Unsung heroes

Take a good look at these faces. They are faces of Chinese American veterans from World War II whose contributions have yet to be told and to be recognized. COVID-19 had delayed the ceremony for the Congressional Gold Medal award to World War II Chinese American veterans, but you can find out where and how you can read about their stories on p. 6.

Community

Zoom party for Ming Tchou

By Greg Hugh

She was a founding member of the U. S. China Peoples Friendship Association and the Chinese Senior Citizens Society, serving as its president for more than a decade.

In 2004 she created the Chinese Heritage Foundation (CHF) with the goal of preserving and promoting the understanding of Chinese culture, history and heritage in Minnesota; and it was the CHF Advisory Committee that organized the Zoom party.

Reflecting on her 40 years in Minnesota, Ming said, "We should learn how to share ideas with each other and to do it often." Through the Chinese Heritage Foundation, she established at the Minneapolis Foundation, she plans to devote the coming years to promoting this important function within the Chinese community and the Greater Twin Cities with events such as A Passage to China and Dream of the Red Chamber.

Visit www.chineseheritagefoundation.org to learn more about Ming’s amazing life and CHF’s mission. ♦
Greetings:

As the world continues to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, regardless of our acceptance of the situation, we nevertheless are all dealing with it individually. There is constant coverage by the media and while we have no control over what will happen next, we do have control over our actions and thoughts.

The key to realistic planning in times of crises is to balance social and personal responsibility. And now that we’re in a state of emergency, the best we can do in the time of COVID-19 is to do what it takes to the best of our ability, to “flatten the curve.” In our opinion, this means taking protective and preventative measures so that the number of cases will spread out over time to allow our healthcare system better manage caseloads. Thus don’t worry about what you can’t control and work on what you can do in a responsible manner so as not to endanger others.

Although there are few activities that can be enjoyed outdoors, we strongly recommend visiting either of the Chinese gardens located within the Twin Cities area: The St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willow and Flowing Waters at Lake Phalen Regional Park and the Chinese Garden at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. Because of COVID-19, the ceremony honoring Chinese American congressional gold medal recipients has been delayed by the U.S. Congress. However, you can order a copy of the book “Unsung Heroes,” honoring them. See page 6. Also be sure to read the final installment on page 11 of “Confucianism and consumerism,” a thesis by our intern, Jackson Venjohn.

All of us at China Insight wish Ming Tchou a very happy 96th birthday and thank her for her many contributions to the community. Page 1.

I would like to point out one change going forward as a result of the new national security law over Hong Kong: China Insight will eliminate bylines in articles that may be deemed controversial to protect our contributors and writers. Finally, please note this is a combined July-August edition of our digital publication and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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

A recent report by the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology indicated mobile phone shipments in China was idown down 11.8 percent in May, on a yearly basis.

From January to May, domestic mobile phone shipments totalled 124 million units, a year-on-year drop of 18 percent.

New models released in May were also down 22 percent compared with a year earlier, while 169 were launched over the past five months, a decline of 18.8 percent year-on-year.

Domestic brands took the lion’s share in China’s mobile phone market shipments, reaching 91.7 percent in May and 90 percent in the first five months.

Smartphone shipments in China registered 32.66 million units in May, down 10.4 percent yearly. Over the past five months, the country’s smartphone shipments reached 121 million, a decrease of 16 percent year-on-year.

Saucy scam

A quarter-century-old chili sauce company was drawn into a lawsuit with Tencent, only to uncover a major online scam.

Lao Gan Ma (老干妈) is a traditional chili sauce company that dominates the Chinese market with a 65-percent market share. In March 2019, Tencent entered into a US$2.3 million promotional agreement with the sauce giant. When payments from Lao Gan Ma were not forthcoming, Tencent filed suit. Lao Gan Ma denied the deal, so the police was brought in.

It turned out three individuals had posed as marketing staff from Lao Gan Ma in signing the contract. What they were actually after were the online game package codes to an annual online game tournament Tencent was giving away during the promotion period. The three scammers would then turn around and sell the codes online for profit.

Strange the marketing folks at Lao Gan Ma did not question promotion they had not authorized while it was going on. Someone’s asleep at the wheel!

Unsavory companions

Recently, a slew of “adult experience centers” have been popping up in China to provide “companionship” to lonely men. These barebone rooms (often in short-term rental apartments) come with a bed and a sex doll. Sanitary (or perhaps it should be unsanitary) conditions on the dolls and bedding are something else. All sorts of stains visible under blacklight.

