The masked skater... makings for a new TV series?

Chinese American skaters loom large in figure skating. Their names roll off most people’s tongue: Karen Chen, Nathan Chen, Michelle Kwan, Alysa Liu, to name a few. What’s this caped, masked skater’s name and what does she aspire to be? See page 7

Application deadline looms for no-cost Congressional Gold Medals

The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project enters its fifth year with great anticipation for the award ceremony of the Congressional Gold Medal to more than 3,000 veterans who have applied for, and confirmed for this honor. It is unfortunate the pandemic had caused the project to be extended into 2021 - a full year longer than planned despite the efforts of vigilant volunteers and prudent stewards. No matter, the modified in-person presentation plan from capable Chinese American Citizens Alliance committee members and donor-supporter community will all be worth it when it does take place.

However, the application deadline for veterans and their families to receive a medal at no cost ends Feb. 28, 2021. The Project will continue to accept applications and information about veterans for its historical value as long as the website continues its current web presence, the decision has been made to discontinue the awarding of a “no-cost” Medal for applications received after February 28, 2021, 11:59:59PM EST. Applications received after that date may still be reviewed (and if approved) for the purpose of having a veteran’s name listed on the website, but the veteran and/or family must make their own arrangements to purchase their Chinese American WWII Congressional Gold Medal directly from the U.S. Mint.

The mission of the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project is to recognize, honor, and celebrate the military service of Chinese Americans who fought in World War II through advocacy, education and preservation and to ensure that the achievements and contributions of the “greatest generation” will never be forgotten. The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project is a program of the nonprofit Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), and the National Chinese American Citizens Alliance Community Involvement Fund (C.A.C.A. CIF). Neither organization nor this project are affiliated with any government agency, nor does it receive any government funds for use in meeting its objectives.

For more information, contact caww2@caaww2.org.

History
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

Now that Joseph R. Biden has been inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States, the country needs to unite again after experiencing a tumultuous period under the previous administration leading to a tragic demonstration at the nation’s capital on Jan. 6.

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration faces the herculean task of bringing the country together while fighting the coronavirus and getting the economy back on track along with a multitude of problems that the country is facing domestically and throughout the world. While we rely on mainstream media to provide coverage of events that affect our lives, it is incumbent on us, which includes government officials, the media as well as the general population, to hold each other personally responsible for our own actions.

Just as we did when the previous administration took over in 2017, China Insight will place more emphasis on political issues as China and the U.S. are facing profound changes in their relationship.

As we enter our 20th year of publication, China Insight (in digital tabloid format) will be including more events that are taking place elsewhere in the country with an emphasis on local events as they occur. As all of you know, COVID-19 has put a damper on Chinese Year celebrations, but the Mall of America and Minnesota International Chinese School are still holding their events in a virtual-safe format.

Despite many obstacles, the Year of the Ox (Feb. 12, 2021) promises cheer and power. Professionals will be rewarded financially for their diligence and skills. The family will play a significant role. Single persons will marry, while the married will welcome a new member to the family. People in business will start new partnership ventures.

Chinese astrology has zodiac signs that reveal your personality traits and they are symbolized by 12 animals. You have a Chinese animal sign, just like you do a Western zodiac sign and they are based upon the year you were born. Since there are 12 animals, therefore a 12-year repeating cycle.

People have said that the Chinese zodiac year in which you were born, your Ben Ming Nian, pre-determine a lot about your character and your values. However, like star signs, some zodiac signs can be luckier on specific years and dates, and some are more compatible with some animal signs than others.

It is important to know what Chinese animal year you fall under, so come the lunar new year in January and February you can learn to take good care of your zodiac sign.

The legend goes that the zodiac animals were chosen through a race: there could only be 12 winners, and each animal had to cross a rapid current to reach the finish line. The rat finished first because it hopped on the back of the ox, and jumped off ahead just as the ox was about to reach the finish line, beating the ox!
The ox, as shown in the myth, is known to be dependable, strong and determined. Because of this, the ox is associated with the Earth and is often prayed to for good fortune in agriculture.

People born under the ox sign are often diligent workers, but sometimes fade into the background: as they do not demand a lot of praise. Because of how logical and patient they are, many make great leaders.

We have also included some Chinese New Year do’s and don’ts on page 8.

Also, you are cordially invited to assist us and promote your own organization by letting us know how you recently celebrated Chinese New Year. Submit a brief recap of your event along with any photos, including captions, for publication. To be considered for the March issue of China Insight, we must receive this no later than Feb. 19. Please send materials to me or feel free to contact me at ghugh@chinainsight.info.

As always, your support of China Insight is appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

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YES you can visit our website, www.chinainsight.info, to read the latest issue, but did you know you can have China Insight delivered directly to your email inbox?

A digital subscription is FREE and brings a full year (10 issues) of new understanding about today’s China, from language to business opportunities.
Investors piling in

Around 18.02 million investors in China opened accounts to trade stocks on the Shanghai and Shenzhen bourses in 2020, industry data showed. According to China Securities Depository and Clearing, the mainland stock market recorded an addition of 1.62 billion new investors in 2020 – double the 809,000 reported from a year ago, up 100.39 percent.

The increase was a 36.04 percent increase from 2019, hitting a record high since 2017, according to the China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited.

By the end of 2020, the number of investors with A-share accounts reached around 177.77 million.

The surge of interest is seen as coming from people stuck at home from the pandemic and as mainland stocks soared. Investors also had more companies to choose from as new listings flooded the market.

Mainland China and Hong Kong accounted for 40 percent of the world’s IPO in 2020, according to Ernst & Young.

Chinese interest in local stocks has remained high so far this year, with trading volume for the mainland-listed A-shares surpassing $154.32 million on 11 out of the first 13 trading days of 2021.

Retail sales to exceed 10 pct

Identified as a key driver of China’s economic growth, China experts said domestic consumption is expected to see a year-on-year increase in 2021. The China Chamber of Commerce predicted China’s growth in retail sales of consumer goods will likely exceed 10 percent in 2021.

The report also identified potential trends in China’s consumption this year, including a fast recovery of the catering industry as well as growing opportunities for cross-border e-commerce brought by the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Consumption spending accounted for 54.3 percent of the country’s GDP last year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). There was a 3.9 percent decline in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, but grew 4.6 percent in the fourth quarter of last year.

Data from the People’s Bank of China, the country’s central bank, showed that households’ deposits increased $1.74 billion in 2020. Consumers are expected to spend their excess savings this year. A researcher at Renmin University of China predicted a “revenge rebound” in June 2021 if the pandemic is under control.

Solar probe launch scheduled

China’s solar mission was first proposed in 2011 and officially approved in 2017. China also intends to land astronauts on the moon by 2030, and eventually plans to establish a permanent research station on the moon’s south pole.

Call to amend national security law

The newly elected chairman of Hong Kong’s Bar Association, a veteran human rights lawyer, wants the national security law (NSL) passed down from Beijing amended so other countries will reinstate extradition agreements with Hong Kong.

Paul Harris described himself as “deeply committed to the rule of law,” said he hoped to explore “getting the government to agree to some modifications” to the law as some provisions in the legislation appeared to put some officials “above the law.” As example, he cited Article 60 of the law, which spares mainland national security officers from police search, inspection and detention, while performing their duties in the city.

