Masked mischief?

Masked or not, mischief is not at work here. Just energy and creativity unleashed. Yes, as life regains some semblance of “normalcy” post COVID-19, it’s time to check out events and performances available. One local organization has been practicing for this day! See page 8.

Community

Tips for diffusing anti-Asian hate incidents

On May 22, a group of local Asian community organizations (Asian Media Access, Coalition of Asian American Leaders, along with Asian Minnesotan Alliance for Justice) hosted a workshop for dealing with the increase in anti-Asian hate incidents.

The training was facilitated by Kalaya’an Mendoza (Kala from here on), director of the US Programs for Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP). NP is a global civilian protection agency - to protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies, build peace side by side with local communities.

The training focused on skillsets that can be used during community events as well as for personal safety, or to help out someone in distress.

Paying attention to our own trigger points, boundaries and anchor points were emphasized. Although the process will be different for each individual, making a habit of it is crucial to staying safe in high-stress situations, and to avoid burnout. These include:

• Make time to center yourself the night before and morning of a protective action and identify an anchor point—a place of emotional safety.
• Before arriving, take a few moments to consider boundaries and potential triggers, and remember your anchor point.
• Make time to discuss your boundaries with your team when you meet up before the action.
• Remember to check in with your team throughout the day and make time for appropriate aftercare.

Another helpful tool to act on people’s observations and judgment is known as the OODA Loop:

• Observe: draw from your own observations and information you have collected from trusted sources
• Orient: Filter and analyze your information
• Decide: With your insights, identify the best available response
• Act: act on your decision, evaluate if action was correct

It was pointed out that a distraction to create a moment of pause and ease the conflict may be enough to deescalate a situation. Some such examples:
• Compliment or money talk: “You look great!” or “Look! $100 bill on the floor.”
• Dancing or singing
• Pretending you lost something, asking people to find it
• Asking for the time
• Asking for directions

The aid with de-escalation is not to win over someone with whom you disagree, but it is to deescalate to a point where everyone can be safe instead of further escalating volatile situations.

And, steps to keep in mind when responding to questions and verbal attacks:
1. Center
2. Listen
3. Affirm
4. Respond
5. Add

Anyone with questions or need more information can check out NP’s website - or report hate crime incidences on toll-free helpline 1-833-454-0148.
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

As we gear up for summer, we look forward to a return of normal pre-pandemic life. Although the Dragon Festival has announced it will not be held this year, you should still visit Lake Phalen Park and check on the progress of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows & Flowing Waters in St. Paul (update article on page 3). Minneapolis has also announced the return of the Aquatennial so you need to check their website for the latest details. Hopefully you will be able to observe 4th of July and should check your favorite fireworks location for details of their celebrations. And, of course, the return of “The Great Minnesota Get-Together,” the State Fair, is welcome news to many!

As the United States celebrates the 4th of July, China will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party as reported in an article by Elaine Dunn on page 6.

Last month saw the return of live audience participation when the CAAM-Chinese Dance Theatre took the stage to perform live at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. See page 9 for article and summer schedule of classes.

Asian Media Access recently helped organize several events that provided safety training for the Asian community to deal with the unfortunate rise in Asian-hate incidents (page 1) and an upcoming event to promote COVID-19 vaccinations, see page 9.

Also, check out an event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Minnesota International Chinese School (MICS) and the founding of the Chinese Community Center (CCC) which, according to the organizers:

• show the love people have for their homeland and community.

• build a platform for children and teenagers to interact and share their creativity.

• show the dynamic energy of the new generation, and to express well wishes for our home and community.

• instill in our youth a positive worldview and set of values with love for country, school and community.

The MICS painting and calligraphy competition is aimed at promoting culture, creating an interactive platform for youth interested in calligraphy or/painting, to inspire more youth to promote and develop traditional culture through action, to increase their enthusiasm for learning, to express themselves, and to build confidence and improve together. For additional details and how to apply, go to https://www.mnchinese.org/international.org.

Please note that China Insight will not publishing a separate issue for August. Our hardworking volunteer staff needs a break; but we will return in September. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy your summer and thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact Elaine Dunn or me if you would like to suggest a topic or have any comments or ideas to share on how China Insight can better serve the community.

Sincerely,

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

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□ Other (please specify).
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□ African American □ Other
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Happy birthday . . .

… to the Dalai Lama. He’ll turn 86 on July 6!

The Minnesota Tibetan artist Tenzin Ngawang will release the first track from his 12-track album “The Buddha Prince” in time to celebrate the Dalai Lama’s birthday. “The Buddha Prince” is a piece celebrating the extraordinary life and teachings of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. It offers a “very personal view into his coming of age, the difficulties he experienced, the precious lessons, as well as the sadness he absorbed for his people.”

The music and the play carry a very simple message: be kind. Ngawang said his music is about loving each other. “I want to share the story and the culture side of Tibet, and share the compassion and kindness we have learned from His Holiness. Even though we have so many different races and different cultures, we are all human beings, brothers and sisters.”

Swine fever

China is the world’s leading pig herder. A new, hard-to-detect strain of African swine fever virus started spreading in China. A fourth deadly outbreak was detected late June. Pig farms across the country are experiencing mass infection, killing hundreds of hogs on three coastal farms, after authorities had already culled 20,000 animals in an attempt to control the spread early June.

Guangdong, Hebei, Henan, Jiangsu and Shandong provinces as well as Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region have all reported new outbreaks. Concern is that the disease is transmitted along busy trade routes and will be difficult to contain.

The hope is that pig farmers will increase biosecurity measures on their farms, which the big farms have already done. Pig transport vehicles also are being cleaned.

Crypto shuttled

Chinese officials continue to step up its crackdown on crypto mining and trading. Southwest Chinese cryptocurrencies mining hub in Sichuan Province is the latest target. Earlier targets were located in Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang. According to the University of Cambridge, Sichuan is China’s second-biggest bitcoin mining province.