Asked about government inspections, owners replied with similar answers, they had “connections.” And how does their clientele find them? Mainly word-of-mouth via migrant workers and online solicitations.

Sickly sales

In an interview with Radio France Internationale late-June, a German Chinese hydraulic engineer who had studied the Three Gorges Dam raised concerns about its structural integrity. The engineer claimed cracks and substandard concrete were discovered during construction. The recent heavy rains had caused the water level at the Dam to rise above its 145-m flood warning line.

Of course, the Beijing mouthpiece, Global Times, immediately dismissed the concerns. Its “expert” claimed the dam, the world’s largest, was designed to withstand a “once-in-a-millennium” flood up to 175 meters.

A breach of the dam could affect 400 million people in down-river cities such as Wuhan, Nanjing and Shanghai.

Construction of the dam began in 1994 and was completed in 2006. It was the first structure to redirect the flow of the Yangtze River and was built to control the frequent flooding that plagues the Yangtze basin. It also provides limited hydroelectric power.

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Controversial new national security legislation over Hong Kong worries global community

Hong Kong’s pro-Beijing government said the new National Security Law will only target “an extremely small minority.” As with most things Beijing directed, that may be a borderline lie.

Reminiscent of Nancy Pelosi’s “But we have to pass the [health care] bill so that you can find out what’s in it ...” an elite group unanimously voted to pass the HK national security legislation even before they had seen a draft of it! (Perhaps politicians the world over do things backwards?) The National Security Law was passed in the morning of June 30, but the full text of the legislation was not made public until just before midnight July 1, just in time “as a birthday present for Hong Kong,” as one mainland Chinese official said, in reference to the July, 1997 return of Hong Kong to China. How utterly tactless and classless.

Already, one heavy-handed move since the law came into effect included withdrawal from circulation books authored by activists from public libraries. “The book collection must comply with the law of Hong Kong,” a government spokeswoman said.

Following its passage on June 30, the global community immediately reacted. They voiced concern over “the starkest changes for the former British colony since its return to China,” as Singapore’s The Straits Times put it. The law gives Beijing powers it never had before to control Hong Kong beyond the legal system.

The National Security Law allows Beijing to assert extrajudicial powers over virtually anyone deemed to have committed the vaguely defined acts of secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign collusion.

Article 29 of the legislation says that individuals can be charged for cooperating with a “foreign country or an institution, organization or individual” outside of China for, among other things, “imposing sanctions or blockade, or engaging in other hostile activities against the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or the People’s Republic of China.”

Under Article 38, (“This Law shall apply to offences under this Law committed against the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from outside the Region by a person who is not a permanent resident of the Region.”) anybody — regardless of whether (s)he is a Hong Kong citizen or not, or even if (s)he is located in the city — could be in violation of the law. This is tantamount to establishing planetary jurisdiction!

The new law also allows mainland agencies to monitor foreign media, which, no doubt, will lead to further self-censorship in reporting. An economist at an international investment bank in Hong Kong said they were concerned about stepping “on a landmine” in the views they express on China. Given Article 38, every person on earth is liable for inadvertently stepping on a landmine of sorts!

“All eight billion people in the world should familiarize themselves with the Hong Kong National Security Law to avoid falling into the legal trap,” said a law professor at the University of Hong Kong.

In London, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said passing of the new law, and “Mainland authorities could under the law, ‘ensure the safety of its citizens.’ On July 4, China accused Canada of ‘grossly interfering’ in China’s internal affairs and expressing ‘unwarranted comments’ on the new law.

Australia’s travel office spelled out the reality bluntly in its travel advisory: “This law could be interpreted broadly. You can break the law without intending to. The maximum penalty under this law in Hong Kong is life imprisonment.” In addition, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced July 9 that its extradition agreement with Hong Kong will end and temporary visas for Hong Kongers in Australia will be extended for five years, with a path to permanent residency.

The UK issued a similarly ominous warning. There is “a risk of heightened tension” due to the passing of the security law, and “Mainland authorities could under certain circumstances detain individuals under the terms of this law, with maximum penalty of life imprisonment.” the UK’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office said.

On July 1, when thousands of angry, defiant Hong Kongers protested the law, police arrested close to 400 people, with 10 on suspicion of violating the new legislation.

Two women who were apprehended were found to be in possession of flyers with the words “One Nation, One Hong Kong.” While at least two others were waving Hong Kong independence flags. How will they be handled? Will the new law be implemented in their case?

Activist Joshua Wong was spotted on about the law, “It marks the end of Hong Kong that the world knew before.”