Another provision of the NSL he’d like amended is Article 55, which allows people to be taken to mainland China, out of the jurisdiction of Hong Kong. Access to Hong Kong courts is part of JIHK’s Basic Law.

Harris was admitted to the Bar in UK in 1976. He has been practicing law in Hong Kong since 1993 and is fluent in Cantonese, French, German and Spanish. He founded Human Rights Monitor, Hong Kong’s main human rights advocacy organization, in 1995.

Pet economy

China’s pet economy reached $33.7 billion in 2019 and is expected to hit $45 billion in 2020, according to a Chinese media consulting firm.

The lockdown accelerated the pet economy via e-commerce. Luxury brands are “scrambling” to get a piece of the action.

Louis Vuitton has a $300 dog collar. Lauren has a line of dog outfits that matches its human clothing line. Italian brand Moncler just released a limited-edition dog down jacket. Many others are coming out with dog and owner matching outfits!

The founder of a leading market research agency in China stated, “I can imagine there will be a specific market for those who wish to dress up in the same clothes as their pets.”

However, the pet craze extends well beyond pet outfits. “Hey Tea,” China’s biggest tea chain, attracted hundreds of animal lovers to its first pet-friendly store in Shenzhen. And last July, Chinese McDonauld’s released the silicone “Meow Meow fries clip,” a cat-claw-shaped finger toy, for picking up fries! Supreme is promoting a limited-edition pet bowl.

As more younger Chinese postpone or even put off altogether on having children, they become more likely to devote their energy to their furry companions. That means there’s big money to be made in the pet industry!

Journalist sentenced

A Chinese citizen journalist who reported on COVID-19 in Wuhan last February has been sentenced to four years in prison following a closed-door trial. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation (the largest AIDS organization in the world) and other advocates around the globe condemned the sentence. United Nations Human Rights advocates around the globe condemned the sentence. China’s first solar probe, Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S), is scheduled to be launched into space in the first half of 2022, marking the country’s first-ever mission to “touch” the sun.

Since the 1960s, there have been approximately 70 satellites launched globally to study the sun, none of them from China! That will all change next year!

China’s solar mission was first proposed in 1995. The main scientific objectives of the probe include observing the sun’s magnetic field and two major eruptive phenomena: solar flares and coronal mass ejections. Most of the sun’s radiation is blocked by the Earth’s atmosphere and a complete study of the sun’s surface can only be done by satellites outside the atmospheric interference. It will also help with space weather forecasting by relaying early warning of damage to the Earth’s electromagnetic atmosphere. It will monitor solar storms at least 40 hours ahead of their arrival.

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Chinese smartphone makers ready for bigger slice of global pie

Main source: China Daily, Jan. 26, 2021

Chinese smartphone vendors are eyeing a bigger slice of the global market and become more competitive players in the internet of things sector, experts said.

Besides Apple and Samsung on the high-cost end, the smartphone industry revolves around lower-cost mainland Chinese handset makers, which have been successful in gaining global market share in recent years. A Jan. 22 the Wall Street Journal article indicated the Chinese manufacturers represent a 57 percent of market share collectively in 2020.

The ambitions of the Chinese companies come at a time when more consumers are ready to upgrade their devices to 5G, while the commercialization of the fifth-generation wireless technology is set to generate new opportunities in the IoT sector.

A rising star in the smartphone market that includes China, India and many Asian companies has announced its plans to develop their own custom chips. Currently the third smartphone company in China, Shenzhen-based Oppo Electronics Corp. aims to be a tech pioneer in IoT in 2021 with a bigger presence in the high-end smartphone segment, after it recorded an impressive growth in the past year.

In Southeast Asia, Oppo maintained its leading position in the smartphone market. In India, as the company expanded local sales, its brand preference among local consumers rose by 33 percent. In Western Europe and Japan, Oppo’s shipments of smartphones more than doubled. Such expansion has helped Oppo grow the number of users of its operating system ColorOS close to 400 million.

Oppo also has enriched the portfolio of its IoT products, unveiled smart TVs, new smartwatches, earbuds and other products. It had purchased rights to more than 500 patents from Ericsson, which will strengthen its technological development capacity immensely. In 2021, it will forge ahead and strive to become the explorer and leader in the era of integration of all things.

In the context of such goals, Oppo is not alone. Smartphone vendors including Realme, Vivo and Xiaomi are intensifying efforts to grab a bigger share in the global smartphone market after Huawei Technologies’ overseas phone business was hampered by a string of the United States government’s restrictions on its supply chains.

Shenzhen-based Realme, launched in mid-2018, is a fast-growing Chinese smartphone brand that relies on its popularity in e-commerce sales channels and its resonance with young consumers.

It will look to expand its offline presence and enrich its IoT portfolios in 2021. It plans to open more than 100 stores in India and Southeast Asia this year “as part of our broader plan to open more than 1,000 stores globally,” its CEO said.

Realme had entered just 35 markets at the start of 2020, but the figure jumped to 61 by the year-end, as the company fully leveraged its advantages in e-commerce and other marketing resources.

Because of strong competition from rivals, Honor Device Co Ltd, the Chinese phone maker that has gained full independence from Huawei, is aiming to restore its overseas business in the first two quarters of 2021. Its CEO said the company will launch its latest smartphone View 40 in Russia soon after the new company solved its supply chain problems by inking partnerships with major chip suppliers.

Honor was sold by Huawei in November to a Chinese consortium of more than 30 agents and dealers to ensure the brand’s survival.

An analyst at Canalys, a market research company, said it will be difficult for Honor to completely fill the void left by Huawei, as other players have already eaten into Huawei’s market share.

Also, Honor will need time to prove its strategy, especially in the face of lingering policy uncertainties from the United States government.

In January 2021, days before the new administration takes over, the U.S. Defense Department added nine Chinese firms, including Xiaomi, to a list of companies the agency claimed are owned or controlled by China’s military. Xiaomi recently surpassed Apple as the third-largest smartphone maker in the world.

In the context of such goals, the country needs to fundamentally improve the business environment and make the market more attractive. Therefore, in 2021, it should adjust policies in a timely manner, stabilize market expectations and strengthen the attractiveness of the system based on changing global economic circumstances.

For encouraging investment, the country should shift from stabilizing growth to stabilizing the economic system, and rely more on stable taxation, industrial and regulatory policies. In terms of guiding consumption, instead of adopting stimulative consumption policies it should turn to consumption instead of adopting stimulative consumption policies. It should turn to consumption policies. In terms of guiding consumption, instead of adopting stimulative consumption policies it should turn to consumption, upgrading, green consumption and healthy consumption.

When it comes to import and export, it should adhere to the principles of open competition in the global industrial and supply chains and safeguard its development interests.

At the same time, it needs to take bold measures to build better multilateral and bilateral mechanisms, enhance the connectivity of domestic and international circulation, and upgrade the global industrial and supply chains.

Here’s how to improve on a 100 trillion yuan economy

Source: China Daily, Jan. 21, 2021

China was the only major economy to see positive growth in 2020, with the gross domestic product exceeding 100 trillion yuan ($15.46 trillion) for the first time to reach 101.6 trillion yuan, up 2.3 percent over the previous year in comparable prices.