The territory’s regulatory concerns over the crypto-mining industry’s huge energy consumption and potential financial risks from speculation resulted in government agencies increasing oversight of these mining centers. (Note: most mining centers in Sichuan uses hydropower.)

Circulated online, documents outline plans to shutter all crypto mining sites in the province. On June 18, The Sichuan Provincial Development and Reform Commission and the Sichuan Energy Bureau issued an order for power providers to stop electricity supply to 26 publicly identified crypto mining centers to shut them down.

The People’s Bank of China ordered the crypto-mining industry’s huge energy consumption and potential financial risks from speculation resulted in government agencies increasing oversight of these mining centers. (Note: most mining centers in Sichuan uses hydropower.)

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Trouble laundry

Hong Kong, where air- ing one’s cleaned laundry on a rack outside one’s apartment window is common, got one man into hot water.

Police received a report from a pedestrian of a banner with the 2019 protest slogan “Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times” in Chinese drying from a laundry rack outside an apartment in Mongkok district. The banner was approximately 50” x 30” in size.

Twenty police officers descended on the apartment to “collect the flag” and gather evidence. The man from the apartment was arrested for “uttering seditious words” as the government stated the banner wording “has connotations with Hong Kong independence and subversion of state power.”

But … the police did acknowledge they “have no information on whether it belongs to the man.”

Huh? How’s that for ambiguity and waste of taxpayers’ money?

Space weather

The National Space Science Center (NSSC), affiliated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said China started building a monitoring station as part of a network to study space weather such as solar flares, magnetic storms and auroral activities. Located in Sizwag Banner, North China’s Inner Mongolia autonomous region, it is expected to be completed by 2024.

The main detection equipment will be a large-scale high-frequency radar array. It will provide real-time monitoring capability for ionosphere, middle and upper atmosphere, cosmic rays and geomagnetic field disturbance in North China. The data will “deepen scientists’ understanding of the formation of space weather events, and provide scientific and data support for reducing the impact of disasterous space weather events.”

Space weather events affect the operation of aerospace, communication and navigation systems.

Education progress

The Chinese government released a white paper June 24 stating the country’s completion rate of the free nine-year compulsory education was 95.2% in 2020, a level that is comparable to high-income countries.

China’s gross enrollment rate in senior secondary education was 91.2%, higher than the average of upper-middle-income countries, figures from the white paper showed.

“Vocational education has developed rapidly, and higher education is transitioning from mass access to universal access,” the white paper also reported.
**Identity of common things**

**By Pat Welsh**

In this lesson, we will look at short casual conversations using language commonly used in speech. We will ask and tell the identity of common things.

Again, we’re using the two old friends, Chen (C) and Wang (W) from previous columns for the conversations. (The first line, in Italic, is pinyin; second line in parentheses is the literal translation; third is what it means.)

In Chinese, each noun is associated with a word often referred to as a “classifier” or a “measure word.” These classifiers are somewhat similar to the English words like “piece” as in “a piece of pie” or “loaf” as in “a loaf of bread.”

In Chinese, these classifiers are used a little differently than in English. In Chinese classifiers are used between numbers and a noun. Classifiers are also used between words meaning “this,” “that,” and “which.” There are three when the classifier is used but the noun is absent because it is understood. An example of this is:

Zhège shì shénme? (Often abbreviated to “Zhè shì shénme?”)

This - is - what?

What is this?

Nà gé shì shénme? (Often abbreviated to “Nà shì shénme?”)

That - is - what?

What is that?

Here, the syllable ‘-ge’ is a classifier.

Below I have listed several common nouns and their classifiers. The syllable ‘yi’ literally means “one” but it is often used when in English the words “a” or “an” is intended. The syllable that follows ‘yi’ is the classifier for the noun which follows. Notice that before a word uttered in the falling tone, ‘yi’ changes to the rising tone ‘yi’.

### Vocabulary - Classifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yìzhī bǐ</td>
<td>a pen</td>
<td>yìzhāng zhúcì</td>
<td>a table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yìzhī qiān bǐ</td>
<td>a pencil</td>
<td>yìbā yīzi</td>
<td>a chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yìzhī mào bǐ</td>
<td>a writing brush</td>
<td>yìshān mēn</td>
<td>a door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yìzhāng zhī</td>
<td>a sheet of paper</td>
<td>yìshān chuāng hu</td>
<td>a window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yìbēn shū</td>
<td>a book</td>
<td>yìzhāng dēng</td>
<td>a lamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yìfēn bāo zhī</td>
<td>a newspaper</td>
<td>yìcéng dībān</td>
<td>a floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yìbēn zāzhī</td>
<td>a magazine</td>
<td>yìbā yìzi</td>
<td>a thing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conversation One

In the following dialogs, Old Chen is teaching a young Mr. Wang, a Cantonese speaker, Mandarin.

**W:** Zhè shì shénme? (This — is — what?)

C: Zhè shì yīběn shū. (This — is — one volume of a - book.)

**W:** Zhè liǎng jiàn dōngxi shì shénme? (These — two — volumes of a - book..)

C: Zhè shì yīzhī mǎo bǐ. (That — is — one — stick — writing brush.)

**W:** Nà shì yìzhī máo bǐ. (That — is — a — writing brush.)

### Conversation Two

**W:** Zhè shì shénme? (This — is — what?)

C: Zhè shì yīge rén. (This — is — one (a) - person.)

**W:** Zhè shì shénme? (This — is — what?)

C: Zhè shì yīge rén. (This — is — one (a) - person.)

### Reminder

In this lesson, we encounter two spoken question marks spoken with the neutral tone. In these cases, their pitch is uttered a little higher than the preceding syllable. Their uses are also different in that ‘-ma’ is used for ‘yes / no’ type questions and ‘-ne’ is used for ‘who / what / where, how and why’ type questions.

