The past year has been tough. The mid-February Minnesota winter had been tough. However, let’s hope the worst is behind us. Despite a difficult and uncertain economic environment, 2020 had ignited the entrepreneurial spirit in many – a LendingTree study indicates the number of new business applications across the country reached 3.4 million. If you’re looking at diving in, make sure you read p. 13.

It’s not what you think!

LA Asians stand in solidarity against hate

On Oct. 16, 2013, comedian Jimmy Kimmel aired a skit in which a young student responded to the question of how to handle America’s debt to China with “kill everyone in China.” Kimmel chuckled at the “interesting idea,” but many found no humour in that. Rallies in 27 U.S. cities called for ABC and Kimmel to apologize.

Last month, the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) issued a statement that condemned the latest incidents of anti-Asian violence across the country and called on newsrooms to accurately cover such events.

In the past few weeks alone, there had been a notable number of violent crimes targeting our most vulnerable, elderly Asian Americans, including:

- In California, San Francisco, an 84-year-old Thai American died from injuries when he was pushed to the sidewalk;
- In San Jose, a 64-year-old Vietnamese American woman was robbed of $1,000 in cash which she had just withdrawn for Lunar New Year;
- In Oakland’s Chinatown, a 91-year-old man was shoved to the ground by an assailant who is believed to have shoved two other elderly Asians to the ground. These attacks in Oakland are part of more than 20 robberies and assaults reported to Chinatown community leaders ahead of the Lunar New Year;
- In New York, a 61-year-old Filipino American was slashed in the face during a subway

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Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

With a handful of snowstorms traveling through the country over the past few weeks, it may not feel like spring is coming anytime soon. But as we enter the month of March, the spring equinox isn't too far behind. According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, spring equinox in 2021 falls on Sat., March 20, at 5:37 a.m. This will mark the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

I’m sure many of you are happy to see February in your rearview mirror now that we have survived some brutal, bone chilling, sub arctic temperatures.

We have not had much to celebrate during the past year during which we have suffered a public health crisis from the COVID-19 pandemic that exacerbated a depressed economy along with a contentious election that has divided the nation.

Add to that, the violent hate crimes against Asian Americans you heard about beginning last spring haven’t stopped either. Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, Asian Americans have reported being targeted in 3,000 hate incidents nationwide, with many crimes occurring in California’s Bay Area, New York City and other parts of the country. Check out the anti-Asian article on page 1.

Despite President Joe Biden’s recent executive orders condemning anti-Asian racism, the attacks, especially those targeting Asian senior citizens, have continued with alarming regularity.

There’s a lot of tension between communities of color because the model minority myth pits ethnic groups against one another.

Speaking up can be uncomfortable for many Asian Americans as many of us may have been explicitly brought up to be quiet or to mind our own business earlier in life.

The Chinese community chose to maintain a low profile and even chose to create their own Chinatowns. Yet, if there’s ever a time for Asians to overcome our apathy and fears, it is now. Recognize that our silence during racial injustices will be remembered and has an impact as Black lives continue to be disproportionately lost in America. Speak up and take action. It’s time for Asian Americans to show solidarity now and make the message clear that all lives matter, Black or otherwise, and should have always mattered.

Asians, especially the Chinese in America, need to be more involved in politics and philanthropy. We don’t need to start at the top as Andrew Yang (2020 U.S. presidential candidate) and Jeff Jiang (2020 Minnesota State senator candidate from Eden Prairie). Start at the grassroots level to see whether or not you are comfortable and work your way up.

Check out the article on page 9 about the philanthropy of the multigenerational Bergdahl family. It is never too early to learn or participate. You can simply donate to a cause like the Minnesota Chinese Garden (page11) or volunteer your time with any organization or cause of your choice. There is no shortage of excellent organizations that need funding or volunteers.

Be sure to read on page 10 about the landmark study that reveals historic contributions, ongoing challenges and stereotypes of Chinese Americans or go to contributingacrossamerica.economist.com. Another organization that could be of interest to many of you is Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC). Check them out on 7 or at https://asianunitycoalition.org/

Thank you for continuing to support China Insight and feel free to contact Elaine Dunn or me if you have any ideas about future content or wish to discuss an article that you feel would be of interest to our readers. We welcome learning more about members from the Chinese community who are active in politics or philanthropy.

Stay healthy and best wishes from all of us at China Insight.

Sincerely,

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

Pleased to Report

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Publisher – CEO
China Insight, Inc.

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Getting to know you . . .

Who are you? What articles do you enjoy reading?

China Insight would like to ensure our content matches your interests. Please take a few minutes to complete this poll so we can update our future content or wish to discuss an article that you feel would be of interest to our readers. We welcome learning more about members from the Chinese community who are active in politics or philanthropy.

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Publisher – CEO
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China Insight is a monthly English language newspaper fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

China Insight is a Member of The Minnesota Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

Submissions & Correspondence

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Honesty is the best policy

Remember your parents telling you, “Honesty is the best policy?” It’s true!

Owner of a Chinese restaurant in Montreal told CBC news that his restaurant is “simply not the best. That’s a fact. We just try to be a little better every day. And that’s how I see it.”

The owner had, for years, included “brutally honest” comments about the restaurant’s dishes on the online menu. E.g., “I have high expectations of this dish (one of his favorites in China), I am not a huge fan of our version,” he stated bluntly. For the Beef in Chili Oil, he admitted he hadn’t had a chance to try it as it was a new addition to the menu and that, perhaps, he should eat more frequently at his own restaurant! So, is there a dish he’d recommend? Tofu Skin Snack that perhaps?

The reason for doing his commentary? He didn’t want his customers to be disappointed!

How’s that affecting his business? A week after a food writer posted his menu to Twitter, the restaurant “saw a lot of new customers.”

No-traveling policy

Chinese told to stay put for Chinese New Year to curb the potential spread of COVID-19 turned to e-shopping instead.

Parcel shipments between Feb. 4-8 quadrupled over the same period in 2019. (2020 data was not used as China was under severe lockdown and social distancing last Chinese New Year.)