However, this splendid performance was not beyond expectation. After all, although it must still contain sporadic clusters of infections, China has taken the lead in curbing the spread of the novel coronavirus and resuming production and business by making use of its institutional advantages and tapping the driving force of its domestic demand based on its national conditions.

However, the country must conduct a structural analysis of its economic growth so that it can build on the past experience and grasp the development path in 2021.

Given that structural policies played a big role in China realizing positive economic growth in 2020, smooth policy transition is needed to consolidate the achievements and create new ones. China has implemented a combination of policies aimed at stabilizing investment, consumption and expectations. For example, it has intensified investment efforts, giving full play to the key role of investment in driving growth, and timely adjusted the policies not conducive to stabilizing consumption. At the same time, it has fully seized a window of opportunity to promote its export growth.

While bidding farewell to the extraordinary year of 2020, China should be well aware that emergency policies cannot help it to realize long-term goals. To maintain the resilience and sustainability of economic growth, it needs to fundamentally improve the business environment and make the market more attractive. Therefore, in 2021, it should adjust policies in a timely manner, stabilize market expectations and strengthen the attractiveness of the system based on changing global economic circumstances.

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When it comes to import and export, it should adhere to the principles of open competition in the global industrial and supply chains and safeguard its development interests.
Minnesota China Garden Society seeks additional funds

By William Zajicek, contributor

The China Friendship Garden, located in Phalen Park, Saint Paul, is seeking additional funds ($160,000) to complete Phase I of the garden construction and begin Phase II.

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden (MCFGS) began a New Year Matching Gift Challenge to raise funds last December and will end Feb. 28, 2021. The state of Minnesota, through its state Legacy and Bonding funds and private donors, have provided close to $1 million restricted for Phase II, some of which must be spent by 2022.

MCFGS is working with the Saint Paul Department of Parks & Recreation, the Phalen Park neighborhood, and the Twin Cities Hmong and Chinese communities to inform the design and build the garden. In Changsha, China, Saint Paul’s sister city, the Hunan Jianke architectural firm continues to provide design direction for the garden using Chinese building and garden principles.

The China Friendship Garden began in 2011 with funding for the design received in 2015. Phase I included a Hmong Heritage Wall, the Xiang Jiang Pavilion, plazas, rock work and the west entrance Archway Gate. Other work to be completed in Phase I include planting more trees, shrubs and flowers; creating and installing artistic calligraphy stones; and installing a seven-ton China Garden naming stone.

Founders, board members and advisors have pledged $76,850, and when matched by other donations at the end of February, Phase I will be completed and Phase II can begin. Phase II will include a Hmong Plaza, extension of the Pavilion garden to the water’s edge, a donor wall, the east entrance Moon Gate, and the Chinese Moon Bridge.

Donations of any size are welcome and will be doubled to the Match. Donations at the $1,000, $5,000, and $10,000 levels will qualify the donor to be a Groundbreaker, and will be recognized on the donor wall. All donations will be used to complete Phase I and begin Phase II.

Anyone who wishes to visit the China Friendship Garden may go to 1640 Phalen Drive, Phalen Park, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Log on to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bthHq79d4k&feature=emb_logo to see a video of the China Friendship Garden. Photos of the various garden structures are at the MCFGS website: https://mchinagarden.org/st-paul-changsha/

For more information, call Bill Zajicek, president of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, 763-913-4438, mcfgsinfo@minchinagarden.org.

Committee of 100 elects new officers and board members

The Committee of 100 announced on Jan. 15 that a new team of officers and directors were elected to help lead the organization in 2021 and beyond.

Former Secretary of Commerce, U.S. ambassador to China, and governor of Washington State Gary Locke was elected by members as chair-elect, and will take over as chairman from H. Roger Wang at the May 2021 Annual Meeting.

Serving with Locke on the senior leadership team will be Charlie Woo, co-founder and CEO of Magayos, who was elected as vice chair; John Chang, former California State Treasurer, who was elected as CFO; and Wilson Chu, partner in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP, who was re-elected as general counsel & secretary.

"I am excited about the energy, passion and commitment Gary Locke and the leadership team will bring to their roles and keep the Committee of 100 of top mind on issues surrounding Chinese Americans," said Wang. "When my term as chairman comes to a close, I’ll look forward to continuing my active involvement in Committee of 100 and supporting the team in any way I can."

I’ve been honored to hold the position with great respect and reverence."

In addition to the officer roles, a series of new directors were elected to begin their own three-year terms as board members. The Committee of 100 Board is a total of 17 members.

In addition to Locke, the new board member directors for 2021-2022 include: Richard Lee, chairman and CEO of Amsino Medical Group; Mei-Mei Tuan, founder and managing partner of Phoenix Partners; Debra Wong Yang, partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; and Nancy Yung, senior vice president and director, Washington of The Asia Foundation; Philip Ma, CEO, president and founder of PrognomiQ, was elected to his second three-year term as director.

All Committee of 100 directors and officers are members of the organization. Committee of 100 holds elections for chair every three years.

Committee of 100 (C100) is a nonprofit U.S. Leadership organization of prominent and extraordinary Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, health-care, and the arts. Founded by the late world-renowned architect I.M. Pei and internationally acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma, among others, it is an institution of U.S. citizens of Chinese heritage.

Events

Virtual China Business Conference - Winter Edition

Date: Feb. 8-10
Contact: policyteam@amchamchina.org

The China Business Conference is the premier forum in the United States for exchanging ideas on U.S.-China economic and commercial relations, and for helping to shape the bilateral policy agenda. Nearly 300 high-level corporate, government, and academic influencers attend the conference each year. Past speakers have included current and former Administration officials, CEOs and business leaders, and members of Congress.

Agenda

Tmes are listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Schedule and topics are subject to change.

Day 1, Monday, Feb. 8
9-9:10 a.m. | Opening remarks - 9:10-10 a.m. | A Conversation with Former National Security Advisors About China - 10:10-11 a.m. | Break - 10:10-11 a.m. | Congressional Views on China

Day 2, Tuesday, Feb. 9

Day 3, Wednesday, Feb. 10
9-9:50 a.m. | Unpacking Plurilateral Cooperation - 9:50-10 a.m. | Break - 10:10-11 a.m. | The Bilateral Cooperative Agenda

Confirmed speakers

Noah Barkin, Managing Editor, Rhodium Group - Senior Visiting Fellow, GIM

Chariene Barshesky, Senior International Partner, WilmerHale - Former United States Trade Representative

Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International, U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Al Clouse, Corporate Vice President, Chairman and CEO, Microsoft Greater China Region - Tom Donlon, Chairman, BlackRock Investment Institute; Former U.S. National Security Advisor - Charles Freeman, Senior Vice President, Asia, U.S. Chamber of Commerce - Michele Flournay, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Westexec Advisors - Al Gabor, President, Merek China; EVP, Performance Materials China - Greg Gilligan, Chairman, AmCham China - Stephen J. Hadley, Principal, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC; Chair of the Board of Directors, United States Institute of Peace - Former U.S. National Security Advisor

David Hoffman, Senior Vice President Asia and Managing Director of the China Center for Economics & Business, The Conference Board - Mike Huotari, Executive Director, MERCs - Chris Johnson, President and CEO, China Strategies Group - Roberta Lipson, CEO and Founder; United Family Healthcare; CEO, New Frontier Health - Jim McGregor, Chairman, APCO World-wide Greater China - Hank Paulson, Founder and Chairman, Paulson Institute - Karen Sutter, Specialist in Asian Trade and Finance, Congressional Research Service - Jerome Waterman, President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce China Center - Lingling Wei, Reporter, Wall Street Journal - Joerg Wuttke, President, EU Chamber of Commerce

Drive, Phalen Park, St. Paul, Minnesota.

