

“Calligraphy by those good in brush strength has much bone; that by those not good in brush strength has much flesh. Calligraphy that has much bone but slight flesh is called sinew-writing; that with much flesh but slight bone is called ink-pig. Calligraphy with much strength and rich in sinew is of sage like quality; that with neither strength nor sinew is sick. Every writer proceeds in accordance with the manifestation of his digestion and respiration of energy.”

-Bizhentu, “Illustrations of Brush Stroke Strategies,” 7th century

Wang at work with a giant brush and ink in a plastic tub.
Pray to Goddess Sa for having children

Dong people believe that Goddess Sa is omniscient and in charge of everything, including childbirth. In order to fulfill a wish of having children and being able to have safe deliveries, Dong people usually worship Goddess Sa and pray for her protection of the birth. Customarily, Dong women who suffered from infertility for a long time were bathed by Dong witches at the local well and to pray to Goddess Sa for having children. They put a bench by the well, wound a colorful silk thread above the bench and hung three ears of grains under the bench, which symbolized a colored bridge to lead them to pick up children sent from Goddess Sa. The children born to those women were regarded as special gifts from Goddess Sa. Even nowadays, Dong mothers often say that babies were sent from the well, probably because of the custom of praying to Goddess Sa at the well for having children. They usually carry their babies to the local well to burn incenses and paper money3 to worship Goddess Sa to express their heartfelt gratitude and pray to her to bless them for happiness and prosperity.

Youcha sacrificial event

In Longsheng Dong villages, Guangxi Province, there is a very famous Youcha sacrificial event to offer Youcha to Goddess Sa. (Youcha is a porridge made with tea leaves, sticky rice and lard.)

When flowers blossom every February, the Dong in Sanbao Dong village, Rongjiang County of Guizhou Province, would hold Caigetang event. A Dong man would disguise as Goddess Sa to guide the villagers to invite Goddess Sa spirit out for the spring outing, and all Dong women in the villages would dress up with splendid traditional attire, while some men in the village would dress like ancient warriors playing gongs and drums and Lusheng. At noon, all villagers would gather in front of Sax dungh. When the three cone-drum salutes go off, they will begin to set off firecrackers, play gongs, drums and Lusheng. The man disguised as Goddess Sa starts to light a lantern, burns incenses and paper money4, bours brown sugar water for Goddess Sa, would walk around the ground three times, carrying an ancestral basket with some ancient Dong costumes inside, praying for the blessing of Goddess Sa. After that, with a half-opened black umbrella in hand, he would lead all Dong women to walk out of the village to enjoy the beautiful spring scenery with Goddess Sa with the gong and drums players walking at the front and the Lusheng players behind. What they say, sing and dance in the event are all about Goddess Sa and for her protection and blessing, and all enjoy singing and dancing, wishing this wonderful time would not end.

Note: This is the second article of two on Goddess Sa worship by Dong ethnic groups submitted by The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage as U.S.-China cultural and educational exchange and research. The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage is located in Huaihua University, southwest Hunan Province, China. It is a provincial translation institute dedicated to the preservation and development of Hunan’s diverse ethnic communities and shared with the global community. This month’s article features folk beliefs of Shamanism—the practice of Goddess Sa worship in Dong ethnic groups in China.

Chen Na is a lecturer at Foreign Language School of Huaihua University. Her research interests cover comparative education, bilingualism and bicultural active living lifestyle with a special focus on the Hmong youth in western part of Hunan Province and the state of Minnesota. She is also the vice director of the Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage.

This article is also supported by the 2018 key project of the Philosophy and Social Sciences Fund Project of Huaihua Municipality.