Be sad. Be very afraid.
Conversation with leading engineer in China on the "green clauses" of the new Civil Code

Editor's note:
On May 28, 2020, China's 13th National People's Congress passed the long-anticipated The Civil Code of the People's Republic of China. Comprised of seven parts plus supplementary provisions, 84 chapters, and 1,260 articles, the Civil Code is the most extensive legislation in the history of the People's Republic of China, and this is the only legislation officially named a "Code." The Civil Code will be implemented on Jan. 1, 2021. The Civil Code touches upon almost every dimension of civil society and is significant legislation for every individual in China. The adoption of the Civil Code is widely acclaimed as a milestone in the development of China's legal system, as the Civil Code not only codifies the fundamental rules of law on civil and commercial matters, but also strengthens the protection of citizens' personal rights and the environment. In the latter regard, the Civil Code was referred to as a "Green Civil Code.

China Insight interviewed Mr. Zhanping Guo, president and CEO of Beijing Green East Technology Development Co., Ltd. GUO is a leading mechanical engineer in China and an environmentalist. For the past decade, he has been advocating robust quality control in mechanical engineering to protect the environment. He is delighted to see the "green clauses" in the Civil Code. Following is GUO's discussion with CI on the "green clauses" in the Civil Code.

China Insight (CI): You call this Civil Code a "green" civil code for it embraces the "green principle." Could you please explain what aspects of the Civil Code embrace the concept of the "green principle"?

Guo: The full text of the Civil Code contains 1,260 articles, including the General Provisions, Property Rights, Contracts, Personality Rights, Marriages and Family, Inheritance, Tort Liability, and Supplementary Provisions. There are as many as 18 articles directly related to environmental protection of resources, and the implementation of the "green principle" is mainly reflected in three aspects:

First, the idea of "green restrictions" on property rights is reflected in the property rights section, which makes it possible for coordination of property utilization activities and environmental protection goals. The second is that in the contract provisions, "green restrictions" on contract performance are stipulated, which will help reward "green" civil transaction activities and provide a civil law basis for preventing pollution and destruction of the environment. The third is to improve the environmental pollution and ecological damage liability system provisions in the tort liability section, which is helpful for the comprehensive investigation of environmental tort and environmental, ecological damage liability. Furthermore, in the section of personal rights, the relevant provisions on general personal rights, life rights, and health rights also provide civil law protection basis for personal life and health damage that may be caused by environmental pollution and damage to individual citizens.

These regulations together establish "green" norms for civil activities and provide essential institutional support for the "green shift" of social production and consumer behavior, and the construction of ecological civilization. They are significant because they not only expand the field of the "green" concept in the legal system but also promote environmental governance system. They provide the legal principles to protect the environment, to protect pollution, and to improve enforcement and governance.

CI: Lands in China are either collectively owned by the community or state-owned.

In the property rights section of the Civil Code, "green restriction" on real estate owners are mentioned several times. What are they? Guo: Without regulations on land use, there is no environmental protection. Environmental pollution and destruction mainly occur in the process of land development and utilization of natural resources. To control environmental pollution and ecological damage from the very beginning, the owner of the land must "green restrict" the development and utilization of land and natural resources.

The property rights section in the Civil Code recognizes and expands the scope of property rights, lands in the Constitution incorporates important environmental considerations into the use of these lands; and lays the right foundation for the distribution, management, and protection of these essential lands from the perspective of the interests of the people and the needs of the public.

Also, to reflect the real value of land and natural resources, to ensure the utilization efficiency, and to realize the sharing of benefits, the property rights section also stipulates the principle of "payed use" of natural resources, which has a fundamental role in avoiding the waste of natural resource development and utilization and internalizing environmental protection costs.

Finally, the property rights section regards compliance with environmental protection requirements as the legal use of beneficial property rights. The prerequisites for the purpose of land for construction are clearly defined. This principle reflects the need for imposing environmental protection restrictions on the use of property rights, and mandates environmental protection consideration in land use.

CI: In traditional civil law, "freedom of contract" is the basic principle. Under this principle, the essence of a contract is "autonomy of will," and what kind of contract is signed and how to perform the contract is the "freedom" of the parties, and no one can interfere. What does "green clauses" in the Civil Code mean in reference to contract performance under the Civil Code?

Guo: Yes, people are free to make contracts. However, from the perspective of environmental law, this kind of "autonomy" may cause environmental pollution and ecological damage.