Since the usual travel back home for family reunions were way down, intercity orders increased. Local specialties such as preserved ham, pickled Chinese cabbage and beef jerky were top items from smaller counties to bigger cities. Other popular merchandise purchased: exercise equipment (jump ropes, rowing machines), foreign wines, pasta, as well as home-based entertainment such as poker and other table games.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the total revenue of key companies in the retail and catering sectors increased by 28.7 percent on a yearly basis during the week-long holiday to $127.1 billion, exceeding 2019 Spring Festival holiday spending by 4.9 percent.

Free protein with carbs

One of the seven outlets of the French bakery chain Passion by Gerard Dubois (a Swiss pastry chef) in Hong Kong has “hired one more professional to conduct extra pest control.” A frequent customer posted on her social media account that she found a cockroach baked into the bread she bought at the store on Feb. 24. To use the complainant’s words, the cockroach was “fried together with the bread.” She stated she would not be returning to the café again.

This is not the first time the French café has had its food safety standards come under fire. In March 2020, the chain made the news when a video taken at another one of its outlets showed a rat snacking on a muffin at its pastry counter! Several months before the rat video incident, another customer had reported a similar occurrence to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. That outlet, too, closed for “deep cleaning” after the second report and told its customers the pastry counters had been disposed of.

This time, the chain had released a statement of apology and reassured customers that “immediate action to prevent any similar things happening in future.”

Dealing with Beijing Olympics

If you’re going to accuse a government of genocide, you can’t then have an Olympics in that country as if it’s a normal place,” said Rep. Tom Malinowski (D-N.J.), who was assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor in the Obama administration. “There has to be some implication. Some consequence.”

“Makinowski is currently on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He has raised the issue with the Biden administration. How will Secretary of State Anthony Blinken handle the 2022 throrny Winter Olympics issue?” In his January confirmation hearing, Blinken said it “would be my judgment as well” that China’s treatment of Uighurs constituted genocide. But he did not give a hint of what he would recommend the U.S. to do.

In January, a number of Republican senators introduced a resolution urging the International Olympic Committee to move the Winter Games out of China, which the IOC is highly unlikely to do. Olympic officials also look on boycott by athletes and diplomats as “ineffective.”

Under pressure from the Carter administration, the U.S. (along with 60 other countries) boycotted the other 1980 Summer Games in Moscow in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

China may cancel pro-democracy Hong Kong lawmakers and arrest pro-democracy activists, but it can’t cancel a short film about Hong Kong’s 2019 mass protests.

A 35-minute documentary about the Hong Kong protests had been screened at several international film festivals and is one of 10 shortlisted for the Oscar’s short documentary award.

Directed by Norwegian documentary andrea Anders Hammer, “Do Not Split” captures the mass marches against the extradition law and the protest-ers’ increasing desperation leading up to the passing of the controversial national security law. It shows the initially peaceful protests escalating into conflict when heavily armed police appear on the scene. Hammer’s work sheds light on the unrest, on China’s attitude toward demonstrations and the democracy movement. It emphasizes what the demonstrators are fighting for and what they are risking in doing so.

The film title is a reference to the Cantonese phrase 不分裂, which roughly translates to “do not divide / do not snitch on others.” It reminds Hong Kongers of all persuasion they are fighting for the same cause.

On Oscar short list

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Following Elon into space

Zhejiang Geely Holding Group in Zhejiang Province has Elon Musk’s SpaceX in its scope. Like Musk, Geely is also interested in autonomous driving technologies and will move beyond manufacturing autos; it will start producing satellites by October this year. It aims for an annual output of more than 500 satellites by 2025, with around 300 highly skilled staff.

Geely received the greenlight from the National Development and Reform Commission on Feb. 18. It’s coastal Taizhou production plant, a $326 million investment, will be China’s first commercial satellite factory to combine aerospace and auto-making technologies. It will carry out research and development, manufacture core components, test, operate and control satellites. It also will build aerospace materials and cloud-computing platforms.

Geely unveiled its low-orbit satellite network plan last year. The group said low-orbit satellites will “provide an accuracy of several centimeters,” as opposed to the U.S.-produced medium-orbit satellites, whose accuracy is within several meters.

GeeSpace, a $638 million investment, is the group’s subsidiary in Shandong Province that specializes in satellite research and development, launch and operations. It is also tasked with design and build a global communication system that provides internet access to hard-to-reach spots and where service will be immune to natural disasters such as earthquake and volcanic eruptions.

GeeSpace is investing in low-orbit satellites to meet demand for high-speed connectivity capabilities that can deliver fast software updates.

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A glimmer of light in dark times: HK pro-democracy activists seek asylum in US

By Samuel Chu, HKDC

Since 2001, democracy activists have sought asylum in the US. In mid-January 2021, 12 Hong Kongers were arrested at sea, detained, and jailed in the mainland. They are now safe in the United States. They are also extremely fortunate to be in the US. They left behind their families and to the US government and HKDC for help now more than ever. Today, we are grateful for these activists who are now safe; we must answer their call for help now more than ever. We are grateful for these activists who are now safe; we will not stop fighting until all are free. We are young pro-democracy fighters now in exile. We are now safe in the United States. From the moment we left Hong Kong, our hearts have been filled with anxiety and all kinds of emotions. Whenever we see Hong Kong in the news and how the situation has become worse and worse, we are even more concerned and worried about all Hong Kongers. "Even though we have left our home, our hearts remain there and we stand with everyone fighting for Hong Kong. As we begin our new life, despite the difficulties and obstacles ahead of us, we will face the future and challenges with the 'lion rock' spirit, just like all Hong Kongers." As a fellow Hong Konger once shared with us, "As long as there is a glimmer of light, there is no darkness." To everyone rooting for us, we are rooting for you. Thank you.

Hong Kong won't tolerate Trojan horses

China Daily editorial, Feb. 22, 2021

The separatists and anti-China subverts in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region who have been trying to wage a Trojan war against the regional and central governments are now on tenterhooks after Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office Director Xia Baolong elaborated on the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong." Xia's elaboration on Monday, the most comprehensive ever of its kind, made known in no uncertain terms Beijing's determination to implement this principle fully. "Patriots governing Hong Kong" is part and parcel of the "one country, two systems" principle. As late leader Deng Xiaoping, chief architect of this political innovation, categorically pointed out in June 1984, "patriots must form the main body" of Hong Kong's administrators after the territory's return to China. He made clear that patriots are people who respect their own nation and genuinely support the country resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, and would never do anything to harm the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

No one took issue with this requirement, not even the British government that was preparing to hand Hong Kong back to China. Xia has forced the non-patriotic zealots in Hong Kong to face an unpalatable reality: They have no chance of holding power in the SAR no matter how desperately they try. Some subversives in Hong Kong have managed to make inroads into the special administrative region's political establishment, including the legislature, even though they have openly revealed themselves to be unpatriotic.