### Pronunciation Reminders

- a, ao, ai:  The ‘a’ in these syllables sounds like the ‘a’ in ‘father.’
- ao:  Sounds like the “ow” in “cow.”
- ts’ong (ts is aspirated - a slight breath of air follows the ts sound.)
- de, ke:  The ‘o’ sounds much like the “o” in “above” or the “u” in “under.”
- ei:  Sounds like the “ay” in “say” or “day.”
- en, eng:  This sound is one of the most difficult sounds for English speakers. It is the sound between the words “en” and “eng” in “English.”
- chóng:  Sounds like “chen” in “cheese.”
- mán:  This sound is one of the most difficult sounds for English speakers. It is the sound between the words “en” and “eng” in “English.”
- sì:  Sounds much like the “ee” in “see” but the vowel must be uttered with rounded lips.
- zhí:  Sounds almost like “sjur.” It almost rhymes with “fur.”
Farewell to Apple Daily, Hong Kong's pro-democracy newspaper

“Apple Daily would like to thank all of our readers, subscribers, advertisers, and Hongkongers for your loyal support,” the notification read. “Good luck, and goodbye.”

June 24, 2021, Beijing won Round 1. Their “rotten apple” is no more.

The 26-year-old Apple Daily, Hong Kong’s most vocal (and last) pro-democracy newspaper, printed its last edition (two days earlier than planned) with numerous supporters gathered outside its headquarters, braving torrential rain and waving their smartphones. Staff journalists responded with their own lit-up smartphones from the building.

A Reuters reporter at the Apple Daily newspaper’s newsroom documented dozens of journalists “broke into applause once the final edition was sent to press, and some in tears.” The print run for the final edition: a million copies—more than 10 times its normal print run— all sold out by the morning.

Known for its scathing criticisms of China’s authoritarian leaders and policies, the fate of Apple Daily should come as no surprise. Its office was raided twice, in 10 months. Both times involving hundreds of police officers. The first was in August 2020 and the second, on June 17, 2021, when five executives (four men and one woman) were arrested at their homes. This raid was “sparked by articles appealing for sanctions against Hong Kong and China’s leaders.”

The day of the second raid, June 17, a U.S. State Department spokesperson said Washington was “broadly concerned by increases in law enforcement efforts by the Hong Kong authorities.”

Apple Daily’s owner, 73-year-old Jimmy Lai, was arrested in 2020, charged with organizing and participating in an unauthorized assembly and that it was not a good thing for Hong Kong as the paper was sizable and employed a lot of experienced journalists. The Hong Kong journalism community thinks it’s highly unlikely another paper can fill Apple Daily’s void as the government had sent a very clear signal to the media not to mess with the broad and vague National Security Law, a move that forces journalists to practice self-censorship.

Sad day for Hong Kong. Sad day for journalists.

The forced closure of Apple Daily by Hong Kong authorities is a chilling demonstration of their intention of moving some of its Hong Kong staff out of Hong Kong. Other international news organizations have also planned similar moves.

A prominent Hong Kong investor with shares in Next Digital, Apple Daily’s parent company, was quoted as saying, “When people are unwilling to speak on air about this subject, then you can reasonably infer that they no longer feel safe to speak under the NSL.”

For decades, Apple Daily has been the go-to source for entertainment, celebrity gossip and life in Hong Kong throughout the change from British rule to semi-autonomous SAR status. Apple Daily has been controversial, but it had won praise for its political analysis. It had been the most critical and loudest news organization speaking out against China’s encroachment on Hong Kong freedoms. To some Hong Kongers, buying a copy of Apple Daily has become a symbol of a fight against having their pre-handover to China ideals being eroded.

Assets linked to the publication amounting to approximately US$2.3 million were frozen, essentially choking off its funding. Apple Daily and Next Magazine “folded.” Their content and websites gone.

Apple Daily’s owner, 73-year-old Jim- my Lai, was arrested in 2020, charged with possessing material related to national security offences and denials, and is currently serving 20 months in prison for his unauthorized 2019 protest. He also faces additional charges of “conspiring to pervert the course of justice” by allegedly helping an activist flee Hong Kong. He is set to stand trial in Hong Kong’s High Court this month, where the maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

On June 21, 2021, the Committee to Protect Journalist (CPJ), a New York-based non-governmental organization, granted its 2021 Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award to Lai to recognize his “extraordinary and sustained commitment to press freedom.” Lai was also awarded the Trump -Reagan Medal of Freedom on June 14. Last December, he received the Freedom of Press Award by Paris-based Reporters Without Borders.

The newspaper’s union announced last year its intention of moving its headquarters outside Hong Kong, noting that it was not a good thing for Hong Kong as the paper was sizable and employed a lot of experienced journalists. The Hong Kong journalism community thinks it’s highly unlikely another paper can fill Apple Daily’s void as the government had sent a very clear signal to the media not to mess with the broad and vague National Security Law, a move that forces journalists to practice self-censorship.

Sad day for Hong Kong. Sad day for journalists.

Chinese Language Corner

Continued from page 4

Tones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à</td>
<td>High level pitch (55)</td>
<td>Regarding tone à  • when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone à changes to à. Thus: “hén hào” (very good) changes to “hén hào” • occurring directly before any other tone, Tone à will change to a mid-falling tone. Regarding tone à  When occurring before another à tone, the first tone à reduces its fall to 53 or 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>á</td>
<td>Mid-Rising Tone (35)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>Dipping (213)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ą</td>
<td>High falling pitch (51)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>An unstressed neutral tone. Following other syllables, syllables in this tone tend to be somewhat lower that of the previous syllable. The l tone exception is when it occurs after tone à when the neutral tone is often slightly higher in pitch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About Pat Welsh

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welch 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, Welch 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.