The contract provisions in the Civil Code view "avoiding waste of resources, polluting the environment and destroying the ecology" as the primary obligation to be performed correctly, in the contract, setting the critical link of contract execution as transaction activity, and requiring all contracts to be performed to assume "green obligations" that not only reflects the green orientation of the business transactions but can also "force" the "green obligation" into the consideration of offers and commitments during the establishment of the contract, which will help "accelerate the formation of resource-saving and environmental protection" production methods and lifestyle.

For example, as mechanical engineers, we consider the environment from product design to production and maintenance. When we sign a contract to make any equipment or machinery, we know the contract is only valid if it does not hurt the environment.

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Guo: Let's compare the Tort Liability Law implemented in 2010 with the Tort Liability Regulation section in the Civil Code. The latter stipulates a punitive compensation system for pollution and damage to the environment and stipulates the responsibility for ecological restoration and the right to claim compensation. These regulations are an effective "interface" between the Civil Code and the Environmental Law, which solves three problems:

Firstly, it corrects the defect that the Tort Liability Law only stipulates "environmental pollution tort liability" and does not provide a remedy for ecological damage tort liability. The second is to solve the loopholes in the destruction of the ecological environment without legal and specific legal responsibility. The courts can order the restoration of the ecological environment under the Civil Code. The third is to link environmental public interest litigation effectively and ecologically, environmental damage compensation litigations, making ecological, environmental damage compensation litigation possible. For the first time, the law systematically regulates China's "green litigations," which provides a legal basis for the ongoing reform of the environmental damage compensation system.

CI: What if somebody violates environmental protection regulations? You call the tort liability section in the Civil Code a useful "interface" between the Civil Code and the environmental law, why?

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Events

Garden weeding: fresh air, exercise, fun!

The Friends of St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden at Phalen Park invite everyone to a "Weeding Party" at the China Friendship Garden on July 14-17 during the mornings (8-10 a.m., except July 15) and evenings (6-10 p.m.).

Join in the fun and sign up for a time slot by calling Bill at 763-913-4438, or just show up. Bring your own gloves, mask, water and weeding tool. Meet in front of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion at Phalen Park and sign your waiver ... and let the fun begin!
While the rest of the world was on lockdown, Hong Kongers lived rather “normal” (by comparison) lives during the pandemic. As one of the world’s densest populated cities, Hong Kong has a population of 7.5 million, but the metropolis only recorded 1,300 cases of the coronavirus and seven deaths as of the first week of July. Its stores and restaurants remained open pretty much throughout, even the six Apple stores.

It went without new cases for weeks and then a third wave emerged early July. Health officials believe most of the new cases were imported, mainly from Pakistan. Even with the July resurgence, that track record is still pretty good. So how did that happen? Results of a well-managed multi-pronged approach.

For one, many Hong Kong people remember the 2002 outbreak of SARS. Government officials and the public took the initial reports of coronavirus outbreak seriously from the get-go. Most took to wearing masks immediately. Social-distancing at restaurants and other public venues were adhered to faithfully.

By late January, most of its border checkpoints were closed. Locations that remained open were mainly to handle the flow of supplies. All non-residents were banned from entering the city. Foreign domestic workers and air and shipping crews had to undergo tight screening before boarding for and after arrival in Hong Kong. Upon arrival, everyone was tested for COVID-19, restricted to a 14-day quarantine, and required to wear a tracking device on their wrist 24/7: shower, sleep, exercise, cook. At all times.

Actually, visitors provided with the tracking device were asked to walk to all parts of their apartments/hotel rooms when they first arrive so as to let the device establish the coordinates of their confines. This allowed the government to monitor their movements during the quarantine period. Offenders who violate strict quarantine rules may be fined US$3,225 and six months in jail.

Detailed contact-tracing plans were also in place. Visitors were asked to provide license plate information of the taxi they took to go home/hotel, etc. in case they tested positive. This allowed the authorities a way to track and contact exposure points.

The government also kept an interactive online map with detailed information about all the confirmed cases, including dates and times of movement, around the city updated.

In addition, professor who had worked at the World Health Organization and who has lived in both the U.S. and Asia thinks the Asian culture had a lot to do with the containment success. He said Asians value not infecting others or putting others at risk, unlike in the U.S. where there are big cultural differences in the country. “In Asia, there is a very significant degree of concern about other people, about taking care of each other,” he said. Also, because of deep politicization in the U.S., whether you are in the rural areas or in the cities, whether you are in red states or blue states, political divisiveness has made containing the outbreak much more difficult.