This has been thanks to loopholes in the SAR's election system that exist not by design but simply because the drafters of the Basic Law, the constitutional document that guides the implementation of "one country, two systems", had, excusably, not been able to foresee the complexities of politics in post-handover Hong Kong and thus failed to plug those loopholes.

Enough is enough. The political wrangling that has splinter Hong society and hindered its socioeconomic development in recent years, the social unrest and violent rampages that upended Hong Kong society in 2019, the ruthless and endless filibustering that have impeded the legislature's work and the seizure of local district councils in November 2019 by members of the opposition camp who openly advocated separatism have forced the SAR and central governments' hands.

Action is to be taken without further delay to plug the loopholes that have allowed subversives to sneak into Hong Kong's governance establishment. It is a long overdue day of reckoning. After all, no functioning state tolerates Trojan horses for long.
Figure 1. Exports Increase or Flat in 23 States

Exports increase to smaller regions, selected countries – despite widespread declines

- The state’s exports fell to its top three regional markets, which accounted for 87% of exports. Sales sank 7% to North America, 11% to Asia and 19% to the European Union (led by Switzerland). 
- With regional export growth of 15%, the state’s exports fell to its top three regional markets, which accounted for 87% of exports. Sales sank 7% to North America, 11% to Asia and 19% to the European Union (led by Switzerland). Exports also surged to Taiwan (up $31 million), Indonesia (up $10 million) and Ecuador (up $10 million).
- Minnesota businesses expanded sales to two Top 10 markets: China (up 2%) and the U.K. (up 2%).

Gains in machinery, vehicles, and meat help offset widespread declines

- Signaling resilience, exports of three of the state’s top 10 products increased: machinery (up 4%), vehicles (up 4%) and meat (up 10%).
- However, large losses persisted for other major products, such as in optic, medical (down $187 million), mineral fuels, oils (down $74 million), plastics (down $56 million) and aircraft, spacecraft (down $52 million).
- Slumping demand for mineral fuels, oils and ores, slag, and ash in Canada – the dominant market for these products – triggered their overall declines.
- Global sales of machinery began to rebound, fueled by markets such as the Philippines ($41 million, up 152%), Singapore ($65 million) and France (down $51 million).
- With regional export growth of 15%, the outlook brightened in European markets not in the European Union (led by Switzerland and Norway) and the Middle East (led by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE). Exports also surged to Taiwan (up $31 million), Indonesia (up $10 million) and Ecuador (up $10 million).
- Minnesota businesses expanded sales to two Top 10 markets: China (up 2%) and the U.K. (up 2%).

Resources for those who have experienced harassment and violence

- Stand Against Hatred, incident reporting center by Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- Stop AAPI Hate, incident reporting center managed by Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University
- Mental health and counseling resource for coping with anti-Asian racism and Covid-19, by Harvard University

The AAJA will work to convene conversations around the impact of anti-Asian violence on our communities, and the state of media coverage of these issues in the coming weeks.
March 8 is International Women’s Day. Since 1911, the women’s movement has honored achievements, be it in the cultural, economic, educational, political, or social fields. This day celebrates the courage of women. March 8 is also a day for women from all backgrounds to come together to break down barriers for gender parity and women’s rights.

It is fitting, then, for China Insight to celebrate two Chinese women physicists who have excelled in their respective fields. Neither of these women are household names, but they both made significant contributions to the world of physics. Although coincidentally both share the same last name of Wu, they are not related.

### Wu Chien-Shiung

On Feb. 11, the U.S. Postal Service released a stamp featuring the late Chinese American nuclear physicist Wu Chien-Shiung (吳健雄) Wushan, known as the “first woman experimental physicist.” Wu was not included in her hometown’s hall of fame until 2000, and her work in physics was not recognized in her lifetime.

**Background**

Wu was born in Shanghai on Nov. 30, 1912, to an affluent family. Her family moved to Chongqing during the Japanese invasion of China. After graduating from Harvard in 1970, she became a research associate at the University of Wisconsin where she led her team to the discovery of the Higgs boson in July 2012.

**Accomplishments**

Wu was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1957 for her work on parity violation in beta decay. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in physics. She was also the first woman to be elected as a foreign member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the first woman to be named a Carnegie Mellon University professor, and the first woman to be named a distinguished professor at the University of Wisconsin.

**Legacy**

Wu’s legacy is one of pioneering and perseverance. She was a role model for women in science, and her work continues to inspire generations.

### Wu Sau Lan

Wu Sau Lan (吳秀蘭) is a woman who, by many accounts, had the Nobel committee award the physics prize to a woman. Since 1963, she would have been the recipient.

Wu is currently the Enrico Fermi Distinguished Professor of Physics at the University of Wisconsin and a visiting scientist at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research), where she led her team to the discovery of evidence for the Higgs boson in July 2012.

In recognition of her contributions to physics, the U.S. Postal Service recently released a stamp in her honor. The stamp is designed by Ethel Kessler and features original art by the Asian artist and conservationist Beryl Cook.

**Background**

Wu was born in Nanjing, China, in 1921. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1936 to attend the University of Wisconsin, where she earned her Ph.D. in physics in 1949. After living in Germany for five years, she returned to the U.S. and became a research associate at the University of Wisconsin in 1954. In 1962, she was named the first woman professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin.

**Accomplishments**

Wu’s work on the Higgs boson is widely recognized as one of the most significant achievements in physics. She is also known for her work on parity violation and her contributions to the development of the Standard Model of particle physics.

**Legacy**

Wu’s legacy is one of groundbreaking achievements and perseverance. She was a trailblazer in the field of physics and her work continues to inspire generations.