1. Grain Rain season, as ”
2. Grain Rain season2 from April 19-21 each year, villagers would gather to hold a ceremony to worship Goddess Sa before the spring seeding time, which is called the Spring Sacrifice. Before the event, the augur in the village would select the most auspicious day. On that day, the head and elders of the village would come to Sax dungh for a special offering to Goddess Sa - a few seedlings taken from the main fields surrounding the village. After the sacrificial ceremony, these seedlings would be sowed in their own fields. They believe Goddess Sa would bless the growth of the seedlings and bring a bumper harvest in the coming autumn.

Goddess Sa worship event in Leping and Congjiang counties

Unlike other Dong regions in China, in Leping, and Congjiang counties Guizhou Province don’t burn incenses and paper money as offerings to worship Goddess Sa. Instead, they hold Goddess Sa worship ceremony during the first three days of Chinese lunar new year. In this period, their augur would select the most auspicious day to offer sacrifice to Goddess Sa. When the day comes, they open up the doors of the Goddess Sa house (some Dong villages build a house) and clean it up very early. They set up chairs in the middle of the house for the chief elders of each village. And most importantly, they prepared a vacant seat in the middle for Goddess Sa, so she can with them for joyful harvest. After being seated, the elders would sing songs to express their gratitude to Goddess Sa for a safe harvest year, a flourishing population under her protection and blessing. In addition, on that day, all the villagers would dress up to participate in this big event. They get together in the square of Goddess Sa house, singing and dancing, expressing their gratitude to Goddess Sa for her blessing and making the best wishes for the coming year.
There always comes a time when, as people age, events move from being “within living memory” to “history.” There is even more urgency to capture these voices in a place like China where, for reasons of war and turmoil, fewer voices were, on the whole, captured at the time.

Earnshaw Books has released the memoirs of two women, each remarkable in her own way, and similar in others, that lived through these times and who, atypically, have set down their memories in English. They share some commonalities: although spent their formative years (and in Kwok’s case, the rest of her life) in Shanghai, both were Cantonese. Kowk was a bit older, but both knew pre-War Shanghai and the Japanese occupation as well as, of course, the periods following.

Margaret Sun’s “Betwixt and Between” is the more substantial of the two. Sun was born into a what sounds like a middle-class family — her father worked for Siemens — but the War and her father being accidentally caught up in a foiled embezzlement reduced them to near penury; Sun herself sold cigarettes and snacks on the street outside the building where three generations of the family lived in one room. The company her family kept, however, remained reasonably cosmopolitan and, somehow through all this, Sun grew up with considerably fluency in English.

In 1956, Sun volunteered to go work in Xinjiang. The next two decades are a time of a few highs (the melons) but mostly considerable hardship. Sun, it appears, was (and presumably still is) a woman of considerable intellect: not only did she speak Cantonese, Shanghainese, Mandarin, read and write English (she would seek out English-language books, which were as rare as hens teeth in Xinjiang), she also picked up Uyghur and Kazakh. These sections of the book are filled with a wealth of anecdote and observation.

I have milked cows, collected cowpads, taken in knitting and worked as a day laborer. I have taught, done interpretation and translation. I have done whatever I had to do.

Despite having little formal education, Sun ended up teaching English at Xinjiang University.

Daisy Kwok was what would have been in other circumstances an heiress to the Wing On retail empire. But 1949 put paid to that. Born in Australia in 1908, she moved to Shanghai as a young girl when her father went to Shanghai to set up Wing On Department store on Nan King Road. Although almost all her relatives left Shanghai by 1949, and despite having had a number of opportunities to leave herself, Daisy Kwok stayed on, and was slowly swallowed up by China’s turbulent history.

While Kwok’s pre-War life was evidently chaotic, she accounts with equal parts of parties and run-ins with gangsters — the author's own counsel. Though her story lies in its scope as her life traces out a trajectory from effective princess to effective peon: there is a Dr Zhivago aura to this story, of someone trying to maintain some sort of normalcy, concern for family, even keeping what she felt were standards up, in the harshest of circumstances.