Fresh measures to combat the resurgence include: screening ramped up to include 2,400 extra tests a day; tighter social-distancing measures such as lowering capacity levels at entertainment and eating venues; no gatherings of more than 50 allowed; visits to elder care facilities will be halted; and schools linked to new cases have suspended face-to-face classes.

Books

“Unsung Heroes” by William Chen

The story of Chinese American veterans and their contributions in World War II and the path toward recognition as told by the sons/daughters/grandchildren of these veterans. This collection of writings is edited by regular China Insight contributor retired Major General William Chen. Largely forgotten, ignored, and neither recognized nor honored, the story of these veterans has to be told so future generations can reflect upon the contributions of our WWII veterans; and to understand, appreciate, and preserve their legacies for the generations to come.

The book includes contributors from California, Oregon, Colorado, New York and Massachusetts. Chapters 1-5 should be of interest to all, while chapters 6 and 7 recognize veterans from New England and veterans whose next of kin reside in New England. Orders for the book are taken until Oct. 1, 2020.
Ancient tombs and burial items found on banks of Yellow River

By SHI Baoyin, China Daily, May 29, 2020

Chinese archaeologists recently discovered 602 ancient tombs and more than 2,000 burial items on the bank of the Yellow River, the local cultural authority in Henan Province announced.

The large tomb cluster is located in a village of the city of Sanmenxia, 500 meters from the Yellow River, according to Zheng Lichao, director of Sanmenxia’s institute of cultural relics and archaeology.

Nearly half the tombs are believed to date to the time between the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.) and the Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-A.D. 220). The rest are from other dynasties, including the Tang (618-907), Song (960-1276), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911), Zheng said.

Zheng said the tombs were discovered when his team examined the site of a shantytown makeover project.

“We have carried out three archaeological excavations since October 2017, spanning an area of 37,600 square meters,” Zheng said.

More than 2,000 burial items were dug out, including pottery, bronze and iron ware, gold and silver ornaments, jade artifacts and stoneware. Some of the items had unique shapes, and exquisite designs and are believed to have high historical and artistic value.

Experts said that the tombs are laid out in an orderly row adjacent to ancient Shanzhou city, part of today’s Sanmenxia, which has over 2,000 years of history and once served as a military and traffic hub.

They believed that the discovery sheds light on the declining political power center in the Sanmenxia area.

China adds two parks to list of UNESCO Global Geoparks

Source: Xinhua

China has added another two geological parks to its list of UNESCO Global Geoparks, bringing the total number to 41, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration said Wednesday.

The Xiangxi Geopark in central China’s Hunan Province and Zhangye Geopark in northwest China’s Gansu Province were approved as Global Geoparks by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 209th session on Tuesday, according to the administration.

The Xiangxi Geopark boasts 160 Paleolithic and Neolithic cultural heritage sites, while the Zhangye Geopark features color hills, Danxia landform and ophiolite suite.

To date, the number of Global Geoparks in China has surpassed one quarter of the world's total, the administration said.
Chinese often claim a special relationship, sometimes verging on kinship, with Jews. The origins and reasons remain unclear but it may be at least in part due to two Jewish families—the Sassoons and their rivals, the Kadoories—both of whom played lasting roles in the development of two of China’s most modern cities: Shanghai and its rival, Hong Kong.

Jonathan Kaufman’s new book, “The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Created Modern China,” is the story of these two prominent families. At a time when the US (and the West in general) is re-evaluating commercial and business ties with China, to an extent where they are under threat, it is useful to look back to a previous era when Western-style business took hold in at least two concentrated areas in China to the extent that it affected economic and social development. One can examine this either through broad-brush economics, or through the stories of individuals. Kaufman has here done the latter.

While not apparent from the title, the book is set in Hong Kong as much as Shanghai. Although the connections go a long way back, they became particularly important when many Shanghai tycoons moved to Hong Kong around 1949, sometimes starting over with nothing.

This theme of starting over appears early in the book when family patriarch David Sassoon was driven out of Baghdad in the early 1900s due to anti-Jewish attacks. After setting up offices in Bombay, he started a global empire selling such commodities as spices, silk and metals. Shanghai became one of these outposts.

Companies like Jardine Matheson ventured to Shanghai for great profits in opium peddling. The Sassoons did, too, and soon surpassed Jardines as the largest opium dealer in China. Kaufman doesn’t offer any apologies for the Sassoons’ activities in China, namely Shanghai, and writes that they were solely driven by profit.