Following Jimmy Lai’s arrest on Aug. 10, 2020, many Hong Kong residents started purchasing the paper as their support for the paper and its owner.
Beijing is all set for a patriotic celebra-
tory extravaganza on the centenary an-
iversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) on July 1. First and foremost will be a Partywide campaign on CCP history and education.

The CCP, both a revolutionary move-
ment and a political party, is based on the principles of Marxism and Leninism. It had been the driving force of change in China, which has become an “economic juggner-
aut,” created numerous billionaires and millionaires, and lifted many out of poverty. (See China Daily’s article on p. 8.)

Under President Xi Jinping, China has become powerful and assertive. However, the CCP has given itself credit for every-
thing positive that happened in China since 1949. Granted, when the party was founded in 1921, the country was deeply mired in poverty and lacked standing on the inter-
national stage. Contrast the China of today’s it’s safe to say the 1950s-era song, “Without the Communist Party, there would be no new China” is ever so relevant.

PAST

In truth, until 1978 when China opened up to the Western world and adopted its own form of capitalism, the CCP had nothing positive to rave about, only failed social experiments, all under the Great Helms-
man, Mao Zedong. A few most notable failures are:

Incorporation of Tibet (1950)

Tibet’s incorporation into the People’s Republic of China is still a highly charged topic to this day. Tibetans look at it as China invading their sovereign country. The failed uprisings against Chinese rule in 1959 forced the Dalai Lama to flee Tibet.

Campaign to Suppress Countervolutionaries (1950-1953)

This was the CCP’s first political cam-
paign to consolidate Party power and sup-
press opposition from former Kuomintang supporters and intellectuals. Accused “countervol-
tionaries” were denounced in mass trials, sentenced to forced labor camps or executed. An estimated 700,000-2,000,000 lives were lost as a result of this campaign.

The Hundred Flowers Campaign (1959-1957)

The CCP based this on a famous slogan from Chinese classical history, “Let a hun-
dred flowers bloom, and a hundred schools of thought contend.” The Party encouraged intellectuals and non-party members to openly express their opinions of the govern-
ment and offer advice.

When the overwhelming (numbering millions of letters) negative responses materialized denouncing every aspect of government, Mao felt threatened and im-
mediately halted the campaign. He then launched an “Anti-Rightist” campaign to identify and punish approximately 300,000 “rightists” intellectuals, effectively silencing any opposition.

Great Leap Forward (1958-1962)

This is possibly one of the worst man-
made disasters in history. Mao wanted to transform the country from an agrar-
yan economy into a Lenin-Marxist-based ideological communist “paradise” via com-
munes, and bring industry to rural areas, which proved impracticable.

In three short years, the abject failure of Mao’s effort caused famine across the country and resulted in 15-55 million deaths by starvation.

Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)

Mao’s stature in the CCP had weakened after the failed Great Leap Forward. To “re-
boot,” he launched the Cultural Revolution to “purge” the CCP of any remnant of capitalism and traditional artistry. He organized radicalized youth into armies of Red Guards who roamed the country terrorizing and attacking the “bourgeoisie.”

These undisciplined, student-led violent marauders turned on teachers, parents and neighbors. Irreplaceable cultural and histori-
al artifacts were destroyed in the name of “class struggle.” Millions were persecuted, executed and/or harassed.

But ruthless Mao regained a “central” position within the CCP.

Down to the Countryside Movement (1968-1978)

To divert attention of chaos caused by the on-going Cultural Revolution, and to dissolve the Red Guards, Mao started a campaign to send urban youth to remote countryside to “learn from the peasants.” (Read: reeducation of educated urban youth through their privileged viewpoints.)

An estimated 17 million young people aged 15-23 were relocated from urban centers to remote rural villages to work. Labeled the “Lost Generation,” these “sent-
down” youths missed out on pursuing their own dreams, job opportunities, further education at a critical period of their lives, not to mention the lifelong physical and psychological toll.

Tiananmen Square Massacre (1989)

Pro-democracy college students gath-
ered in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in April to mourn the death of and demand a state funeral for former Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, a reformist who advocated re-
habilitation of people persecuted during the Cultural Revolution. They began demands for greater political freedom. By May, the number of protesters grew to almost a mil-
mion and pushed for the resignations of Party leaders deemed too repressive.

The government had enough. On the morning of June 3, the People’s Liberation Army was dispatched to the area to disperse the protesters, who now included tens of thousands of workers and ordinary citizens. By the morning of June 4, the square and streets around the square had been cleared.

Many were dead. Even doctors and ambu-
iance drivers who arrived to try and help the wounded were shot. Many were dead. Even doctors and ambu-

lance drivers who arrived to try and help the wounded were shot. For details such as death count on the Tiananmen Square Massacre, read previous issues of China Insight: July 2014, p.4; June 2019, p.13.

To be fair, there are some positive out-
comes under the CCP as well:

Combat Illiteracy Campaign (1950-1956)

The CCP took power, political leaders had banned literacy education for fear of empowering the non-elites. When the Communists took over China in 1949, the country had an illiteracy rate of 85-90%. By 1959, illiteracy rates in age group 12-40 had dropped to 43%.

This campaign was also an important part of the Party’s propaganda effort. It utilized simple reading materials such as posters with strong political content to not only teach the peasants how to read and write, but also — successfully — install revo-

lutionary ideology.

Four Pests Campaign (1958-1962)

Part of the Great Leap Forward, this was Mao’s public hygiene initiative. It was a good effort to eradicate rats, flies, mosqui-
toes and sparrows (because they consume rice and seeds from the fields). An estimate of 1.5 billion rats, 1 billion sparrows, 220 million pounds of flies and 24-plus million pounds of mosquitoes were exterminated.

However, when it was realized that sparrows also eat insects such as locusts, bed bugs took the fourth pest slot in the campaign.