For more information, call Bill Zajicek, president of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, 763-913-4438, mcfgsinfo@minchinagarden.org.
Communicating with your American-born children during COVID-19 pandemic: presented as part of Asian Media Access’ Mental Wellness Campaign

by Zihui Lu, Ph.D., contributor

In January 2020, the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in the US. In March, schools were closed, and we were required to shelter-in-place. Today, a year later, no one knows when it will end.

As a parenting coach and mother of two children, I noticed that the pandemic has caused a lot of mental crises for parents. For example, many parents need to work from home and take care of their online-learning children at the same time, which makes them very tired and stressed. Having to stay with each other 24/7 surely causes more conflicts among family members. Before the pandemic, although work and childcare are exhausting, parents can at least recharge themselves by traveling, having some leisure time, and socializing with friends. However, these activities are next to impossible during the pandemic.

On the other hand, life is hard for children too. Lots of families decided to let their children do online learning, therefore, children can no longer have regular face-to-face interactions with their teachers or classmates. Many children miss hanging out with their friends and some of them have trouble adjusting to the new learning mode. No camps, no sports, no museums, no zoo … No wonder some children are feeling tired, isolated and depressed, and some spend too much time on computer gaming. Research shows suicides among children have increased during pandemic.

Since both parents and children are experiencing mental crisis, it is not hard to understand why parent-child conflicts increased during pandemic. Moreover, the uniqueness of Chinese American families has given us more challenges. Chinese parents are influenced by the Chinese culture, such as: collectivism, following the authority, and the “face” culture, whereas the American-born children identify with the American culture, such as: individualism, independence, etc. The cultural differences have caused some conflicts between parents and children during the pandemic.

Therefore, parents need to understand how the cross-generational cultural differences play a role in the parent-child conflict. They also need to know how to improve parent-child communication in order to help their kids live a happier and healthier life. Below are some suggestions on how to communicate with your kids of two age groups: before and during puberty.

Before puberty
When children are young, they need a lot of quality time with their parents. The main task of parents at this stage is to build a strong bond with their children, and give children a lot of emotional support by letting them know that no matter what happens, parents will always be there for them. Many parents worry that their children won’t listen. They need to understand that children are more likely to listen to them if a strong bond exists.

How to build a strong bond with your children? Parents may learn to listen and ask questions like a coach, and give their children unconditional acceptance. For example, even when before bedtime with your child(ren) about things that happened that day. Ask “what good or bad things happened today? What made you feel mad or grateful? What do you look forward to tomorrow?” Also share your day with them. The questions are not intent to probe or lecture; but are based on care and curiosity. No matter how rough the day was, these conversation often calm children down and connect parent and child.

Besides quality time with parents, young children also need to build good habits such as sleeping and rising early, completing homework on time, and be respectful to others. This means parents need to set clear rules and boundaries. Here is a nice metaphor: “parents are like road guards. They will surely be hit many times by children, but their job is to stand their ground firmly with love. Clear boundaries will protect children and make them feel safe.”

During puberty
To get along with children during puberty, parents need extra knowledge and skills besides the two points mentioned above. Children are going through so many changes during puberty. It is quite normal for children in this age group to be in a perfectly good mood, but one minute later storm out and slam the door because of something you unintentionally said or did. It does not necessarily mean you have done something wrong.

The following tips may help you communicate with your children better during puberty:
1. Don’t offer unsolicited advice or help. Parents need to keep a distance from their children so the children can develop their much-needed free will and independence. However, parents also need to let children know they will always be there for them whenever needed.
2. Don’t let children’s emotions affect you. During puberty, children ride emotional rollercoasters every day, and their emotions can easily affect you. You need to learn to separate your emotions from your children’s, and to let them know that they need to be responsible for their own emotions. By doing so, you teach your children an important life skill: emotional adulthood, which means taking full responsibility for one’s own emotions.
3. Make your points indirectly. You may want to talk with your children about some serious issues, but sometimes it doesn’t work so well to talk with them directly, because this may make them feel pressured or patronized. It may work better if you talk about yourself or use someone else’s stories and make your points indirectly.
4. No one likes a nagging parent. Therefore, try to keep your messages succinct and powerful.

There are no perfect parents, and there are no perfect children. No one can be perfect. Everyone in the family needs extra care and support. Parents need to take care of themselves first, because only when their cups are full, will they have extra love for children. When problems arise, don’t blaming anyone but find a solution together. If you find it difficult to handle the problem alone, it is a good idea to seek professional help. Each counseling conversation is confidential, tailored to each family’s unique needs.

About Asian Media Access
Asian Media Access, Inc. is a comprehensive, multimedia-based community advocacy agency. It is dedicated to using multimedia arts and technology as tools for social betterment. This winter, AMA hosted the Cultural Broker program in support of mental wellness for the Asian American communities in Minnesota. This article is the first in the series. For more information, please contact amamedia@amamedia.org, 612-376-7715.

About the author
Zihui Lu (zihuicc@gmail.com) obtained her doctorate degree in Psychology from the University of Toronto and is an ICF-certified life coach at the ACC level. She teaches three MOOC courses on the topics of “Emotion Regulation,” “Goal Management,” and “Self-confidence Building.” She had also worked as a research scientist at Family Social Science Department of the University of Minnesota.

Footnotes
2. Nowadays, most researchers agree that children enter puberty at around 8-9 years old. Girls start puberty earlier than boys.

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Local national speedskating champion driven, coping with pandemic disruption

By Elaine Dunn, February 2021

Whether the 2022 Winter Olympics will take place as planned in Beijing or not (China Insight, January 2021) is anyone’s guess at this point, but to the many hopeful participants, their training and laser-sharp focus are on getting to one of the three medal-winning podiums in their event in whatever way they can.

These athletes have spent their entire lives practicing, training and competing at local, state and national levels. Few make it to the Olympics, but most dream of that opportunity.

One promising athlete in our own backyard is speedskater Jia Griffiths.

A little background on the sport: A long track speedskating oval is 400 meters. There are only four in the country. One of the outdoor ovals is here in Roseville (Jia’s “home ice”), and the other, at Lake Placid, New York. The covered ovals are the Pettit National Ice Center in Milwaukee and the Utah Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City.

Besides the various distance races, there is also a team pursuit event, and a mass start event—which is a little like a NASCAR race—that will make its way into the next Winter Olympics.

