UFO landing pad?

No. It is an aerial shot of the new HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge that opened to traffic in late October. It is the world’s longest sea-crossing bridge. Or, to some, THE bridge to nowhere! More on page #.

Jennie Hsiao honored at National Philanthropy Day

By Greg Hugh

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Minnesota Chapter recently observed National Philanthropy Day by hosting a celebration to honor individuals and groups whose philanthropy has improved our communities and the world. More than 400 guests attended this event held in the grand ballroom of the JW Marriott at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The following were recognized at this year’s celebration: Outstanding Philanthropists, Bill and Teri Popp and David and Patty Murphy; Outstanding Professional Fundraiser, Mort Naiman; Outstanding Philanthropic Organization, Federated Insurance Company and Jennie Hsiao, Outstanding Philanthropist.

According to the biography presented in the program booklet on each honoree, Jennie Hsiao was described as follows:

“Jennie Hsiao has been an active and recognized leader in Minnesota’s Chinese-American community for more than 60 years. She is described as a shining example of generosity, honesty, initiative, leadership, and dedicated involvement in causes she cares deeply about. A native of Hunan Province, she came to Minnesota in 1958 to marry Feng ‘Fred’ Hsiao, who co-founded Jeannie Hsiao with sons, Howell, Hoyt and Holden.
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings,

It is probably not too late yet to prepare for our most challenging season of the year… winter. As hearty Minnesotans, we try to convince ourselves that we actually enjoy the change of seasons and before we know it, Thanksgiving will be upon us.

Thankfully, the midterm elections have concluded and we hope all of you exercised your right to vote. Traditionally there is not much participation in the midterm elections but because of the much uncertainty by all parties, there was record turn out by voters in many parts of the country and still not all races have been determined.

In addition to Thanksgiving occurring in November in the U.S., we also celebrated Veterans Day on Nov. 11, (observed by financial institutions and government agencies on the 12th). In other parts of the world it may be celebrated as Armistice Day. This is the day we honor our military veterans and let them know that their service to our country is deeply appreciated so be sure to let our folks know that their service to our country is honor our military veterans and let them know it, Thanksgiving will be upon us.

As many of you know, China Insight has been very active in the initiative in Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II and was hoping that this could have been achieved by Veterans Day. Unfortunately, we still have some work to do. While the Senate has passed their version of the bill, the House of Representatives still needs to vote on H.R. 2358. As of Nov. 9, 2018, 242 (of the required 290) representatives have cosponsored the bill. We are still short by 48. We are pleased that efforts to get 100 percent of the Congressional members from Minnesota to cosponsor the bills have been successful; we now need to work our contacts in other parts of the country to contact their Congressional representatives to do the same. Your help is needed so tell your out-of-state contacts to get involved by visiting www.chinainsight.info for information on how to participate before the end of the year and a new Congress is seated.

While we’re not fans of promoting holidays too far in advance, we’d also like to take this opportunity to inform you that Chinese New Year, the Year of the Pig, will occur on Feb. 5, 2019. We encourage you to submit announcements of any Chinese New Year celebrations your organization is planning to us by Dec. 15, 2018, if you would like them considered for our January 2019 edition. This should be sent to articles@chinainsight.info.

Please note that this is a combined November-December edition of China Insight. There will not be a separate edition published in December. Thus, in addition to our best wishes for a great Thanksgiving holiday, all of us at China Insight also wish you a joyous, prosperous and healthy holiday season.

As always, thank you for your continued support of China Insight. Please feel free to let us know if there are any particular topics you would like us to cover, or, if there are any other ways we can better serve the community.

Sincerely,

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

FREE 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 reader demographics. For your time, the first 10 respondents each month will receive a free annual subscription to China Insight. Winners will be notified by email.

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

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

Page Article title

Page Article title

I would like to see more articles on:

Employment Status
☐ Student ☐ Self-employed ☐ Retired

Age
☐ 19 & under ☐ 20 – 40 ☐ 41 – 60

Gender
☐ Male ☐ Female

Employment Sector
☐ Education ☐ Government ☐ Private Industry

Ethnicity
☐ Asian ☐ Caucasian ☐ Hispanic

Other (please specify)

Where did you get this issue of China Insight?