Her account also has numerous surprising details, such as continuing to celebrate Christmas through the War. The good life slipped away only slowly. “The changes to life in Shanghai didn’t take place immediately after the communists arrived in 1949. It was a more gradual process …” notes publisher Graham Earnshaw in his preface. “Life continued remarkably unchanged for many years for many people in many ways, through to the end of the 1950s.” Kwok mentions the “Park Hotel’s new restaurant in the penthouse” in the 1950s, which implies, notes Earnshaw, that “people other than the lumpen proletariat were around to dine there.” And Kwok somehow managed to keep a maid until 1966.

The book is however very short, with fewer than 100 pages from Kwok, book-ended by the lengthy preambles from publisher Earnshaw and similarly lengthy epilogue by the former American diplomat Tess Johnston, both evidently close friends of the author. Kwok died in 1998; why these memoirs remained in the drawer, as it were, for two decades is unclear.

However immensely valuable both books are as first-person accounts, both suffer from a certain lack of narrative. We are fortunate to have either, and given the circumstances under which they were written, any literary shortcomings can and should be forgiven. Nevertheless, if one were to review the books rather than their authors, one might feel obliged to point out both suffer from a certain amount of repetition, digression and chronological jumping about. Kwok’s is more a series of vignettes than a narrative.

Either, however, could catalyze a very good novel. Both are thought-provoking, individually and jointly: were the various Chinese political campaigns harder to endure if one started off affluent? Sun, friendly with Uyghurs and Kazakhs, tolerant of Muslim beliefs and practices, observant to a fault, is still in Xinjiang. She effectively ends her story in 1978; the years to her retirement in 2002 are covered at a gallop. Regarding conditions today, Sun keeps her own counsel.

About the reviewer

Peter Gordon is the editor of The Asian Review of Books and founder of Hong Kong’s online bookseller Paddyfield. He set up and was the inaugural Chair of the Man Asian Literary Prize and was one of the founders and organizers of the original Hong Kong International Literary Festival. He has also been involved in international trade and investment development, and set up the Russian Trade Association (a chamber of commerce) in Hong Kong in 1994. He wrote regular editorial columns for Hong Kong’s English-language dailies for several years and is co-author of the recently published “The Silver Way: China, Spanish America and the Birth of Globalisation, 1565-1815.”
Teaching Chinese law in Brazil

By Chang Wang, contributor

Last month, at the invitation of FGV Escola de Direito de São Paulo (FGV Law School in São Paulo), I taught a weeklong condensed course on the development of the modern Chinese legal system titled “Rule by Law” in China. It was attended by 26 graduate, undergraduate, and international exchange students.

Fundação Getulio Vargas (Getúlio Vargas Foundation, or FGV) is a Brazilian higher education institution and think tank founded in 1944. It is considered by the Think Tanks and Civil Society Program of the University of Pennsylvania as the top think tank in Latin America, best-managed think tank worldwide, and seventh-best think tank in the world. FGV Law School in São Paulo’s “Global Law Program” consists of a set of courses taught in English. The purpose of the program is to prepare lawyers to work in an international scenario where Brazil has been increasingly present as a global player.

The “Rule by Law” in China course provided a comprehensive overview of law and politics of 20th and 21st-century China in their historical and cultural contexts. It introduced Brazilian students to distinctive paradigms and discursive patterns of law and politics in China, with the intention of fostering comparative analysis and critical thinking. Initially, the course focused on modern Chinese history since 1840, paying particular attention to traditional Chinese views of the role of law in society, as well as Chinese social and political aspects of early Sino-Western interaction. The second part of the course focused on substantive laws, high profile legal cases and major political events in the People’s Republic of China in modern times. The course concluded by examining current issues in Chinese law, from both sides, and by looking into China’s argument for the “Beijing Consensus,” or “China Model.” The classes progressed by way of interactive discussion and critical readings of historical documentation and legal texts.