In 1989, the government revived a ver-
sion of this campaign, but the fourth slot was reserved for cockroaches!

Denounce the Gang of Four (1976)

One month following Mao’s death, the Gang of Four (Jiang Qing (Mao’s widow), Zhang Chunqiao, Yao Wenyuan and Wang Hongwen — were denounced. The four played prominent roles in Mao’s government, especially during the Cultural Revolution. However, they were accused of trying to seize power after his death and split the Party. They were labeled “counter-
revolutionaries.”

The removal of the group from power is regarded as the end of the Cultural Revolu-

tion.

Open-door Policy (1978-1984)

This era speaks volume of U.S. foreign policy, beginning with the historic visit by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

In December 1978, Deng Xiaoping opened China to foreign businesses. This policy allowed China to develop from a self-sufficiency-based approach to become an active participant in the world market. Deng set up Special Economic Zones that allowed modernization of China’s industries to attract foreign investments. From 1978-1989, China rose from 32nd to 13th in the world, based on export volume.

Deng’s decision to encourage foreign trade and investments was the turning point in China’s economic fortunes.

PRESENT

Fast forward to the present: Beijing has a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, a military that landed a rover on Mars, the world’s largest navy, and the world’s second-largest economy.

Xi Jinping is China’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong. In November 2012, he was named general secretary of the Communist Party, and also became chair-
man of the Central Military Commission. He was also named president of China in March 2013.

Xi is a man on a mission. In December 2012, he began to purge the CCP of cor-
pusion (anti-graft campaign is front and center under him: any official who “volun-
tarily surrendered” in Xi’s anti-corruption campaign “would be shown leniency” and those who did not and continued accepting bribes “would be dealt with harshly.”) He sidelined those in his way. Many believe he is hell-bent on rearranging the world order. He believes China should and will be numero uno.

Skeptics of this argue that ambition and execution are two quite different things. More interesting, Xi sees the CCP’s evolv-
ing role in China’s domestic and foreign affairs. According to a July/August 2021 Foreign Affairs article, Xi has placed China on a risky trajectory:

“His belief that the CCP must guide the economy, the military, and the party apparatus, the private sector will constrain the country’s future economic growth. His demand that party cadres adhere to ideological orthodoxy and demonstrate loyalty to him will undermine the governance system’s flexibiilty and competency.”

Even before officially becoming presi-
dent, Xi embarked on an aggressive “Party building” path, requiring the organizational “resilience” of the CCP at all levels. This included stepped-up political training for member candidates, sanctions against and imprisonment of corrupt officials, and pro-
hibiting ideological intellectual pluralism.

Xi sees a limited timeframe to accom-
plish his ambition, a given that a both aging and shrinking population is projected to peak in 2029, per The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and will shrink by 50% by the end of the century. Coupled with an expanding, highly educated middle-class who are proficient in foreign languages and exposed to foreign culture from media to travels abroad, the CCP’s complete blockade of foreign social media, websites and select media has outraged many.

True, new-found prosperity will ensure a certain domestic stability as more and more mainland Chinese have a stake in maintaining order to protect their accu-
mulated wealth. They’re anxious to keep “taste bitter” in the past. But with higher aspirations in life, it’s only a matter of time they’ll demand “spiritual wealth” instead of a steady diet of CCP propaganda.

So, whatever path Xi takes China, he has to understand “taste bitter” is NOT something the Chinese people will tolerate. His “socialism with Chinese characteristics” needs to be mindful of not bringing China back to being too closed and conservative (as it was now since 1989).

Then maybe the new song will be “With-
out the CCP and Xi Jinping, there would be no Chinese Dream.”

...
MOCA received $5 million donation from Mackenzie Scott, reopens July 15 with new exhibit

Philanthropist Mackenzie Scott donated $5 million toward the Museum of Chinese in America’s drive to establish permanent home in New York City. For 41 years, MOCA has sought permanence in a home and in the American narrative. Mackenzie Scott’s unrestricted gift amplifies MOCA’s dream to contribute to broadening the American narrative to include marginalized and excluded narratives. Like too many histories in America, Chinese American journeys have been fundamental to the making of America yet have been sidelined, neglected, or forgotten. MOCA’s mission has never been more urgent. As we continue to recover from a devastating 5-alarm fire that damaged the largest collection of Chinese American artifacts in the U.S. and resisted the tides of racism against the backdrop of increased anti-API hate crimes stoked by references of a “Chinese virus,” the MOCA team is buoyed by Mackenzie Scott’s belief in our work,” shared MOCA President Nancy Yao Maasbach. “MOCA’s permanence will open the door to research, genealogy, explorations of identity, dialogue, art, and so much more as it contributes to fortifying the true potential of the American dream.”

Since its founding in 1980, MOCA has celebrated the Chinese experience in America by preserving and presenting more than 200 years of history, ancestry, culture, and perspectives. As a social history museum, MOCA presents this largely untold narrative and content through four programming arms: the curation of seasonal exhibitions; the creation and presentation of educational initiatives; the preservation of the United States’ largest collection of Chinese American artifacts; and the production of public programs.

The past two years have been among the most difficult in the museum’s history. With a team of thirteen full-time members yet a global reach of over four million and a visitorship of 50,000, MOCA serves a great need. On January 23, 2020, MOCA experienced a five-alarm fire at its storied Chinatown building. The fire nearly destroyed the museum’s collection of more than 85,000 Chinese American heirlooms yet also shined a bright light on the need for collection and preservation. COVID-19’s devastation has been particularly hard on cultural institutions forced to close their doors to the public. MOCA is pleased to announce that it will reopen to the public on July 15, 2021, with a new exhibition titled “Responses: Asian American Voices Resisting the Tides of Racism.” (Watch the PSA video created by MOCA charting the historical roots of anti-Asian racism in America from 1852 to now.) Mackenzie Scott’s generous gift will allow MOCA to provide free admission to all.