At the Pack National Speedskating Championships held in Roseville the weekend of Feb. 22-23, 2020, Jia skated five distances: 500m, 800m, 1000m, 1500m and 3000m. The 3000m was her longest distance—approximately two miles. She broke the record (Ladies Junior B) for outdoor ice in the 800m. “I was just really excited to be on top of the podium at the end of the weekend!” she said.

Jia has been part of Midway Speedskating Club at the John Rose Oval and a member of US Speedskating since 2010. She arrived in Minnesota from Chenzhou, Hunan Province, at the age of 16 months.

Her adoptive family was more than your run-of-the-mill Minnesotan winter sport enthusiasts: her maternal grandmother is none other than Janet Carpenter, the only American skater to win a World Championship (1952 Oslo), team leader (1952 Oslo), team leader (Sarajevo 2002). Her sister stayed with it too.

Jia’s: “I was hopeful for the season ahead. Then, because of mandates due to COVID, ice was delayed in Minnesota, so our season did not start on time. Of course, safeguarding from the virus has affected our ability to train the way we are accustomed to. Like everyone, athletes have been dramatically impacted.”

National speedskating competitions were stalled, such as the Am-Cup series. And, just announced, the International Skating Union cancelled the 2021 World Junior Speed Skating Championships scheduled for mid-February in Japan.

Jia’s: “As far as my grandmother’s influence, it is significant. Nai nai is my biggest booster and is at the side of the rink during every local race (even in sub-zero temps!). Sometimes she travels to Milwaukee with me too (as she did the weekend of Jan. 23-24). I hope she can join me in Salt Lake City and Calgary where I compete each year as those were the cities she judged Olympic figure skating. She was inducted into U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2008. Now, at 88, she still judges local figure skating tests, and advises skaters and coaches in places like Shantuck-St. Mary’s. She’s amazing. She emphasizes balance. And she tells me to only continue as long as I’m having fun."

Jia Griffiths with her grandmother Janet Carpenter after a race

Jia: “Well, as a little girl I wasn’t keen on the outfits. I insisted upon wearing my cape and mask every time I was on the ice—and I wanted to go fast!” she said.

Speed and drive, that’s huge with Jia, who generally competes in four metric distances at each competition: 500m, 1000m, 1500m and 3000m. Her training is intense.

China Insight (CI): How much do you practice?

Jia: “In the summer I often train twice a day. During the season I skate after school four days a week (outdoors), and we skate metric time trials on Saturday mornings. On my off-day I used to work with my physical therapist, but now I appreciate that day of rest. When the long track ice goes out in March, we move inside for short track skating to cross-train on a 111-meter rink (hockey size sheet of ice). During the off-season we also in-line (on rollers) and attend in-line marathons. On weekends, I do long distance biking with my team.

At least, that was our general routine before COVID-19! Last April I was headed to a camp in Colorado Springs at the U.S. Olympic Training Center when COVID-19 derailed those plans. For a few months we sheltered at home. Cautiously, we approached summer training, outdoors and online, including a training camp with champion speedskater Brittany Bowe, which I enjoyed, even though it met virtually.

CI: How else has the pandemic impacted the sport?

Jia: “I was hopeful for the season ahead. Then, because of mandates due to COVID, ice was delayed in Minnesota, so our season did not start on time. Of course, safeguarding from the virus has affected our ability to train the way we are accustomed to. Like everyone, athletes have been dramatically impacted.”

CI: How much influence does your “nai nai” (grandmother Janet Carpenter) have on you?

Jia: “She emphasizes balance. And she tells me to only continue as long as I’m having fun. As far as my grandmother’s influence, it is significant. Nai nai is my biggest booster and is at the side of the rink during every local race (even in sub-zero temps!). Sometimes she travels to Milwaukee with me too (as she did the weekend of Jan. 23-24). I hope she can join me in Salt Lake City and Calgary where I compete each year as those were the cities she judged Olympic figure skating. She was inducted into U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2008. Now, at 88, she still judges local figure skating tests, and advises skaters and coaches in places like Shantuck-St. Mary’s. She’s amazing. She emphasizes balance. And she tells me to only continue as long as I’m having fun.”

Jia: I wanted to go fast!” she said.

CI: What are your educational plans for the future and are you still studying Chinese?

Jia: “Being a high school junior, I am just starting to think about college. My sister, Sky Li, is studying biology and environmental science in Colorado. It’s fun to visit her on campus and imagine what my life might be like in a few years. My plans are to keep as high grades/GPA as possible and to keep my options open.

After attending Chinese immersion school (Yinghna Academy) from K-8, last year I did AP Chinese with MN Online High School. I took up Spanish at DeLaSalle as a third language.

CI: What other interest are you passionate about?

Jia: “I like music a lot. For years I played the cello. Now it’s mainly guitar and bass. Playing with the school orchestra is just an enjoyable part of my day. I also write, and am co-editor of our high school newspaper.

CI: Whom do you credit most with providing the drive to succeed?

Jia: “My family motivates me and makes this all possible—the travel, the driving, financing equipment, seeking sponsors, and just making sure I sleep and eat! And I have been privileged with some truly great coaches over the years, and a supportive Midway Speedskating Club. US Speedskating deserves credit for offering training camps and providing access to some incredibly inspiring athletes. But the drive and my competitive nature are internal—I just came programmed that way.”

Photo credit: Jill Griffiths

Jia Griffiths training in the summer

Photo credit: Jill Griffiths
After fire, MOCA presents Chinese American history online

On Jan. 23, 2020, almost 85,000 historical Chinese American artifacts—the largest collection of its kind in the world—were nearly destroyed by a 5-alarm fire at the Museum of Chinese in America’s (MOCA) 70 Mulberry St. location. Now, one year later in partnership with Google, MOCA made hundreds of digitized images of objects, sculptures, letters, photos and videos from its collections available for viewing for free on the Google Arts & Culture digital platform and on its app, available for download on Android and iOS.

MOCA’s new virtual exhibition titled “Trial by Fire: The Race to Save 200 Years of Chinese American History” tells the story of the Museum’s race against the clock to retrieve, rescue, and repair its archives, the largest collection of Chinese American artifacts in the world. “Trial by Fire” is an original MOCA exhibition written, researched and compiled from the Museum’s daily social media posts, primary sources such as videos and images, public records and news reports that documented the first critical weeks of the fire, its aftermath and recovery effort afterward.

In addition, more than 200 digitized high-resolution images from MOCA’s collections are available for the first time on the platform as well as digital exhibits of “With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America,” MOCA’s permanent exhibition, and the “My MOCA Story” video project, a crowdsourced social-media storytelling project launched by MOCA at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are available at https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/museum-of-chinese-in-america.

“One of the unexpected silver linings of this period of time is creative and intentional new partnerships. MOCA is incredibly grateful to Google Arts & Culture to expand MOCA’s usership which will inevitably broaden the much-needed scholarship in the areas related to the Chinese American narrative in America,” said Nancy Yao Maasbach, president of MOCA.

Virtual tour using “Street View”

Viewers will be able to experience for the first time a multimedia-enhanced virtual tour of “With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America,” MOCA’s permanent exhibition that tells the story of 200 years of Chinese American history. Using the “Street View” feature, people can explore MOCA virtually, selecting works that interest them and clicking to discover more or diving into the high-resolution images, where available.