Celebrating two female physicists

By Elaine Dunn, March 2021

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**For 2020, in celebration of International Women’s Day (March 8), Time Magazine created an iconic stamp in honor of two women of the Year 2020. The stamp is designed by Ethel Kessler and features original art by the Asian artist and conservationist Beryl Cook.**
Katherine Tai Biden's top pick for U.S. trade envoy

President Joe Biden’s pick to be the top U.S. trade envoy promised to work with America’s allies to combat China’s aggressive trade policies, signaling a break from the Trump administration’s go-it-alone approach.

At her confirmation hearing Feb. 25 before the Senate Finance Committee, Katherine Tai dodged questions on two politically sensitive questions — whether the Biden administration would drop President Donald Trump’s tariffs on imported steel and aluminum and whether it would revive former President Barack Obama’s Asia-Pacific trade deal that was jettisoned by Trump. Without going into specifics, Tai indicated the understanding “opportunities and limitations in our existing toolbox.”

Tai has a reputation as a progressive Democrat who is respected by members from both sides of the aisle for her willingness to find common ground on “thorny matters such as those involving both business and labor.” She is considered a problem-solving pragmatist and is expected to be confirmed as early as next week.

In a rare sign of bipartisan support, the Ways and Means Committee appeared to unanimously back Tai last served as the top trade staffer to the Senate Finance Committee, where she was praised by both Democrats and Republicans.

Tai has a unique background, with experience in managing and working with the Trump administration over a revamped North American trade deal. She has a deep understanding of China’s economic policies and a strong record of working with China.

Before her appointment as U.S. Trade Representative, Tai held several roles at U.S. government agencies and organizations that focus on China and the Asia-Pacific region. She has worked with various stakeholders, including U.S. legislators and policymakers across the political spectrum.

Tai’s appointment is expected to reassure China and other countries about the administration’s commitment to engaging in dialogue and finding solutions to trade disputes.

According to Bloomberg, her “frank assessment offers a glimpse of the methodical approach she’ll take as America’s top trade official, as well as the hard line she’s expected to pursue in U.S.-China negotiations. Biden is banking on Tai’s low profile — she’s not as well-known as some of his other economic advisers — and her pragmatic style to distance him from the chaos that defined the Trump administration’s trade agenda.”

As America’s trade chief, Tai will be at the center of helping to manage U.S.-China relations with China and their massive economic consequences. She will help write the next chapter on the thorny relationship between the world’s biggest economies, how to get even more contentious issues in the years ahead.”

If confirmed, Tai will play a critical role in relations between the world’s two largest economies.

Speedskater Jia Griffiths “Fastest”

By Elaine Dunn, March 2021

In February 2021, China Insight featured an image of Speedskater Jia Griffiths leading the pack during the 2019 National Civic Leadership Conference. The image shows Griffiths overcoming a break from the Trump administration’s go-it-alone approach.

The 10,000 Lakes Races were held in Roseville, Minn.—all ages— the weekend of Feb. 20-21, where Griffiths won medals and was named Minnesota’s Fastest Female Skater. Quite an accomplishment for an athlete recovering from a 2019 complex knee surgery. You can see her leading the pack (of men) in this lap during the mixed race in the accompanying photo!

Griffiths will be competing in the U.S. Long Track Nationals in Salt Lake City in March. No question whom we’re rooting for!

Good luck to Griffiths and her teammates as they wind down the season.

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Points of View
Asian American Unity Coalition

According to the Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) Preamble:

Asian Americans shall either win equal citizenship UNITED or suffer discrimination separately. To aspire to live as equals in a free market system like the U.S.A. where we represent one of the smallest minorities, we must UNITE to acquire sufficient strength to fight off discrimination.

The concept of forging unity among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) has existed for a long time. However, due to diversity, language barriers, and lack of trust among Asian Americans, there has been a need to create an AAUC to serve as a legitimate tool in the trade tool box.

The AAUC’s model of state-directed economics, Tai said. She also mentioned there were promises in the U.S-China trade pact that need “to be delivered on.”

Former President Trump slapped taxes on $360 billion in Chinese imports in a fight over Beijing’s sharp-elbowed efforts — alleged to include cyberthief — to promote its own technology companies and challenge the United States in fields such as quantum computing and artificial intelligence.

Tai was a key figure in negotiations with the Trump administration and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on a revamped North American Free Trade Agreement, which passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and was signed by Trump last year.

“We must recommit to working relentlessly with others to promote and defend our shared values of freedom, democracy, truth, and opportunity in a just society,” Tai said.

Under questioning from senators, Tai said she commit to dropping the tax on foreign metals. She did say that “tariffs are a legitimate tool in the trade tool box.”

U.S. legislators and policymakers across the political spectrum have taken an increasingly hard line on China, frustrated by its trade practices, crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong, and relentless pursuit of territorial claims in the South China Sea, among other things.

According to Bloomberg, her “frank assessment offers a glimpse of the methodical approach she’ll take as America’s top trade official, as well as the hard line she’s expected to pursue in U.S-China negotiations. Biden is banking on Tai’s low profile — she’s not as well-known as some of his other economic advisers — and her pragmatic style to distance him from the chaos that defined the Trump administration’s trade agenda.”

As America’s trade chief, Tai will be at the center of helping to manage U.S.-China relations with China and their massive economic consequences. She will help write the next chapter on the thorny relationship between the world’s biggest economies, how to get even more contentious issues in the years ahead.”

If confirmed, Tai will play a critical role in relations between the world’s two largest economies.

Points of View
Asian American Unity Coalition

According to the Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) Preamble:

Asian Americans shall either win equal citizenship UNITED or suffer discrimination separately. To aspire to live as equals in a free market system like the U.S.A. where we represent one of the smallest minorities, we must UNITE to acquire sufficient strength to fight off discrimination.

The concept of forging unity among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) has existed for a long time. However, the huge diversity, language barriers, and lack of trust among Asian Americans have made this an impossible task until a new generation of immigrants and their children develop the identity of being Asian American. Even though AAPI community is the fastest growing it is still only 6-7% of the total population in the U.S. Without Unity, AAPI will forever remain as the invisible minority and powerless to affect change.

Asian American Unity Coalition (AAUC) came into existence through the historic conference held in Alaska in 2018 in which 12 unique AAPI organizations and 20 leaders representing 5 major ethnicities: Chinese, Indian, Philippines, Korean and Japanese Americans were present. The group came together to define the core values and the platform of AAUC. In 2019 the structure of AAUC is established with its Constitution and Bylaws to govern its operation. It has also obtained the 501c3 status by the end of the year.