In the Sassoon conglomerate, relatives or other Baghdadi Jews were sent to staff these outposts. One was Eliezer (Elly) Kadoorie from Bombay. Traveling up and down the China coast for the Sassoons, Elly Kadoorie learned business firsthand. By the age of 18, he had already learned that his business philosophy differed from that of the Sassoons. Left in charge of their offices in the British enclave of Weihaiwei when Elly’s bosses were away on vacation and visiting other outposts. Temporarily in charge of the warehouse, Elly took a barrel of disinfectant out of storage and doused the building to repel the fleas and rats that were spreading the disease. When people started dying near the warehouse, Elly offered disinfectant to Chinese employees. For those who couldn’t pay, he agreed to take payment later. When the senior managers returned, they reprimanded Elly for using the disinfectant without permission.

Throughout the book, the Kadoorie family will be portrayed as more forward-thinking than the Sassoons. Victor Sassoon, sent to Shanghai in the 1920s to run the family business, transformed the city’s skyline by constructing several buildings that still stand today, including the Peace Hotel and Embankment Building. Known for hosting the most lavish parties in town, Sir Victor showed his philanthropic side when tens of thousands of Jewish refugees flocked to Shanghai in the late 1930s. He only helped out at the request of Elly Kadoorie.

The two weren’t used to working together, and didn’t take the same view of Judaism. While the Kadoories believed in Zionism, Victor Sassoon viewed himself as Jewish in name only. But Sir Victor came through and helped the Kadoories with refugee relief.

The Kadoories have been much less written about than the Sassoons. Elly mentored his two sons, Lawrence and Horace, to become leaders in Hong Kong at a time when the city’s future was not at all certain. And the Kadoories’ experience during WWII played a large part in their long-term investment in Hong Kong. With nothing else to do but survive and care for his father during the Japanese occupation, Lawrence mapped out ways to rebuild Hong Kong while he was interned. Elly died in Shanghai under Japanese occupation, and the sons were on their own at the conclusion of the war. Victor Sassoon, on the other hand, was out of Shanghai during WWII and left the city for good before 1949, cutting his losses.

Kaufman includes some fascinating side stories, for example Elly’s friendships with prominent Shanghai families and how he mentored them in Western business practices. Kaufman uses the example of Rong Yiren, the son of a family that made their millions in cotton and flour mills. Rong stayed in Shanghai to work with the Communists after 1949, which didn’t go as smoothly as he imagined. But with the blessing of the Chinese government years later, Rong sent his son, Larry Yang, to Hong Kong to start overseeing China’s business interests there. It was in Hong Kong that new generations of Shanghai business families thrived, including the Kadoories.

This is one book that perhaps should have been a bit longer than it is. Kaufmann writes in detail about the various buildings the Sassoons and Kadoories commissioned and names the hotels. One could use this book to tour Shanghai and Hong Kong buildings; there are many in the book that still remain. Yet Kaufman never mentions the names of the synagogues in Shanghai—of which was built by the Sassoons—when they appear in the book. The only synagogue named is Ohel Leah in Hong Kong, but he does not connect it to the Sassoon family, who had it built in 1901-02. For a book about prominent Jewish families in Shanghai and Hong Kong, it’s a curious omission.

British colonialism was a curiously multicultural and multi-ethnic affair. One commercial empire was built by a Middle Eastern Jewish family who piggy-backed off the British Empire in India to enter China. Another started up in China itself. The Kadoories, meanwhile, have found their place in, and been embraced by, post-Colonial Hong Kong: creatures of empire, they have survived its demise.
Chinese Language Corner (漢語角)
Where something is in relation to another location