This course was designed to break through the traditional Chinese learning-western learning dichotomy and interpret legal cases, political events and cultural phenomena from a comparative perspective. It brought to light the hidden rationales underlying historical and ideological narratives and explained how frequent misunderstandings could occur when comparing political systems. Students were encouraged to use critical thinking to argue, to test whether the incommensurability of paradigms can be reconciled, and to explore how different political systems and cultures can communicate with each other and exchange ideas effectively.

This course took a comparative study approach in discussing the development of legal and political discourses, and the ever-increasing influence of Western jurisprudence and political science, in modern and contemporary China. The students and I discussed at length the formation of “Rule by Law” as a “grand narrative” in its historical context and the controversy around different interpretations of individual rights.

The course began with a study of legal traditions and core assumptions underpinning the role of law in China, followed by a comparative analysis of respective legal conventions and beliefs in China and Western countries. One full session was devoted to the legal system of the People’s Republic of China, looking at the law promulgated in the 1950s, the abolition of the legal system during the Cultural Revolution, the renewed emphasis on codification of law since 1979, new areas and issues after China’s accession to the WTO, the recent Constitutional Amendments, and the upcoming Civil Code in 2020. The course introduced contemporary legal and political institutions, the law-making process, interpretation and implementation of law, dispute resolution, extralegal practices, and public awareness of, and attitudes toward the law. The course also included a detailed examination of contemporary China’s approach to individual rights, with a focus on the ways in which Chinese authorities and academics interpret key doctrines of public international law, including 1) the traditional relationship of the individual to the state; 2) rule by law vs. the rule of law; 3) judicial independence and judicial integrity; and 4) due process.

The course examined Western, especially German and American, influences in specific areas of Chinese society and what role German and American jurisprudence and the concept of rights have played in the “modernization” of China. Attention was given to cross-cultural misunderstanding and misinterpretation, and the interaction between culture and law.

Brazilian students looked at China’s place in the world, evaluated general assumptions of universal values, described the dominant ideology and its development and variations, and compared the legal conventions and beliefs of different cultures. The course helped students develop a better understanding of the political and cultural background of China from a comparative perspective, and it will help them predict legal actions and outcomes across cultures.

Course readings included translated laws, regulations and party policies, legal cases, historical documents and commentaries. Viewings for the course included selected feature and documentary film clips relating to the Chinese legal and political systems, as well as Chinese artistic expressions devoted to legal issues.

Before the course, all students were required to answer various questions: 1) Reasons for taking the class; 2) Expectations; 3) Knowledge of China and Chinese legal system; 4) Questions about China and Chinese legal system; 5) The first individual/person to come to mind when they hear the word “China”?; 6) Where they obtain information about China?; and, 7) Whether they encountered any miscommunication or misunderstanding situations with Chinese people? Did they know why that happened?

In addition to lectures on substantive laws (constitutional law, criminal law, civil law, commercial laws) and historic lessons on Confucianism, legalism, “Self-Strengthening”?Foreign Affairs Movement (1861-1885); “100 Years of Humiliation” and Equal Treaty System (1939-1949); Extraterritoriality; The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976); the trial of the Gang of Four (1981), the course utilized traditional courtroom debates or case discussions, with one side proposing and the other side opposing a sharply-framed motion.

Before the debate begins, the entire class (except the debaters) registered their pre-debate opinion (for, against, or undecided) by a vote. Each panel/team consists of one-to-two students, arguing for or against a particular motion. Firstly, alternating between panels, each team gives a five-minute opening statement. Secondly, the floor was opened for questions from the entire class and inter-panel challenges. Thirdly, the debaters had one final opportunity to sway audience opinion through their two- to three-minute closing arguments.

The entire class (except the debaters) delivered the final verdict by voting again after the debate, whether they were for, against, or undecided on the proposition. The two sets of results were compared, and the winner was determined by which team had swayed more classmates between the two votes.

Sample topics debated in class and on writing assignments included: living in Chinese and Western parallel universes, Confucianism and Marxism, the Communist Party of China (CPC), whether China should adopt Western-style rule of law, whether an ethical Chinese lawyer should apply the CPC ahead of client’s interest, etc.