A specially designed “Street View trolley” took 360-degree images of selected galleries that were then stitched together, enabling smooth navigation of nine rooms within the Museum such as Down with Monopolies! The Chinese Must Go!, a section that examines the political climate leading up to and the painful legacy of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act; and Building Community which showcases an old general store as a composite of salvaged objects and memories from Chinatown stores across America (Los Angeles, Boston and New York City).

Each of the nine rooms shown in the virtual exhibition is enhanced and supplemented with video and audio to enable further immersion into the content of each section of the Museum.

In addition, users of Google Arts & Culture will be able to watch videos from “My MOCA Story,” a crowdsourced storytelling project for the public to respond to the anxieties of lockdown at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. These are available at https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/museum-of-chinese-in-america.

Among the recovered artifacts are costumes from MOCA’s Chinese Musical and Theatrical Association (CMTA) collection, acquired in 1989, and artifacts from the Alex Jay, Virginia Moy and Way Gar Wong collections.

Photos of MOCA’s Collections and Research Center were taken two weeks before the fire. These are the final images of this beloved space.

Left: Handwritten letters, photos, oral histories, paintings, store signs, textiles, sculptures, film reels, furniture and other artifacts documented the rich history of the Chinese experience in America.

COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. The project prompted people to record 1-minute videos of themselves showing and sharing the story behind a precious family heirloom in their home. The project is ongoing and MOCA invites the public to share a story video that will be added to MOCA’s Collections on Google Arts & Culture. Videos may be submitted through MOCA’s social media channels at ﬂymymocestory@mocanyc.org.

An additional ongoing project is the MOCA OneWorld COVID-19 special collection that is documenting stories of Chinese Americans and the Chinese diaspora resisting coronavirus-fueled hate with incredible acts of compassion, generosity, and creative and artistic expression. Email oneworld@mocanyc.org to submit a story, images, videos or text, or to invite MOCA to record an oral history interview virtually with you.

Finally, browse the MOCA Shop by Pearl River online for a collection of unique gifts inspired by MOCA’s exhibitions, and shop online at https://pearlriver.com/collections/museum-of-chinese-in-america.

Chinese New Year do’s and don’ts

By Elaine Dunn, February 2021

Feb. 12 will be start of the Year of the Ox, which, according to Chinese tradition, is a symbol for wealth. So... there are a few tips on how to ring the year in the Chinese way.

Clean your house! This is symbolic of sweeping out the bad luck and preparing for a fresh start for the new year. Pay special attention to the kitchen so the Kitchen God will not be offended! He is an emissary of the Emperor of Heaven to visit and report back on what the family has done during the year. Many kitchens used to have a picture of the Kitchen God and families would place a bowl of sticky rice in front of it. The idea is if the Kitchen God’s mouth is full of gluttonous rice, he can’t speak! Also, glutinous rice balls served in a bowl of sweet broth is also put out to bribe the Kitchen God to say good things about the family. After his “dinner,” the Kitchen God’s picture is burnt to send him back to heaven.

New Year’s Eve is big-family reunion time for Chinese. That’s why all the trains, planes and roads in China leading up to New Year’s Eve are all jam-packed with people trying to get home. It is one of the world’s largest human migration on display. Billions of domestic trips are taken before and after the holiday. Families gather for a reunion dinner and at midnight, the younger generation would show respect to the elders. In return, the elders would gift hong bao (red packets filled with cash) to the younger generation(s). Even little kids are encouraged to stay up past midnight – old wives’ tale is that the longer the kids stay up that night, the longer the parents will live!

Then comes the fireworks! The fireworks are more than just entertainment. Their loud explosive noise is believed to drive away evil spirits. So, set them off, the more the merrier. Unfortunately, owing to Beijing’s campaign for cleaner air, many cities have imposed strict limits. One will no longer be hearing firecrackers going off curbed recently. More than 139 cities have banned fireworks entirely, and hundreds more have imposed strict limits. One will no longer be hearing firecrackers going off.
Enjoy the lucky Year of the Ox!

May the resilient spirit of the Ox fill your year with luck, wealth, and good health.

Chinese New Year do’s and don’ts

Continued from page 8

at all times of day (and night) anymore.

This next item will be dear to Nancy Reagan’s heart: wear red! Wear as much red as you can – socks, underwear, sweaters, dress, caps, coats … as red is considered one of the luckiest colors in Chinese traditions. It symbolizes loyalty, success, happiness, wealth and good fortune. Not only is one to dress in red, one also should decorate one’s home in red as well to ward off the mythological monster Nian. There are special open air and night markets leading up to New Year’s Eve where people would go and buy lanterns, couplets, flowers (plum blossom branches are especially popular) and fruit plants to decorate their homes. Red paper couplets expressing good wishes are pasted around the front door.

Share your wealth! This is where the little red packets, hong bao, come in. The money in the red packets is supposed to “anchor the year” and represent good luck. How much to give? Northern Chinese favor “anchor the year” and represent good luck. Money in the red packets is supposed to so you can start with a clean slate. It’s a debt carry over to the new year. Pay it off

You pour water outside the home or let water flow from your home (as in doing laundry!), you’re letting wealth escape!

It follows that if you cannot clean or sweep, you need extra care in handling any breakables as it is very bad luck to break a bowl, plate, glass, vase or mirror because that means a loss of money and/or family splitting up. However, should you do break something, pick up with and wrap the pieces in a red cloth, and only throw the lot out on the fifth day of the New Year.

Don’t use bad words! Well … this should be year-round, but especially critical around New Year. Do not use negative words (breaking, running out, death, ghost, killing, sickness, pain, losing and poverty). And cursing someone out is absolutely taboo as is starting a quarrel!

Stock up on books before the new year as the Cantonese word for “book” is a homonym for “lose.” Therefore, if you buy books during the 15-day Chinese New Year observance, you’re asking for bad luck. Likewise, do not give anyone a book during that period either!

No napping in the afternoon on New Year’s Day as it is believed that would cause laziness the rest of the year. Besides, when there are visitors on that day, it is impolite for the host to be asleep.

Lending and borrowing should be avoided at all costs! Do not lend or borrow anything on New Year’s Day, especially money. Lending money is an unlucky omen, which signifies economical loss, so people should not offend friends or neighbors by borrowing something from them. And, not only is asking for return of debt owed around the New Year bad form, it is also a Chinese New Year taboo.

Avoid using scissors the first lunar month as its use is viewed as an omen for possible quarrels with others and severing of relationships.

No haircuts during the first lunar month for it indicates the death of one’s mother’s brother. I have no clue why this is so, why this particular relative is singled out, or how this came about, but that’s the story I’ve been told.

Do not let the pasta jars, rice barrel or goods in your pantry go empty or even reach low levels. It’s a sign of inability to replenish, of poverty. Keep them filled and full, especially just before the New Year. This probably is only a fraction of the many customs/superstitions surrounding Chinese New Year. Yes, some or all of these may sound absurd, but most people are glad to abide by them for fear of finding out first-hand whether they are true or absurd!

Enjoy the lucky Year of the Ox!