Society

Chinese American creates bilingual card game to reconnect with Asian parents

Source: Russell Leung | Asian American News | June 22, 2021

“Parents Are Human.” That’s the name of the card game that Joseph Lam, a Chinese American entrepreneur, co-created with Taiwanese American entrepreneur Candace Wu, Entrepreneur, reports. It’s also a lesson he needed to internalize in order to reconnect with his own family.

“One of the most painful things I’ve ever admitted is how poorly I treated my parents for over ten years,” Lam wrote in a March blog post. “I knew, deep down, that if I didn’t take responsibility for how I treated them and commit to rebuilding our relationship, I would go to my grave with my inaction as my biggest regret.”

“Parents Are Human” aims to address a complicated issue — reconnecting with your parents — with a simple setup. The game uses bilingual “question” and “action” cards to spark conversations and meaningful interactions between people and their parents. Examples of cards include “What was your favorite food growing up?” and “Share or describe your favorite picture of each other,” according to the game’s website.

Just a $25 bilingual card game that helps you start deeper conversations with your parents.

Parents Are Human (@parentarehu)
April 29, 2021
After years of taking his anger out on his parents, repairing his relationship with them was daunting, Lam said. But he managed to turn inaction into a serious commitment, both to his parents and to his card game.

First, Lam said, he called his parents and read an apology letter to them. Then, they started spending more time together and communicating. He and Wu eventually met up in 2019 to discuss their shared experience of bonding with their parents, according to the game’s website. That conversation led to the creation of their card game. Lam and his co-founder worked with their parents on creating the cards and improving the Chinese translations. He also hired his parents to fulfill orders after they retired during the pandemic, Lam told Entrepreneur.

According to Lam, their parents cheered on their efforts to create the game as well as to reconnect with them.

“So much of the empathy, compassion and understanding I’ve gained for my parents came as a result of playing “Parents Are Human” with them almost every week,” Lam told Entrepreneur.

Lam and Wu have greater plans for the game. They are in the midst of developing a mobile app for it and are also working on versions of the game in languages such as Vietnamese and Tagalog.

Just as importantly, though, Lam has already achieved great personal success with “Parents Are Human.” “For the first time in my life,” he told Entrepreneur, “I’m able to work with my mom and dad.”
Spring planting at St. Paul–Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows & Flowing Waters

By William Zajicek | contributor

For two weekends in May, more than 33 different volunteers made the first major planting at Garden of Whispering Willows & Flowing Waters. Some volunteers showed up on both weekends bringing our total volunteer group to nearly 40 individuals.

Seven Princess Kay plums were planted by the West Gate Archway. Five North Wind maples, two Arctic Jade maples, nine Macopin Eastern white pine, and seven Blue Mat junipers were planted around the Xiang Jiang Pavilion. The Princess Kay plums are in memorial for Paul Verret of the Katherine B. Anderson Foundation. Verner was one of the early supporters for this project and the Katherine B. Anderson Foundation has been one of our largest donors. Two maples were purchased and planted in memoriam of Jerry Mealey, Linda Mealey-Lohman’s late father, and in memory of Kenneth and Patricia Puffer, founders of the Minnesota branch of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association. We also saw some of the peonies planted last fall bloom during this time.

As you might imagine, with the early heat and lack of rain we are experiencing, watering has become a major need for these plantings. I welcome any volunteers who care to assist in the watering of the newly planted trees. If you have a half an hour to spare, please contact me at mjzaj@umnchinagarden.org.

For me, one of the delightful things that happened was spending half a day at the garden on my own constructing a water storage unit. I really began to see how people are using the garden: A mother came through the pavilion with her children stepping across the rocks, an elderly couple wanders by and thanks me for planting the trees, others came by standing almost stunned having never seen the garden before and then begin taking pictures, a woman sat down at the table and simply looks out for maybe 35 to 45 minutes, a gentleman set up a small sound system and does Karaoke with a flute to Asian background music for nearly an hour.

Stop by, you just don’t know what you will run into at the garden.

Completed plantings (for the time being)!

Points of View

CPC is the main driver of 'Chinese miracle'

Source: Seymur Mammanov | China Daily | June 1, 2021

As the essence of the triumph of the Chinese model of development is simple - it is based on the sincere love and dedication of the people of China, who fervently believe in the sacred foundation of the Chinese state, its unshakable foundation - the Communist Party of China. It is this relationship between the leadership of the Communist Party and the common people that makes it possible to achieve unique results in all areas of the life.

According to the PRC, over the past eight years, 98.99 million people living in rural areas have overcome the poverty line. And 832 counties and 128 villages have been lifted out of poverty. However, this is not just a trick or flashy statistics, but a prime example of the principle of mutual relations. Since 2013, the country has invested $2.46 billion in poverty eradication. As President Xi Jinping noted, starting from the late 70s, 770 million Chinese have been lifted out of poverty thanks to the government.

One of the most deeply thought-out strategies of the parties in the foreign and domestic policy of China in the 90s is the successful decision of the CCP to develop a socialist economy with Chinese characteristics, the use of capitalist mechanisms, the introduction of private property and a market economy.

Thus, we can say that, being the most dynamically developing state in the world, using capitalist tools in the economy, China continues to be and remains a socialist country with humane positions and care for the interests of the common man. Together with the creation of the most powerful competitive economy in the world, under the leadership of the Communist Party, China is successfully implementing the ideas and directions of socialist politics and economics. And they, in turn, make it possible to successfully realize China's leadership throughout the world. So, for example, China's policy of non-interference in the affairs of other countries, as well as active assistance to underdeveloped and developing countries, has been recognized across the world. This approach allows China to successfully coexist in the modern world with states with more reactionary politics, while remaining not involved in world's destructive political processes, wars that can affect the viability, independence of states, etc. The CCP's strategy rests on higher values such as the equality and rights of peoples, the sovereignty of states and their prosperity. The CCP does not consider itself entitled to impose its will on some and infringe on the rights of others - as, unfortunately, some developed Western countries do. However, if we try to analyze this policy of non-interference, China's equidistance from the "hot spots" on the planet and the policy of self-sufficiency, we will see that in the final perspective, an aggressive policy of imposing the own interests of a number of Western countries, the seizure of new spheres of influence in other regions does not lead to victorious results.