By Pat Welsh, contributor

In this lesson, you will learn to tell where someone or some place is in relation to the location of another.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at the office</td>
<td>在办公室</td>
<td>zài bàngōngshì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the university, at the college</td>
<td>在大学</td>
<td>zài dàxué</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the movie theater</td>
<td>在电影院</td>
<td>zài diànyǐngyuàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the hotel</td>
<td>在饭店</td>
<td>zài fàn-diàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the restaurant</td>
<td>在餐馆</td>
<td>zài fán-guǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the apartment</td>
<td>在公寓</td>
<td>zài gōngyù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the park</td>
<td>在公园</td>
<td>zài gōngyuǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the gas station</td>
<td>在加油站</td>
<td>zài jíyóuzhàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the airport</td>
<td>在机场, 在飞机场</td>
<td>zài jīchǎng, zài fēijīchǎng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the coffee shop</td>
<td>在咖啡馆</td>
<td>zài kāfēiguǎn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the store</td>
<td>在商店, 在铺子</td>
<td>zài shāngdiàn, zài pùzǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the grocery store</td>
<td>在食品杂货店</td>
<td>zài shípǐn-záhuòdiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the jewelry store</td>
<td>在首饰店</td>
<td>zài shŏushédìàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the bookstore</td>
<td>在书店</td>
<td>zài shūdìàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the stadium</td>
<td>在体育场</td>
<td>zài ǐfùyúchǎng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at my house, at my home</td>
<td>在我的房子</td>
<td>zài wǒde fàngzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the hardware store</td>
<td>在五金商店</td>
<td>zài wǔjīn-shāngdiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at school</td>
<td>在学校</td>
<td>zài xuéxiào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the pharmacy</td>
<td>在药店</td>
<td>zài yàodiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the bank</td>
<td>在银行</td>
<td>zài yīnzhǎng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at the post office</td>
<td>在邮局</td>
<td>zài yóujiù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at high school, at middle school</td>
<td>在中学</td>
<td>zài zhōngxué</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now we will learn how to say “in front of the…,” “next to the…” “on the left side of…,” etc. The words below are added to the expressions given above. In effect you are saying literally “at the …’s side.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>across the street from, opposite</td>
<td>在对面</td>
<td>zài duìmiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behind</td>
<td>在后边</td>
<td>zài hòubàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>next to</td>
<td>在旁边</td>
<td>zài pángbiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in front of</td>
<td>在前边</td>
<td>zài qiánbiàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the right side of</td>
<td>在右边</td>
<td>zài yòubàn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the left side of</td>
<td>在左边</td>
<td>zài zuòbiàn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next lesson will focus on the home and office stating where someone or something is to be found.

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.
Post-COVID Wuhan

Source: China Daily, July 2, 2020

"Long Time No See, Wuhan" is a documentary that tells the stories of 10 families in the Chinese city hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was viewed more than 25 million times during its first 24 hours online in late June.

The film was directed by Takeuchi Ryo, a Japanese who has lived in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, for seven years.

From a front-line nurse who tried to encourage patients by dancing and singing to a restaurant worker striving to keep his establishment open, the people in the documentary have all suffered in their own way. Yet, as the film progresses, the audience finds that a basic thread of resilience binds them together.

One crew member said she was impressed by people's optimism in the city. After watching an older man swimming across the Yangtze River, she said she is determined to show more people all the good things happening in the city and recommend a visit to Wuhan to her friends.

In one scene, the director was astonished by the manpower brought to bear to build Leishenshan Hospital — more than 7,000 workers. Pushing the limits of human endurance and engineering skill, they built a temporary medical facility for coronavirus patients in only 10 days.

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Li Jie, one of the interviewees, had been one of the construction workers. He said he appreciated the extra money he earned, but it was his passion to be part of the remarkable project that kept him going.

"During the busiest time, I stayed up three nights and four days," said Li, who had initially thought it was an impossible mission. He had not counted on the spirit, creativity, energy and unity that would bring it to pass.

"After the pandemic, many of us had a different mindset," he said. "I realized that earning a lot of money means nothing. Being alive is the most important thing."

One comment on the documentary salutes the people of Wuhan: "Living like the people of Wuhan is the most honorable way to say goodbye to our dead.""I thought people would be impatient watching an hourlong documentary; however, after I uploaded it to major online video platforms in China, there were more than many comments to write replies," Takeuchi said.

On May 15, Takeuchi called for volunteers living in the city to share their experiences after the outbreak on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo network. After preparing for two weeks, he arrived in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, with his team to interview 10 selected families.

On June 1, after spending a few hours on a bullet train, the team arrived in Wuhan. Trying to avoid preconceived notions, they immediately started to film.

"I thought people would still be nervous after experiencing such a big incident, but at night, when we were out for a late snack, we found many people were there and eating happily together, and I was finally convinced the city was safe," he said.

Though Wuhan's situation has improved, Takeuchi still saw the lingering impact. The first words of the first man he interviewed were, "Don't worry, I had a negative nucleic acid test."

As shooting progressed, Takeuchi found the interviews going smoothly. Many people wanted to assist or drive them around for free, and the hotel offered the group rooms at its lowest price.

"I have shared my feelings on Weibo that I like this city more every day," Takeuchi said, adding that during the shoot, he found many people they met were happy and the city is healing.