Gold ingot and savory dumplings

Packets at New Year! Finally, where I came who our chintzy friends and relatives are larger the amount. Of course, we all know eight. And, the closer the relationship, the stick with the “lucky” numbers of six and whole numbers. People in southern China how dumplings? On New Year’s Eve, the round glutinous rice tong yuan filled with black sesame, red bean or peanut paste are eaten because the round shape represents togetherness and union. The savory variety, jiaozi, usually is eaten on New Year’s Day because their shape resembles ancient gold or silver ingots, therefore, wealth! Traditionally, home-made dumplings may include a coin hidden in one of them (much like plum pudding in the UK) and the person who eats that dumpling can expect good fortune in the new year. (Details on other auspicious foods eaten around Chinese New Year are available in previous issues of China Insight: 2018-2, p.6; 2018-3, p.5, 2015-1, p.8.)

Now, for the fun stuff! What you should NOT do during Chinese New Year.

Stop cleaning and doing laundry! Sounds good to me! On New Year’s Day, do not sweep the house or wash your hair! Otherwise, you’ll clean away the good luck. For the first two days, do NOT do laundry as you will offend the Water God. In Cantonese, water is a colloquial term for wealth. If you pour water outside the home or let water flow from your home (as in doing laundry!), you’re letting wealth escape!

Lentil and pea soup with cookies and fruits is a Chinese New Year staple. And, not only is asking for return of debt owed around the New Year bad form, it is also a Chinese New Year taboo.

Typical Chinese New Year Tray of Togetherness with six or eight sections filled with candy, melon seeds, chocolate “gold” coins and other treats.


Tilting a book “The Myth of Chinese Capitalism" invites prospective readers to expect an unraveling of this singular, definitive-articled story. It also suggests, to this reader at least, weighty theoretical contents, including perhaps tables and pie-charts. Dexter Roberts’s book is no work of dense economic theory, however, nor does it pretend to have uncovered some singular narrative of China’s development. Rather, it is lucid, personal, nuanced—and rather difficult to summarize.

In part, it is a first-person account of the author’s experience of encounters in two contrasting provinces in the south, prosperous Guangdong—China’s most economically successful area—and poorer, more rural Guizhou, to the west, where, as an old saying goes: “No three days are clear, no three feet of land are level, and no one has three ounces of silver.” Recounting visits made over the course of nearly two decades to both Dongguan in Guangdong, a manufacturing town famous as the “Factory of the World,” and Binghua village in Guizhou, the book could perhaps have been subtitled “A Tale of Two Towns.” The link between the two places, and one of the structural devices around which the book is built, is the Mo family, originally from Binghua, whose various members move between Guizhou and Guangdong in search of work, part of China’s sizable migrant worker population.

Roberts’s experiences with the Mo family, which began the year before China joined the World Trade Organisation in 2001, lead to detours into detailed discussions of the underlying problems caused by the economic models Guizhou and Guangdong respectively embody.

The cities of the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong have, along with other coastal regions, been the engines of China’s double-digit growth over recent decades. However, their success was in large part driven by the low cost of migrant labor, as rural young people relocated from places like Guizhou to more prosperous coastal cities. China’s hukou system meant that these workers were essentially second-class citizens, however, unable to access services for themselves or their children in the cities where they worked. This part of the story is well-known, though Roberts reveals some of the story’s hidden iniquities in a detailed and compelling section on migrant children’s schooling.

The economic advantages conferred by this sanctioned exploitation of migrant workers have, however, begun to diminish in recent years (partly as a result, happily, of improved labor laws). However, the past reliance on this model is causing contemporary headaches for the Chinese government. As manufacturing jobs reduce—and with automation now a key part of China’s industrial ambitions—migrant workers are no longer needed in the same numbers. China’s government would like these people either to take jobs in service industries, preferably in cities the government has ordained as acceptable (places like Beijing and Shanghai are most definitely not on the list, as China’s leaders seek to “civilize” the tier one cities, as it is euphemistically put) or return to their home provinces to drive economic prosperity there through entrepreneurship. Neither ambition seems easy to achieve, but the simple fact is that China must grow its middle class and drive domestic consumption in order to avoid the so-called “middle-income trap.”

The room to maneuver as China attempts to pull off this magic trick is even more limited in the wake of the US-China trade war and Covid-19.

Roberts’s book is an exploration of these complexities, drawing on over 20 years of reporting experience in China for Bloomberg Businessweek. His thesis is that received wisdom has got China wrong. That is the myth of the title: a straightforward narrative which says that the country is on an inexcusable path toward a vastly expanded middle class at home, with cutting-edge technology and powerful companies dominating markets abroad. Fuelled by continued economic growth, a much stronger and less brittle China is supposed to emerge. The myth says that China’s development path and authoritarian system will become a model for countries around the world and perhaps replace the already battered Western one of freer markets and individual rights.

Attempting to demonstrate the hollowness of this myth, Roberts’ book excavates the shaky foundations on which China’s recent economic success is based. This is an ambitious undertaking, and the book’s geographical and temporal scope sometimes proves a little disorienting as the author recounts visits to diverse parts of China, while also moving back and forth between past and present stories of the Mo family. One comes away from “The Myth of Chinese Capitalism,” however, with a far more subtle and detailed understanding of the current crossroads at which China stands. The book is a readable and engaging guide to the challenges the current leadership faces in replicating the supercharged economic growth to which some of China’s population, at least, have become accustomed over the last four decades. ♦

About the reviewer

Jonathan Chatwin is the author of travelogue Long Peace Street: A walk in modern China. He holds a PhD in English Literature, and is author of Anywhere Out of the World, a literary biography of the traveller and writer Bruce Chatwin (no relation).

Government & Politics

Annual meeting of China’s top legislature starts March 4

China will hold its annual “Two Sessions” of its top legislative and political advisory bodies in Beijing in March. Thousands of national lawmakers and political advisors will be gathered at the capital to cover every aspect of China’s development and the peoples’ well-being.

The country’s top political body, the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference will begin its session on March 4. The National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, will start its annual session on March 5.

The government usually determines its annual economic targets at these sessions, so the “sessions” will be watched by economists and politicians around the world, especially since China is projected to be the world’s only major economy that will register a positive economic growth this year.

2021 marks the beginning of China’s 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Long Range Objectives through 2035. Since 1953, China’s Five-Year Plans have been the single most important guiding document signaling policy direction for its economic and social development. This year also marks the 100th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China.

The 2020 “Two Sessions” did not set any annual GDP growth target given the impact of COVID-19. Instead, it prioritized its goals to stabilizing employment, alleviating poverty and preventing risks.

In May 2020, China President Xi Jinping proposed a two-pronged development
Annual meeting of China’s top legislature starts March 4
Continued from page 10

The Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC), a D.C.-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Hong Kong’s basic freedoms, has shared with the Biden-Harris team the critical importance of supporting and standing with Hong Kong on Day 1.

The new administration and nominees for National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have all been clear in their support for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong during the campaign and the transition. Now as they lead the country forward, the rhetoric must translate into actions.

HKDC spells out priorities for the Biden-Harris administration

THE VOICE FOR HONG KONG AND HONG KONGERS IN THE US.