Name
First
Last

Address
Street
City
State
Zip

Email

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

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

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

China Insight 750 Mainstreet, #230 Hopkins, MN 55343

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Email ____________________________
Company ____________________________
Title ____________________________

YES you could run to the store and pick up a copy, but did you know you can have China Insight delivered directly to your mailbox?

A subscription costs a mere $24 and brings a full year (10 issues) of new understanding about today’s China, from language to business opportunities.

Copyright 2018 China Insight, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Win the AI race

China’s “Made in China 2025” game plan is dependent on winning the artificial intelligence race, according to President Xi Jinping after the Communist Party’s policy-making members met to discuss the weakening Chinese economy from the trade war with the U.S.

Developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!

Visa to China

With the AI race, developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!

Visa to China

With the AI race, developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!

Visa to China

With the AI race, developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!

Visa to China

With the AI race, developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!

Visa to China

With the AI race, developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!

Visa to China

With the AI race, developing, controlling and using AI will secure China’s future in the upcoming technological and industrial “revolutions.” Xi said accelerating AI development is a strategic issue in securing its place in global geopolitics. It is the first time Xi had urged the country to embrace and adopt AI.

Chinese consumers redefined

A UK market researcher is redefining Chinese consumers into five distinct personality types because “relying on established demographic targeting means relying on third-party assessment and applying it to whatever you are selling.”

The five personality types are: 1) The secure traditionalist who prefers saving money over labels. 2) The inspired adventurer likes new experiences and traveling Overseas to do so. 3) The unadulterated lover of branded purchases, luxury and the latest tech gadgets. 4) The balanced optimist values healthy living and wellbeing, and relies heavily on the mobile phone for everything. 5) The cautious planner is very careful with money and makes purchases the traditional way.

Welcoming tree protected

Since 1981, an approximately 800-1,000-year-old flat-top pine tree on China’s Huangshan, Anhui Province, has its own “protector” who checks on it every two hours, and more often if you simply view the pine as a tree, work can be boring. “The most famous trees. “The venerable Hong Kong congee shop that served a mean bowl of chicken offal congee recently changed owners. The refurbished shop also updated its menu to include English. However, the Shenzhen-based “translation house” that did the menu may have defaulted to artificial “intelligence”!
The mega white elephant bridge: HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge

By Elaine Dunn

Until Oct. 25, 2018, there had been no roads that directly connected Zhuhai in Guangdong Province and Macau, the former Portuguese colony, to Hong Kong. Vehicles had to take the Humen Bridge further north, a 120-mile detour. The newly opened Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, a multibillion project 30 years in the making, changed all that. And current hope is that the new bridge will boost tourism and economic growth in the Pearl River Delta region.

A Nov. 3, 1983 South China Morning Post article reported the idea for a project to connect a west-of-Pearl River’s lesser-developed cities to Hong Kong was hatched by Hong Kong tycoon Gordon Wu, founder of property firm Hopewell Holdings. Wu envisioned the structure as a means to attract foreign investments to Zhuhai, a developing special economic zone on the mainland, and to spur investments to Zhuhai, a developing special economic zone on the mainland, and to spur investments to Zhuhai.

Originally, the project consisted only of a bridge from Zhuhai to Tuen Mun (aka Castle Peak, northwest of Hong Kong’s New Territories). After the British handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, the original design morphed into one that would link Zhuhai and Macau to Hong Kong through the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok. In 2003, governments of the three cities commissioned a study to work out the design and funding of the project. By 2008, the three governments agreed on how costs would be shared and the responsibility for building and running the boundary-crossing facilities, and sections of the approach roads linked to the bridge. Responsibility of constructing the main bridge on the Pearl River Estuary fell mainly on China.

Work officially began on Dec. 15, 2009 and was completed Oct. 24, 2018 at a cost of US$20.03bn. The main bridge span alone was US$7.52bn.