In this sense, an important socialist principle of China - close cooperation with developing countries, the development of their human and economic potential together, finds an important response in modern reality. The impulse of global development that Chinese investments brought to the economies of these countries made it possible for China to create, in cooperation with these countries, a transnational system of economic relations, the core of which is currently Beijing.

Remaining the main socialist power on the planet, adhering to the humanistic principles and messages developed by the Chinese Communist Party, based on the life and prosperity of an ordinary person, China is continuously progressing, becoming more powerful and stronger every day.

Seymur Mammanov is the director of the international expert club EurasiaAz and editor-in-chief of Azerbaijan's news agency Vzglyad.az.
June 13, a warm summer day, marked a new chapter for CAAM Chinese Dance Theater as more than 50 dancers performed at Hopkins Center for the Arts for an enthusiastic live audience -- the first time in almost 18 months. “Bright Spring, Dazzling Dance” captured the hearts of these Chinese dance lovers, of all age groups in the theater and, virtually, from as far as Asia even, with a resplendent display of performances.

Featuring original choreography by Artistic Director Jinyu Zhou, who is among the highest-ranking choreographers in China and formerly with world renown Zhejiang Song and Dance Theater in Hangzhou, many dances expressed classic themes, music and stories interpreted for this modern audience. CAAM Chinese Dance Theater embraced the day as a variety of new and seasoned dancers, including those who recently captured Taoli awards from China, including a top Platinum award, danced across the stage.

Erica Lee, transplant from Singapore with a theater and dance background and performing with CAAM Chinese Dance Theater for first time, said “What amazing enthusiasm from dancers, audience and the community. I will treasure always this positive experience coming out of COVID.” Kaimay Yuen Terry, long time CAAM Chinese Dance Theater supporter, brought her new granddaughter. “We loved it! Thank you so much for bringing us back into the theater!” Others strongly agree.

Free performances continue all summer including Fairview Family Festival on June 20, Minnesota Fringe’s “Beyond the Box” on July 10 and 17, and many more coming. Schedule and updates are listed on CAAM Chinese Dance Theater’s website at www.caamcdt.org and on its Facebook page at CDTCAAM. ♦
For the last few decades, China has been in the midst of a building boom. Since the socio-political changes brought about by Chinese economic reforms since 1978, urbanization and, hence, architecture have accelerated. The country’s rapid growth has been accompanied by unprecedented change in the built landscape. At the same time, the possibility of building at unprecedented scales has been accompanied by a freedom to experience with architectural forms.

Today, Chinese architecture is no longer determined by generic high-rise buildings as it was just 15 years ago, but has rather been transformed by a generation of independent architects whose work is defined by an awareness of traditional values, an engagement with the landscape and an eagerness to find a new “Chinese identity” for contemporary architecture.

“Beauty and the East: New Chinese Architecture” brings together a vast array of projects collected in this book might serve as a "new" architecture which is, unlike before, shaped by a growing emphasis on the value of heritage preservation, an attempt to rediscover vernacular architecture and an awareness of ancient landscape.

Triggered by the rapid urbanization and the consequent demolition of old towns, or merely fed up with foreign influences and mainstream monstrous skyscrapers, contemporary Chinese architecture now gives attention to urban regeneration and traditional values. This approach comes at a time when the Chinese president Xi Jinping has called for an end to what he calls "weird architecture" influenced by foreign architects. His call reflected on the fact that China’s searching for an identity is laying the groundwork for contemporary Chinese architecture to emerge. What we see now in Chinese architecture is still in the state of “evolving” and is, according to Wang Yun, director of Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture Graduate School of Architecture Design and Art, and founder of Atelier Fronti, “in the process of transitioning to a stable style, which gives rise to diverse styles that are necessary for reaching a consensus in the future.”

The essays raise another aspect, often missing in Europe: the plan, regulated by the Chinese government in the interests of making the best use of its vast territory, of taking into consideration the nation’s rural areas into the process of urban development. Most of the projects presented here have taken place in villages and city outskirts, going hand in hand with intensive investigations on the economic and social status quo of each area, or as Zen Qun, chief architect of Tongji Architectural Design, puts it: "It is a crucial topic for architects on how to integrate architecture with contemporary society. Integration comes first, and then we start to talk about individuality and creativity, and about ourselves."

For many projects by the new generation of independent Chinese architects are driven by an idea of the social function of architecture as an act to bolster rural village life and a regeneration of a communal amenity. By doing so, they also respond accordingly to the State’s agenda of an integration of rural areas into the urbanization and modernization projects. The allocation of contemporary architectural creations to rural areas is not only encouraged by the government but also supported by private entrepreneurs. On the outskirts of Nanjing, the ancient capital of Jiangsu, the Sifang Art Park arose in 2003, a project run by the local businessman Lu Jun and his art collector son Lu Xun. The Art Park includes works of the New York architect Steven Holl, Ghanaian-British David Adjaye, dissident artists Ai Weiwei and Wang Shu among two-dozen of the biggest names in international and Chinese architecture, each having an opportunity to design one of 20 buildings within the unique landscape as a “creation of Chinese Tradition in a 21st Century Art Park.”

Wishing to counteract cheap and repetitive architecture, the leftovers of the 1990s, the aim is to break the mold of China’s rush by creating architecture of contemplation and deceleration.