The Hong Kong Democracy Council (HKDC), a D.C.-based nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Hong Kong’s basic freedoms, has shared with the Biden-Harris team the critical importance of supporting and standing with Hong Kong on Day 1.

The new administration and nominees for National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have all been clear in their support for the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong during the campaign and the transition. Now as they lead the country forward, the rhetoric must translate into actions.

In the coming months, HKDC will continue to work closely with administration officials and our allies from both parties in Congress around our priorities:

1. Continue to hold accountable those responsible for the ongoing crackdown in Hong Kong:
   • Consider additional targeted sanctions by fully utilizing the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, the Global Magnitsky Act, 7031(c) designations, and other relevant sanctions programs.
   • Instruct the Department of State to conduct and produce an updated, in-depth, actionable review and report on the conditions in Hong Kong within the first 100 days
   • Appoint and designate a Special Coordinator for Hong Kong issues

2. Protect Hong Kongers in Hong Kong and abroad:
   • Provide Hong Kongers who face well-founded fears of persecution an opportunity to emigrate from, or not be compelled to return to Hong Kong, including the use of humanitarian parole and Temporary Protective Status
   • Restore specific policies and programs benefiting Hong Kongers, such as treatment of Hong Kong as autonomous from the PRC for immigration and visa processing
   • Promote civil society exchanges and academic freedom through student visas for Hong Kongers to study in the U.S., restoration of the Fulbright Program, and support of civic groups in Hong Kong

3. Lead a joint response with international allies and like-minded partners to:
   • Coordinate targeted sanction schemes and safe harbor protections
   • Reorient U.S. trade negotiation with the PRC and press our allies to focus on human rights in negotiating trade agreements with Beijing
   • Rebuild a global market formed of democracies to reduce allies’ and partners’ reliance on the China market
   • File a case before the International Court of Justice to hold the PRC accountable for violating its commitments in the Sino-British Joint Declaration
   • Prioritize relevant agency reviews of China’s global influence in international organizations and groups such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, etc.
   • Urge like-minded nations’ representatives to the United Nations to press for the appointment of a United Nations special rapporteur to Hong Kong
   • Coordinate on policies and responses linking China’s mass human rights violations in Hong Kong, Tibet, and Xinjiang, as well as the threats it poses to Taiwan

4. Prioritize relevant agency reviews of China’s human rights developments
   • Urge the United Nations special rapporteur to Hong Kong and other human rights agencies to:...
日期 Date/时间 Time
Sat, Feb. 13th, 2021
12:00-9:00PM
(1:00-4:00pm 食街/Food)

Sun, Feb. 14th, 2021
2:00-4:00PM
领奖 & 食街 / Prize & Food

地点 Location
Asian Plaza
12160 Technology Dr.
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

线上 Online-Zoom (Feb 13th)

节目安排 Schedule
12:00-5:00PM
- 12:00PM 线上开场 Opening
- 12:30-12:45PM 舞狮：福牛贺岁（现场）Lion Dance
- 12:45-1:00PM 派红包（现场）Red Packs
- 1:00-2:00PM 美食制作（现场）Food Court Delights
  抽奖 1/互动：家庭游戏 Lucky Draw/fun games
- 2:30-3:30PM 剪纸：讲座“春回大地” Learn Paper cutting
  抽奖 2/互动：家庭游戏 Lucky Draw/fun games
- 4:00-5:00PM: 写福字、春联；讲座“好运福到”

美食街：冰天雪地尽显吃货本色 Traditional Foods and Snacks

7:00-9:00PM
文艺演出：“学校春节大联欢”；抽奖 New Year Performance

主办: 明州国际中文学校
Host: Minnesota International Chinese School
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Points of View

The US should change its course on China policy

Source: China Daily, Jan. 27, 2021

The US government is sending signals on US-China relations. Antony Blinken, Biden’s secretary of state, stressed that China posed a threat to the US and he backed a tough approach to China. Speaking at a press briefing, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that the administration would tackle that threat with strategic patience and take a multilateral approach to engage with China. It seems that the Biden administration's China policy may have several features.

First, China remains one of the priorities in US foreign policy, particularly in its Indo-Pacific strategy. The US will largely inherit a “free and open Indo-Pacific Strategy” and reshape its regional allies to build coalitions against China. Moreover, the Biden administration has picked Kurt Campbell, a China hand, as the National Security Council (NSC)'s Indo-Pacific coordinator, a new position dubbed “Asia czar” and arranged two senior directors on China in the NSC, all of which reflects how important the China issue is.

Second, the US will not easily alter its strategic perception of China, but will revise its strategic goals. It is almost a bipartisan consensus that it is not wrong to view China as a “strategic competitor,” but the Democrats believe competition must feature vigilance and modesty, based on which America should rethink its strategic goal of “changing China” and reevaluate its concrete policies.

Third, the US will adjust its approaches of strategic competition with China and make the alliance system play a larger role. The Biden administration is more likely to establish alliances in different fields, such as inviting Australia, India and South Korea to the G7, setting up D-10 group in the field of ideology, and including Australia, India, and Japan to upgrade QUAD in the field of regional security.

Nevertheless, there is still room for the two countries to cooperate and build mutual trust. While Biden's team agrees with Trump's reflection on China-US relations, it also believes that the bilateral relations should not slide into direct confrontation, which would only hurt both sides. The US should change its course on China policy and keep the window of opportunity wide open.

The US should not discard the engagement policy that underpinned over four-decade-long diplomatic relations with China. The two sides should reestablish the high-level dialogue mechanism as soon as possible to discuss both strategic and concrete issues. China understands that the US wants the dialogue to be "results-oriented," but the US should not set preconditions, especially not taking whether China makes concessions as the only criterion for judging the efficiency of the dialogue.

People-to-people exchange should serve as a buffer zone in China-US relations, rather than be politicized. The Biden administration has the responsibility to control the damage and undo the reckless policies by reopening the consulate, easing visa restrictions, encouraging mutual study and tourism visits, creating necessary convenience for Chinese media in the US and releasing the illegally arrested Chinese visiting scholars.

In the field of global governance, the US should work together with China on tackling climate change, COVID-19 and coordinating macroeconomic policies. The two countries should strengthen cooperation under the WHO framework, facilitate the global distribution of vaccines, and actively coordinate economic policies under the G20 and other multilateral mechanisms to bolster global economic recovery.

Even if cooperation and competition might coexist and become the new normal in China-US relations, the two sides should avoid a “zero-sum” game, expand cooperation to offset the malign competition and make contributions to the world by strengthening their own capabilities rather than seeking to undermine the other.

Thank you for reading China Insight
Together the Chinese + American audiences will celebrate the Chinese New Year, “Year of the Ox,” and share an atmosphere of festive joy in a safe, wide-open space. This year’s event will be composed of gorgeous Chinese New Year décor, virtual content + beautiful photo backdrops. We hope you can join us to celebrate with us

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 +
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14
NOON - 5 P.M. | TCF ROTUNDA

New this year, be sure to visit our beautiful Chinese New Year display located on Level 3, Culinary on North. Here you can learn more about the Chinese New Year Celebration + the Year of the Ox. Available for viewing February 1 - 28, 2021.

MallofAmerica.com/ChineseNewYear

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