By the end of the course, students were able not only to locate and critically evaluate resources and materials on China’s legal and political systems, history and current affairs, but also understand the diverse philosophies and cultures within and across the society. Specifically, students were able to understand the philosophical underpinnings of the Chinese legal and political system; they were aware of the differing viewpoints regarding universal values (justice, liberty, freedom, democracy, individual rights) in China and the western world; and they were able to compare competing arguments, and analyze the evidence supporting these arguments, basing their analyses on those differing viewpoints.

On the final debate on the motion that “Western-style liberal democracy has failed, ‘Beijing Consensus’ (China Model) is winning.” The debate reached a tie, and we concluded by declaring that both western-style liberal democracy and Beijing Consensus are winning.
By Jackson Venjohn

Roughly one week before the United States and China introduced a plan to move forward on phase one of a trade deal, Minnesota-China Business Council (MCBC) hosted a presentation on Oct. 9 at Fredrickson & Byron's Minneapolis office. This meeting primarily focused on trade and how U.S. organizations can best position themselves to not only survive, but thrive, during Sino-U.S. trade frictions. The panelists included: Edward L. Farmer, professor emeritus, University of Minnesota, Asian History; Tom Hanson, former U.S. Foreign Service officer with the Department of State, and current president of the Minnesota-Ohio Business Council; and Byron, Asia practice leader, Ben Baker, vice president of global sourcing at Blu Dot; and Jeff George, principal and firm leader for international services for Baker Tilly. MCBC’s fall event was facilitated by Larry Mahoney - COO and founder of Asia Direct Resource.

Farmer, who had focused much of his career on Asian history and culture, discussed elements of Chinese history that are critical to understanding the China-U.S. relationship. He compared the significance of current developments to the long-term, mid-term and contemporary periods of history in China. Farmer mentioned that for many centuries, China was the world’s largest and longest-lasting economy. In the 18th and 19th centuries, China’s market share was squeezed as the United States grew in economic and political power. Farmer noted that, as China has and is continuing to develop a larger and larger international presence, China-based companies, however, the current situation is much more complex. His mid-term and short-term views were less optimistic and very similar in his view of Hanson.

Hanson presented a political overview of the long-term impact of a rising China. He noted China is becoming less and less dependent on trade with the U.S., and the historical paradigm of international economic relations to China is actively changing before our eyes. The tightening of the communist party’s grip on various aspects of China’s domestic economy as well as foreign, was also a main topic of discussion for Hanson. Examples raised were China’s toughness on trade, the social credit system, the “antifragile” concept, and the structural shift of intellectual property, among other things. He considered American business’ views toward cultural developments, including aspects of China’s domestic economy as well. He noted that current developments may be seen as an opportunity for U.S. companies to best position themselves to take advantage of the current trend.

By giving examples of how Baker Tilly has been helping their clients navigate the trade war, was able to provide valuable insight on the current cross-border economic situation from a consulting and advising perspective. Most participating speakers were optimistic on the long-term international trade environment between the United States and China. However, due to the economic frictions, technological gap, complex competitiveness between two different economic and political styles, and societal developments in China, all were hesitant to regard the short-term future as anything but gloomy for those involved in business with China. Learn more about Minnesota-China Business Council at www.minnesotachinabusinesscouncil.org.

Jackson Venjohn is a native of Minnetonka, Minn., where his interest in Chinese language and culture first sparked while studying Mandarin in middle school. Years later, he found himself gravitating toward China’s people, culture and rich history as well.