The essay contributed by Wang Shu, the first Chinese architect to win the Pritzker Prize, makes clear how the dramatic social and political transformation and economic reform of the country has also played a crucial role in the experimental phase of architectural development. Since 1949, 2000 design institutes owned or supervised by the state have been controlling, analyzing and overseeing the state’s need for rapid large-scale infrastructural and architectural construction. After China’s opening, overseas contractors and consultants were allowed to work in the country as it prepared to join the world trade organization in 2001. This has been a pivotal year that opened many opportunities and challenges for local design institutes, and offered up new ideas, know-how and methodologies from the West as it boosted increasing competition from local independent architects that emerged since the 1990s. The essay gives the impression that this symbiotic relationship of the State-owned institutes and the private practices is pushing Chinese contemporary architecture forward.

By some estimates, almost half of the world’s construction will take place in China in the coming decade, and in the 21st century, China might build more urban fabric than humanity has ever built before. The projects collected in this book might serve as appetizers as to what is coming next in East Asia. Although China’s on-going and rapid transformation is a source of uncertainty regarding architectural development, it also provides a solid foundation for new creations, approaches and discourses; the West will have some catching up to do.

About the reviewer
Phuong Phan is an art and architectural historian based in Berlin.

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Reviewed by Phuong Phan | Asian Review of Books | June 13, 2021
by Jason M. Kelly

Reviewed by Tim Sifert | Asian Review of Books | June 21, 2021

Author: Jason M. Kelly
Publisher: Harvard University Press
Publication date: May 2021
Hardcover: 320 pages

Jason M. Kelly is assistant professor at the U.S. Naval War College and associate in research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. He was previously a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

The question of how a state committed to Communism became the world’s biggest trading nation in markets dominated largely by capitalist countries, controlling industries and setting prices, has long been puzzling. Author Jason M. Kelly, in “Market Maoists,” provides a sober, detailed account of the way modern China came to see that global trade could be a way to “fortify socialism … rather than degrade it.”

Subtitled “The Communist Origins of China’s Capitalist Ascent,” the book traces the Party’s reliance on trade with non-socialist countries back before the nation’s founding and shows that many levers of foreign commerce were intact well ahead of the vaunted “Reform and Opening” in the late 1970s. The ability to read global markets for rice and wheat, technology and currency, for instance, and to know how and when to walk and talk like a “capitalist imperialist,” took decades to develop.

The book’s roughly 200 well-researched pages of narrative, plus another 100 or so of notes and index, focus on many of the CCP’s strategies accordingly. To help meet the lofty targets of the second five-year plan, a lofty target of the second five-year plan, a foreign trade directory, similar to the Sears Catalog, was introduced, replete with advertisements. An amusing ad reproduced in the book touts dress shirts with a “scientific collar” and features an insignia very similar to one still used today for Kool menthol cigarettes in the U.S.

With extensive quotes and citations from archives — some of which, he says, were never before sourced by historians — Kelly describes the tortuous process behind many of the decisions to do deals with the so-called enemy. The book illustrates and analyzes exchanges between key men, including Zhou Enlai, Chen Yun, Li Xian-nian and Mao Zedong. While some of the interpretations felt perhaps a little overdone, Kelly conveys what a highwire act it must have been to conduct business on Mao’s watch. “What consequences might befall the unlucky cadre who strikes the wrong balance between these contradictory impulses?” Kelly asks at one point. “Nobody seemed to know.” Later, he shows the terrific repercussions that several men eventually suffered as a result of their association with foreign capitalism.

Some seeds of the Party’s own long relationship with global markets were planted after the United Front alliance was formed against the Japanese in the 1930s and the CCP was allowed openly to operate funding offices in Nationalist-controlled areas. Although the shaky alliance didn’t last, by the end of the war, the Communists had more than 50 such outposts that would be used “for trade with large mainland markets and, ultimately, overseas markets as well.”

Hong Kong was a milestone in this regard. Kelly describes a “forgotten but fateful” meeting where Zhou Enlai asked Britain’s ambassador to Nationalist China to allow the CCP to open up shop in the colony. In early 1938, after some debate, an office at 18 Queen’s Road Central was founded with Britain’s approval. The office, despite having signage for a teashop, proved too conspicuous to last. Yet lessons were learned about business dealings abroad.

Another firm, set up a few hundred meters from the false front — Liow & Company — seemed to take heed. Run by Qin Bangli, who had the “budding paunch of a bourgeois climber,” the company survived and, after it changed its name to China Resources in 1948, was a linchpin in the country’s engagement with global markets.

Faced with “the prospect of mass starvation at home,” Party cadres turned to this Hong Kong firm around 1960 to work out the logistics of importing hundreds of thousands of tons of “capitalist grain.” It was so politically and economically sensitive that each day China Resources sent a courier across the border to Shenzhen to brief the foreign trade ministry in person, the privacy of Hong Kong phone lines being rather suspect.

Kelly, who’s also an associate in research at Harvard’s Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, argues that studying trade during the Mao era is more important than the comparatively small volumes would indicate. “These deals,” he writes, “also served as sites for the exchange of ideas, habits, and beliefs, and as venues where individuals, institutions, and the logics that guided them formed subtle but lasting legacies.

China Resources, for its part, has become a conglomerate with 371,000 employees, eight Hong Kong-listed entities and stakes in foreign firms including Dutch Heineken and Swedish Oatly.

The Four-Three Program, the book shows, was itself a commercial success. All of the 26 large industrial projects mooted in the 1973 plan were completed by 1982. The facilities were imported from “capitalist states,” including the U.S.

Kelly writes that it wasn’t long before then that the Party aimed to participate in markets mainly as a way to “hasten the demise of capitalism itself.” “Market Maoists” helps explain how this didn’t quite work out. ♦
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