During its formative year in 2019, AAUC accepted the Herculean task of chairing the 2019 National Civic Leadership Forum in Washington DC in collaboration with APAA, 80-20 United, New American Leaders, and UCA. More than 200 AAPI leaders attended the four-day forum. At the press conference in the Capitol on September 17th, 2019, over 70 different AAPI organizations representing over 10 different ethnic groups signed a joint statement pledging a full scale civic engagement of AAPI. A number of congressional representatives also spoke at the press conference expressing their support.

The election of the Board of Governors took place in February 2020. Currently, AAUC has a 15-member Board with 5 officers and 7 standing committee chairs. The founding members include 20 national, local and regional organizations and 15 individual lifetime members representing 6 different Asian ethnic groups.

AAUC has successfully launched its inaugural Podcast on “Building our Collective American Dream”. The first episode focused on “South Asian Political Engagement!”. Click to hear the podcast.

AAUC Podcast is a monthly series to be aired at 8 pm ET on the last Sunday of each month. The next episode will focus on “Entrepreneurship as a pathway to the American Dream”. An interview with Dr. Karen Eng, Chairwoman, National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (NAfTC) to share her perspective on AAPI community development and the American Dream. Please tune-in at 8pm ET, 2/28/2021.

President – SK Lo

Dr. Lo is a theoretical Physicist with an MBA in Strategic Management. He worked at Honeywell Inc. in classified defense research and established two successful Kumon franchise outlets in Minneapolis. She was the founding president of the Kumon franchise association and won variable pricing for the franchises. She was a board member of 80-20 Educational Foundation. She sits on the board of 80-20 PAC. She is elected as the first president of AAUC.

Speedskater Jia Griffiths “Fastest”

By Elaine Dunn, March 2021

In February 2021, China Insight featured local speedskater Jia Griffiths. We are happy to bring you an update.

Jia Griffiths leading the pack in February race in Roseville, Minn.
By Pat Welsh, contributor

In this dialog, you may notice that there are sentence suffixes that “flavor” the words said. Notice that these suffixes are usually uttered in the neutral tone.

The suffix “le” indicates that a situation that has changed. In negative sentences, the neutral word and the use of “le” together means “no longer is something happening.”

The suffix “ne” is used here for two of its uses. “Ne” can serve as a spoken question mark for “who-what-where-why and how questions. Related to this use is another function where it has the flavor of “and what about . . . ?”

The sentence suffixes “a” and “ya” have many functions. They may serve as a casual question mark, or they may indicate surprise, or they might add a casual feel to the words spoken.

Scene: Two old friends, Chen (C) and Wang (W), meet by chance in Beijing

(The first line, in Italics, is pinyin; second line in parentheses is the literal translation; third is what it means.)

C: Hì, lăo Wáng! Hào-jù bǐ-jüăn le!
Hi, Old Wang! Long time no see!

Hái, lăo Chén a!
(Hey, is you, Old Chen.)

Zhè wŭ-ge yuè, nĭ păo dào năr ne?
Where have you been these last five months?

Yĭ-qié kē-hăo a?
How’s everything?

W: Dì, shì nĭ, Lăo Chén a!
(Fine, thanks, and what about you?)

Hĕn hăo a. Xièxie. Nĭ ne?
(Very good. Thank you, and what about?)

Zuó-tiān wăn-shang wŏ gāng huí-lái le.
(True. I already to Taiwan and Japan go.)

Tīng-shuō, nĭ yào dào wài-guó qǜ.
Hear-say, you want to foreign country go.

Shí cuò ya.
(True, I have already gone to Taiwan and Japan,)

C: Bù cuò ya.
(True, I have already gone to Taiwan and Japan,)

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, Welch 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.
Multigenerational Bergad family addresses critical local needs

This article by Sarah Lemagie, reprinted with permission from the Minneapolis Foundation, first appeared in the foundation’s website on Dec. 7, 2020.

When the pandemic struck Minnesota this spring, Pearl Bergad reached out to her two sons and their wives: We’ve built up a pretty substantial reserve in our Donor Advised Fund at the Minneapolis Foundation, she pointed out. Let’s do something with it now.

The energetic grantmaking that followed is a reflection of our community’s great struggles in 2020, but also of the Bergads’ enthusiasm for family philanthropy. “Our family has always seen this as a collective thing that we all do together,” said Corey Bergad.

For years, all of the Bergads have made contributions to the same Donor Advised Fund: Pearl and her husband, Bob; their elder son Aaron and his wife, Angie; and Corey and his wife, Twilight. Once or twice a year, Pearl sends out an email to start a group conversation about how to invest those funds in the community. Everyone shares ideas, and the group is supportive of each person’s charitable interests. “There’s no real sense of, ‘This is my pot of money, I’m going to do this with it’ or, ‘That is your pot of money, I can’t touch it,’” Corey said. “There has always been a sense that the family has a pot of money, and it’s our responsibility to share it with those who are in need.”

In the past, the family’s giving has followed themes flowing from their passions: The arts, especially programs that expand educational horizons; Prospect Park, which is the foundation’s pot of money; and giving kids from underserved communities more opportunities to experience arts and generosity.

When COVID hit, an enormous swath of local needs arose, so the Bergads agreed to choose one issue that they would focus on. Their giving theme for 2020? Food and hunger relief.

“Jenny has been a wonderful resource, because there are so many organizations out there that address hunger,” Pearl said. “It’s great to have the Minneapolis Foundation do some of the due diligence for us, and to say, ‘I think your money will go a long way if you give to these groups.’”

“Every single person in our community has a role to play in responding to the pandemic,” Jenny said. “The magic of working for a community foundation is that, when we’re faced with a challenge as huge and complex as this one, I can leverage all of the foundation’s expertise, knowledge, and connections to support our donors as they research nonprofits and look for other ways to help. One of the best parts of my job is to partner with colleagues and donors to help respond with intention and generosity.” — Jenny Johnson

With guidance from Jenny, the Bergads decided on a set of complementary investments in organizations that provide food and hunger-relief services. They made grants to large nonprofits like Second Harvest Heartland, which has the infrastructure and buying power to efficiently distribute large amounts of food. They made hyper-local grants to address the intense needs in North Minneapolis, giving to projects like Appetite for Change and North Market. They even made a grant to East Side Neighborhood Services, which runs a food shelf just down the block from Aaron and Angie’s home in Prospect Park.