Venjohn is currently an undergraduat...
Fifteenth Annual Open House

Sunday, November 17, 2019
12 noon to 2 pm
Gramercy Park Party Room
6711 Lakeshore Drive, Richfield

Featuring

Ruth Stricker Dayton
Honorary Chinese-Minnesotan of Note

All are welcome
Come celebrate with us and get involved

RSVP by November 10 to chff@chineseheritagefoundation.org or 612-275-5381

www.chineseheritagefoundation.org

Education

Nov. 17 deadline for CAAM merit- and need-based scholarships

Scholarship application deadline for the 2019-2020 undergraduate college school year is Nov. 17, 2019. Applicants must be:
1. of Chinese descent,
2. a resident of Minnesota and permanent resident of United States
3. a senior in high school for the 2019-2020 year,
4. have not received this scholarship previously,
5. must have volunteered at least 12 hours in different CAAM events, or will commit to at least 12 hours volunteering work in different CAAM events in the following 12 months after being awarded with the scholarship,
6. agree and promote CAAM’s mission,
7. for need-based applicants, must provide FAFSA or the latest 3-year Federal tax returns.

Evaluation criteria
1. Applicants must meet all the eligibility requirements listed above.
2. Applicants will be evaluated on their academic records, including extra curriculums; leadership qualities; and community service, including both CAAM and other community service experiences.
3. Failure to maintain acceptable academic performance and exemplary behavior throughout the school year may result in the revocation of the scholarship.

Application checklist
1. Application form must be completed with typing (handwriting is not acceptable).
2. Applicant needs to provide one Cover Letter, three letters of recommendation: at least one from a teacher of the current academic year and a mentor or advisor.
3. Applicant needs to provide the transcript of the last 12 months from the most recent school attended.
4. All of the above materials must be submitted by email or postmarked no later than November 17, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year.

Note: Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Application Form can be downloaded at: https://www.caam.org/scholarships/
Email application materials to Scholarship@caam.org (preferred) or by mail to:
CAAM Scholarship Chinese American Association of Minnesota
P.O. Box 582584
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2584

Scholarship recipients will be notified shortly after the application deadline the status of their application.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend CAAM’s Recognition Dinner in December 2019 and will automatically become a member of CAAM with good standing after reaching 18 years old.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Host a Chinese student and make a difference...
Enrich their experience and enhance your own

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.
US-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) holds 27th National Convention in Minnesota

By Greg Hugh

USCPFA members from many parts of the United States recently gathered at the Hilton Airport Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota, to attend its 27th National Convention that was hosted by the Minnesota Chapter and the Midwest Regions of the organization. The convention kicked off with a welcome reception and dinner Friday evening with welcome greetings by Diana Greer, National President and Ralph Beha, Minnesota Chapter president. The evening’s program began with Greer bestowing a number of awards of recognition to members for their service to the organization.

Greer presented the Koji Ariyoshi Award to Mel Horowitz, of the Northeast New York Chapter. This award is selected by the National Board and is granted only to one recipient. Following were Regional Awards selected and submitted by Regions.

Following the meal, Beha then asked Minnesota Chapter Board Member Margaret Wong to introduce the speakers Jim Harkness and Hugh Shapiro, who were former Chinese language students of hers in the mid-1970s. While Wong did an excellent job of presenting their excellent resumes, Harkness and Shapiro took the opportunity to show their appreciation to Wong for instilling in them the appreciation of Chinese language and culture, which they conveyed in the presentation on their “China Recollections”.

The evening ended with the group watching a Chinese comedy/drama film, “Ermo,” recommended by Prof. Jason McGrath of the University of Minnesota, released in 1994 and directed by Zhou Xiaowen. It is essentially a satire on Western consumerism and its influence on Chinese culture.

In recognition of their efforts, Linda Mealy-Lohman and Joyce Hsiao, co-founders of The Minnesota China Friendship Society, were honored by the USCPFA National Board for their leadership roles and Lifetime Support in making the St. Paul-Changsha Chinese Friendship Garden a reality.

Students from Yinghua Academy ended the evening with a fashion show that displayed period Chinese clothing along with a narrative over various historical periods.

The convention concluded with the closing plenary session.

All photos by Jinjun He