Takeuchi has made two documentaries about Nanjing's fight against the pandemic and how the city is reviving. Both went viral in Japan.
Confucianism, consumerism and the pursuit of wealth in a changing China: Xi Jinping era and final words

By Jackson Venjohn

Editor’s note: This is the sixth and final article in a series based on a thesis by Venjohn, University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management undergraduate and China Insight intern. The series discussed how Confucianism has impacted consumerism in China, and the trade-off between the individual’s pursuit of wealth vs virtue in Chinese society. The complete series is online at chinainsight.info, click on “Past Issues.” (January-July 2020, except April).

President Xi Jinping is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China

Confucianism, consumerism and the pursuit of wealth in a changing China: Xi Jinping era and final words

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President Xi Jinping is also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China
Wednesday’s inauguration of the central government’s national security office in Hong Kong marked the completion of the recent moves to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms in the special administrative region to safeguard national security.

Tasked with analyzing and assessing developments in the SAR in relation to national security, and providing guidance and support to the SAR government in the performance of its duties to safeguard national security, the establishment of the office means the SAR will no longer be the weak link in national security.

The central government has overarching responsibility for national security affairs and the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as it is officially named, will analyze and assess developments in relation to national security in the SAR, providing opinions and proposals to ensure the SAR’s executive authorities, legislature and judiciary can effectively prevent, suppress and impose punishment for any act or activity endangering national security in the SAR as required by the recently enacted national security legislation.

Having failed to convince the world and Hong Kong people with their double standard rhetoric on the introduction of the national security law for Hong Kong, as evidenced by the fact that at least 73 countries have expressed their support for the new law and 2.94 million Hong Kong residents signed a petition supporting the law in an eight-day campaign that ended on May 30, the anti-China external forces have reverted to their old modus operandi — scaremongering.

These China-bashers are now trying to pit Hong Kong people against the central authorities in Beijing with a smear campaign aimed at arousing suspicion about the office and its role.

But their scaremongering tactic is futile, as it has always been. Otherwise, why would some 300,000 Hong Kong people and more than 1 million Taiwan residents and others from around the world have chosen to live in mainland cities?

HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor hailed the opening ceremony of the central government agency as a “historic moment.” This was on the mark. The establishment of a comprehensive framework for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR is a watershed in Hong Kong’s history of socioeconomic development. It will put an end to the toxic antagonistic politics that has plagued the city for two decades, and help restore reason and rationality in political discourse, which is crucial for Hong Kong to move ahead and tackle its deep-seated problems.

Business & Economy

Exports gain 5 percent in First Quarter

- Minnesota exports (including agricultural, mining and manufactured products) were valued at $5.6 billion, increasing 5% (or about $278 million) between the first quarters of 2019 and 2020.
- U.S. exports of goods slid 3% during this period. Although exports dropped from 24 states, they grew or were unchanged for the remaining states and the District of Columbia.
- Minnesota manufactured exports jumped 6% to $5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2020, while U.S. manufactured exports dipped 5%.

Canada and Markets in Asia and Latin America Help Bolster Minnesota Exports

- North American exports surged 21%. Export growth of 43% to Canada — primarily due to mineral fuels — overshadowed a 15% decline to Mexico — as sales of machinery, iron/steel goods and plastics sank.
- Exports increased moderately by 4% to Asia. Strong gains to Korea (up 17%), Taiwan (up 44%), Japan (up 7%) and Thailand (up 21%) masked struggling sales to China (down 5%) and the Philippines (down 22%).
- Exports to Europe contracted 9% to $1.3 billion, as sales shrank in Turkey (down 63%), and despite a drop of 28% to Mexico. Primary mineral fuels, meat, plastics, aircraft and precious metals lead in gains

Mineral Fuels, Meat, Plastics, Aircraft and Precious Metals Lead in Gains

- Exports of mineral fuels (up 1,874%) were volatile, spiking to $315 million to Canada.
- Global sales of meat leap 53% to $121 million, propelled by China (up 62.5%) and Japan (up 45%). Fresh, chilled or frozen pork ($91 million, up 72%) steered growth and accounted for 75% of the state’s meat exports.
- Demand for plastics expanded 8%, driven by the Netherlands (up 162%), China (up 21%), Germany (up 10%) and Poland (up 23%, ranked 24th) were bright spots among larger European markets.
- Exports rebounded in Central and South America ($235 million, up 6%), supported by key markets such as Brazil ($66 million, up 32%), Costa Rica ($62 million, up 20%) and Peru ($13 million, up 43%).
- Minnesota sales slumped to the Australia-Pacific region ($127 million, down 10%), the Middle East ($88 million, down 16%) and Africa ($41 million, down 6%), as exports reversed course in Australia (down 11%), South Africa (down 32%), Saudi Arabia (down 32%) and Israel (down 18%).