They also contributed to the Minneapolis Foundation’s OneMPLS Fund, a collective impact fund supported by people and businesses all over the community. In 2020 alone, the OneMPLS Fund made over $4 million in grants to 160 local nonprofits that are addressing emerging needs related to the pandemic.

“One of the things we appreciate about the Minneapolis Foundation is that, because it does a lot of background research on small organizations, it ends up having a really good window on where the areas of need are,” Aaron said. As a result, his family knew that their contribution to the OneMPLS Fund would be invested in well-run nonprofits that are doing critical work in the community.

2020 is winding down, but the Bergads aren’t finished. Despite the uptick in their giving this spring and summer, they’re planning to do more grantmaking before the end of December. And they’re already looking ahead to 2021.

“One thing we’re thinking about is how to continue to put our city back together after the turmoil we’ve been through in the last six months,” said Aaron, adding that the family will continue to look to the Foundation for ideas and partnership. “We feel like the Minneapolis Foundation is stepping back and really digging into the problems, as opposed to tossing around quick fixes. That’s important to us: that the actions taken are thoughtful and not just reactionary.”

The Bergads are also reflecting on how they can deepen their approach to family giving. Pearl and Bob are eager to watch as the next generation takes on more responsibility for the family’s grantmaking. Their sons, in turn, are already starting to teach their own children the value of giving back.

One of this year’s learning moments unfolded on a summer day in the wake of George Floyd’s killing. After a night of community anguish and destruction, Aaron and his 10-year-old daughter headed out to the Midway area of St. Paul to help clean up. From experiences like that, Angie hopes that her children will grow up knowing that contributing to your community isn’t something you do just by writing checks once a year. “You talk about it throughout the year,” she said. “You make it just a part of life.”
Landmark study reveals historic contributions, ongoing challenges and stereotypes of Chinese Americans

The 142-page study, “From Foundations to Frontiers: Chinese American Contributions to the Fabric of America,” examines the enduring relationship between the Chinese American community and America’s economic and cultural success over the past two centuries. Commissioned by C100, the study is compiled by The Economist Intelligence Unit and sponsored in part by Citi Private Bank.

“This study brings to the forefront the complexity of our lived experience as proud Chinese Americans and tells the untold stories of our community’s impact on and continued struggles within American society,” explained H. Roger Wang, chair of C100 and committee of 100 supervisor, which has pushed to full inclusion and advancement of the more than 5 million Chinese Americans in the United States and believes that America is stronger because of its immigrant heritage and complexity of culture. At a time when the Biden Administration has taken executive action against xenophobia directed at the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, “From Foundations to Frontiers” reinforces the long-standing importance of the Chinese American community to America’s overall cultural and economic fabric.

“The study illuminates, through data and storytelling, how Chinese Americans have had a significant impact on American life as we know it today,” said Zhengyu “Z” Liu, president, C100. “But we recognize pressing is the work that remains ahead of us. Along with other communities of color, Chinese Americans continue to face barriers to advancement in the form of systemic racism and entrenched stereotypes. America can reach its full potential only when all of its citizens can reach their own full potential.”

The new study details how Chinese Americans have found success as business owners, scientists, doctors, engineers, and in a variety of other fields. This economic success is linked to U.S.-China geopolitical tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of which threatens the safety and well-being of Chinese American and Asian American communities across the country.

“We are delighted to have Committee of 100’s support for this important and timely study,” said Claire Casey, Global Managing director of Public Policy of the Economist Intelligence Unit. “In developing a fuller appreciation of the significance of Chinese Americans’ contribution to the United States, we hope this study can contribute to cultivating a more cooperative and inclusive climate that benefits all.”

Ida Liu, head of Citi Private Bank, North America and a C100 member said, “As a Chinese American I know from a personal perspective the widespread impact my community has had in the United States for generations. Everything from art to technology to philanthropy and finance.” Citi Private Bank is proud to support this study, and collaborate with C100, to further reinforce the idea that celebrating and understanding our unique contributions helps unify us to towards shared economic, social and cultural progress.”

For nearly two centuries, Chinese Americans have made bold contributions in pushing the United States to become a more fair and just society, establishing significant landmark legal precedents that have since shaped our democracy. This history of activism and participation in America’s civil rights movement has contributed involvement in public administration and national security. These and other unheralded contributions, spanning nearly 175 years, have contributed greatly to American cuisine, fashion, cinema, and a range of other behaviors that define the American experience. Some fast facts from the study:

• Approximately 5.3 million people in the U.S. are of Chinese ancestry, and 75 percent are American citizens.

• There are more than 160,000 Chinese American-owned businesses in the U.S., generating approximately $240 billion in revenue and supporting 1.3 million jobs.

• Only 14 companies featured in the Fortune 500 in the past decade have had a Chinese American in their C-suite positions; however during the 2021 C100 list, 10 of the 14 companies experienced record levels of market capitalization.

• One in 40 living Chinese Americans aged 17 years old and up has served, is serving, or training in the U.S. military.

• As of 2016, there were 45,000 Chinese restaurant owners in the United States. That was more than the number of McDonald’s, KFC, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, and Wendy’s combined. It might be argued that if the United States had a national cuisine, it would be Chinese food!

• In 2018, Chinese Americans accounted for roughly 3 percent of professional occupations but held only 1.5 percent mid-management roles and 1.2 percent of executive positions.

• Among the workforce of the 721 companies that have featured in the Fortune 500 ranking in the past decade, only 25 Chinese Americans were named to board positions, representing just 0.3 percent of the total.

• Roughly one in 10 Chinese American households earns less than $15,000 per year and 35 percent have incomes below that of the national median.

The full 142-page study contains seven “pillar” reports focused on Arts and Culture; Civil Rights, Public Service and Politics; Entrepreneurship and Business Leadership; Infrastructure; Military & National Security; Public Health; and Science and Technology. These reports highlight personal stories from 12 prominent Chinese Americans: Wong Kim Ark, Steven Chu, David Ho, Tung-Yen Lin, YOo O Ma, I.M. Pei, Coral Woot Poetsch, Oscar Tang, Wu Chien-Shiung, Lulu C Wang, Debra Wang Yang and Jerry Yang.

The full study or any of the seven reports can be downloaded for free at contributingtoamerica.economist.com.

Also, C100 is offering free guest lectures and virtual talks on the landmark study for groups and organizations around the country. Please email office@committee100.org for more information.

Committee of 100 was founded by the world-renowned architect I.M. Pei and internationally acclaimed cellist Yo-Yo Ma, among others, to advance the interests of U.S. citizens of Chinese heritage. For more than 30 years, C100 has served as a preeminent organization committed to the dual missions of promoting the full participation of Chinese American I's in all aspects of American life and constructive relations between the United States and Greater China.
Niklas Hageback’s “The Downfall of China or CCP 3.0?” is an insightful look at inside the policies of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) that will decide whether it will face an impending downfall, or yet again can manage to transform itself radically and weather the storm.

The author concludes that, ideologically, the CCP has implicitly declared itself bankrupt, having abandoned communism. It has transformed into a nationalist, quasi-fascist state, a reality that is proving highly detrimental for the country it claims to glorify.

In light of its mishandling of the coronavirus situation, its international relationships have become severely strained. Drawing on his extensive background in psychology, Hageback points out that, “the weakness for any political movement firmly grounded in materialism is that they cannot deal with existential matters, such as the prospect of an afterlife. It can only offer materialistic solutions, a worker’s paradise of sorts. It becomes an inherent weakness when a political ideology tries to replace a religion. By default, it always fails to meet mankind’s perpetual spiritual needs, which explains the relatively short lives of political programs versus the millennia longevity of religion. So, despite the increased crackdowns on religious activities in China, they still grow amongst a population that has been denied spiritual values for a couple of generations now, through the different nominations of Christianity, Buddhism, Taoism, or Falun Gong.”

All of this, the author concludes, leads the party to feel threatened by its own shortcomings. Its repression of alternative lifestyles and views, adding to the stereotyping and stagnating of its citizens, implicitly discourages its citizens from undertaking any innovative endeavors that the economy so desperately needs to progress further. The inherent weakness of totalitarian regimes such as in China, Hageback points out, is that “they cannot tolerate anyone to be different and original, and to ensure that no one deviates from a certain standard, an enormous control apparatus has been developed, costing several percentages of GDP, leading to a noted loss of productivity and a hindrance of the facilitation of creative and innovative endeavors.”

Despite this, the author is hopeful about the future of China. He points to the resiliency of the Chinese people, who have survived extended periods of duress, and concludes that they will also survive the reign of the CCP when the regime ultimately collapses.

“The Downfall of China or CCP 3.0?” should be read by anyone interested in the complex problems facing Chinese society and the outlook for the future of that great nation.

About the reviewer

J.D. Mabbot earned a degree in journalism at the Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. She is currently a freelance journalist and editor who lives in the Miami area. Her areas of interest include economics and international diplomacy.
“Made in Hong Kong: Transpacific Networks and a New History of Globalization” by Peter E Hamilton

Reviewed by Timothy Sifert, Asian Review of Books, Feb. 4, 2021

Hamilton points out that these individuals do not refer to themselves as kuashang, a novel Mandarin Chinese term used liberally throughout the work. It is also not intended to be an identity. Instead, he writes, the term is intended to draw out “a spectrum of individualized strategies toward international power” derived from experiences with European imperialism in China and Southeast Asia.

The work, subtitled “Transpacific Networks and a New History of Globalization,” is no primer on Hong Kong or Asia. Hamilton positions it as something of a response to previous analyses of this city’s economic rise and global importance that may have been incomplete or wrong. Hailing postwar Hong Kong as an “archetype of free competition” — as many have — misses a “crucial other half of the story,” Hamilton argues.

Grouping Hong Kong’s performance as a model Asian tiger economy along with Singapore and Taiwan also ignores the city’s unique position in the world.

What’s often overlooked in this story of economic growth and inequality, Hamilton says, is the size of the role the U.S. had in the development postwar Hong Kong. While the British government did tax and spend with a light hand, earning the praise of free-market thinkers, the book argues, funds directly and indirectly from the U.S. government often made up for London’s apparent restraint. And those Hamilton calls kuashang — most of whom were not tycoons — were well placed to benefit from and steer these resources.

The relationship between the U.S. and Hong Kong grew so strong that the author calls it a kind of informal decolonization. “By the 1970s,” he writes, the colony “was both the world’s largest sender of foreign students to the United States and the largest exporter of textiles and apparel to the U.S. market.”

The book sometimes belabors the point. Hamilton recounts how wildly successful supply-chain manager Li & Fung was transformed by business practices the Fung brothers learned at Harvard Business School. Lots of institutions in the book are similarly transformed by ideas and connections picked up in the U.S. At the same time, democracy for Hong Kong was not really on the agenda for this group. Politics and business aren’t the same thing, yet many of the businessmen featured in the book were very active in politics. One even became Chief Executive.

Hamilton, an assistant professor in Modern Chinese History at Trinity College Dublin, thankfully doesn’t celebrate American ideals and knowhow — to a point. Hamilton recounts how wildly successful supply-chain manager Li & Fung was transformed by business practices the Fung brothers learned at Harvard Business School. Lots of institutions in the book are similarly transformed by ideas and connections picked up in the U.S. At the same time, democracy for Hong Kong was not really on the agenda for this group. Politics and business aren’t the same thing, yet many of the businessmen featured in the book were very active in politics. One even became Chief Executive.

Hamilton is currently the assistant professor in Modern Chinese History at Trinity College Dublin.

He was a postdoctoral fellow at Tsinghua University’s Schwarzman College in Beijing and Columbia University’s Weatherhead East Asian Institute in New York. His research has been published in Twentieth-Century China, The International History of Review, The Journal of Historical Sociology and numerous media outlets.

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Contact Greg Hugh at 612-723-4872 or email ghugh@chinainsight.info

About the reviewer

Timothy Sifert is an American writer. He’s worked as a journalist in Hong Kong, New York, London and Warsaw.
Free webinars

MCBC: “The Road Ahead for US China Policy in 2021 and Implications for American Business”

Date: Thursday, March 11
Time: Noon-1:30 p.m. (CST)
Location: Webinar
Registration: MCBC events website

Minnesota China Business Council will present its first webinar of 2021 in three segments:
• First segment focuses on China policy in the Biden Administration and options for U.S. engagement with China as we come out of the pandemic. This segment will be led by seasoned diplomat and MCBC Co-Chair Tom Hanson, whose service with the U.S. State Department and Foreign Service spanned 25 years. Hanson also has worked on foreign affairs in the U.S. Congress and at the Atlantic Council.
• Second segment discusses the implications of this complex transition for U.S. business, including investment in China, and the competing, and increasingly conflicting, standards on technology and data governance. It will be led by Fredriksson & Byron Shareholder and MCBC Co-Chair Bob Oberlies. Oberlies has been advising leading multinational on their cross-border transactions and investments in Asia for more than 20 years, and heads F&B’s Asia Practice and co-chairs the firm’s Cross Border Transactions Group.
• The last segment will cover current disruptions in global supply chains as a result of COVID, including short-term and long-term changes in international trade and sourcing. This segment will be led by Ben Baker, VP Global Sourcing at Blu Dot.

The Census Academy: “Starting a Small Business”

Date: Wednesday, March 31
Time: 1-2 p.m. (CST)
Cost: Free
Login: WEBEX LOGIN

Find out how to use census data for business purposes, writing grant proposals and research. This webinar will dive into economic and demographic data valuable for starting a small business. The session will include a live demonstration of tools.

Walker’s “Dialogue” series features award-winning filmmaker Chloé Zhao

Date & time: Saturday, March 20, 7 p.m.
How to view: Virtual cinema
Cost: $12 ($10 Walker members)
Ticket sale (non-members): Thursday, March 4, 11 a.m.; walkerart.org

Hollywood’s current favourite director Chloé Zhao will be featured in Walker Art Center’s 2021 Dialogue series. The award-winning (for four 2021 Goldene Globes and six Critic’s Choice for “Nomadland”) Zhao will discuss her experiential approach to storytelling, her use of collaborative storytelling and her experiences working with non-actors.

This is Zhao’s debut feature, which premiered at Sundance and was selected for the Director’s Fortnight at Cannes while Zhao was still a grad student at NYU’s Tisch School for the Arts. Zhao’s breakthrough film, made on the Pine Ridge reservation, is a nuanced narrative about the bond between a young Lakota Sioux brother and sister (Jashaun St. John and John Reddy) on different paths. Zhao collaborated closely with the local cast and community over four years to create the film, which was developed at the Sundance Institute. View now on Kino Lorber. View trailer.

The Rider (2017)

While filming in South Dakota, Zhao met Brady Jandreau, a rising Lakota Sioux rodeo star who experienced a life-changing traumatic brain injury. Her second feature, “The Rider,” again stays close to the truth with Jandreau and members of his family participating as actors and co-creators of the personal film about his life after the career-ending fall. A re-imagining of the Western genre “The Rider” premiered at the Cannes Film Festival’s Director’s Fortnight and won the Art Cinema award at the Venice Film Festival. Zhao was nominated for multiple Film Independent Spirit Awards that year and she became the inaugural recipient of the Bonnie Award, recognizing the innovative vision and breakthrough work of female directors. The film also won Best Feature at the Gotham Awards View now via Sony Classics. View trailer.

Nomadland (Release theatrically early 2021)

The director’s first studio production, “Nomadland” was widely and consistently acclaimed throughout 2020 by film festivals and critics. Zhao directs award-winning actor Frances McDormand in a drama based on Jessica Bruder’s nonfiction book “Nomadland: Surviving America in the 21st Century.” McDormand plays van-dweller Fern, a displaced woman on a solitary quest for happiness following the loss of a life she once lived. True to form, the film is an immersive road trip, enriching Fern’s story with the narratives of transient non-actors she meets along the way. Firmly and fearlessly rooted in the presence of the characters and the beautifully lensed Western landscapes, Zhao’s fictional interpretation is a lingering, graceful, and often surprising portrait of a distressed America afield.

For me, filmmaking will always be driven by my desire to learn about the world I’m not familiar with. Sometimes on that journey, I also get to re-discover who I am.”

— Chloé Zhao

Zhao’s fictional interpretation is a lingering, graceful, and often surprising portrait of a distressed America afield. “Nomadland” won Best Film at the Venice Film Festival and the People’s Choice Award for Best Film at the Toronto Film Festival. It also won Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress, and Best Cinematography from the National Society of Film Critics as well as Best Feature and the 2020 Audienc Award for Best Feature at the Gotham Awards. Additionally, Zhao was named Best Director by the New York Film Critics and Los Angeles Film Critics, among others. View now via Searchlight Pictures or on Hulu. View trailer.

Eternals (Release date: Nov. 5, 2021)

Perhaps unexpectedly to the film world but not to Zhao (a fan of manga since childhood), the filmmaker approached Marvel to write and direct “Eternals,” the highly anticipated action saga about immortal, ancient aliens living on Earth. Later in 2021, an even wider audience will experience Zhao’s unique outsider vision and her strength creating intimate situations, this time with fantastical, universal scope and scale. Find out more. View trailer.

About the Walker Art Center

Known for presenting today’s most compelling artists from close to home and around the world, the Walker Art Center features a broad array of contemporary visual arts, music, dance, theater, and moving image works. Ranging from concerts and films to exhibitions and workshops, Walker programs bring us together to examine the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. The adjacent Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, one of the first urban sculpture parks of its kind in the United States, holds at its center the beloved Twin Cities landmark Spoonbridge and Cherry by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen as well as some 60 sculptures on the 19-acre Walker campus. Visit walkerart.org for more information on upcoming events and programs.
Chinese New Year celebration at MOA

Above: MOA displayed its support of Chinese New Year from the past 20 years
Left: Mall of America rotunda was one of the venues for 2021 celebration of Year of the Ox

Minnesota International Chinese School (MICS) hosts celebration at Asian Plaza

Above: Melody Zhou, Minnesota International Chinese School, with guests
Left: Lion dance
Right: Ox mascot
Below: Performance emcees

Left: Temperature checks
Right: Sponsor welcoming table
Below: Lion dance

Edina Mayor James Hovland passing out red packets to young visitors