The final design included a 4-mile underwater tunnel linking Hong Kong to the main bridge span as a means to minimize disruption of busy ship and air traffic in the area. This two-way underwater tunnel is close to 70 feet in height and has three lanes going in each direction. It took five years to complete, excavating an area of 3,624 square feet in the process. There also are other tunnels that link approach roads to the bridge.

Until Oct. 25, 2018, there had been no roads that directly connected Zhuhai in Guangdong Province and Macau, the former Portuguese colony, to Hong Kong. Vehicles had to take the Humen Bridge further north, a 120-mile detour. The newly opened Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, a multibillion project 30 years in the making, changed all that. And current hope is that the new bridge will boost tourism and economic growth in the Pearl River Delta region.

A Nov. 3, 1983 South China Morning Post article reported the idea for a project to connect a west-of-Pearl River’s lesser-developed cities to Hong Kong was hatched by Hong Kong tycoon Gordon Wu, founder of property firm Hopewell Holdings. Wu envisioned the structure as a means to attract foreign investments to Zhuhai, a developing special economic zone on the mainland, and to spur investments to Zhuhai.

Originally, the project consisted only of a bridge from Zhuhai to Tuen Mun (aka Castle Peak, northwest of Hong Kong’s New Territories). After the British handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997, the original design morphed into one that would link Zhuhai and Macau to Hong Kong through the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok. In 2003, governments of the three cities commissioned a study to work out the design and funding of the project. By 2008, the three governments agreed on how costs would be shared and the responsibility for building and running the boundary-crossing facilities, and sections of the approach roads linked to the bridge. Responsibility of constructing the main bridge on the Pearl River Estuary fell mainly on China.

Work officially began on Dec. 15, 2009 and was completed Oct. 24, 2018 at a cost of US$20.03bn. The main bridge span alone was US$7.52bn.

The final design included a 4-mile underwater tunnel linking Hong Kong to the main bridge span as a means to minimize disruption of busy ship and air traffic in the area. This two-way underwater tunnel is close to 70 feet in height and has three lanes going in each direction. It took five years to complete, excavating an area of 3,624 square feet in the process. There also are other tunnels that link approach roads to the bridge.

However, the first Sunday after bridge opening, reports of thousands of passengers waiting for hours at port facilities for shuttle bus service surfaced. (The bridge was NOT designed for private car-crossings but mainly for cargo transport.) Obviously, the 90 buses scheduled to run from 6-8 p.m. were not enough to handle the 3,500 travelers passing through per hour. It also prompted the government to increase the quota of private car crossing permits by 5,000. There is much optimism about this new regional link. However, the extremely high (over-budget) construction and maintenance costs have many skeptics voicing their concerns.

Given projections of light vehicular traffic and restriction to private car crossings, it is unlikely the construction cost can be recovered. Some estimates project that toll revenue will only cover 30 percent of maintenance cost. And, there are many who maintain that whatever the economic outlook the bridge may bring, the main reason behind China’s backing of the project is that it is a very visual, symbolic one – a reminder to Hong Kongers that Hong Kong is physically linked to the mainland!

Interesting facts

- The completed structure is 34 miles long, 20 times longer than San Francisco’s iconic Golden Gate Bridge
- The underwater tunnel section has 33 tubes (each measuring 590-ft long x 125-ft wide x 37.4-ft high) submerged at a depth of 150 ft. under the waters of Lingdingyang in the Pearl River Estuary. Each section weighs 80,000 tons (as much as an aircraft carrier)
- Amount of steel (400,000 tons) used can build 60 Eiffel Towers
- Estimated life of the bridge: 120 years, 20 years more than other existing sea-crossing bridges
- Bridge designed to withstand up to magnitude 8 earthquakes, typhoons and crashes of wayward cargo ships
- Bridge includes merger lanes where drivers change sides of the road on which they drive since China drives on the right side and HK & Macau, on the left
- Approximate time to go from Hong Kong to Zhuhai: 40 minutes, not counting the average of 45 minutes getting to the “link” road
- Private cars require special permits to drive the entire distance. To gather all the documents for permit application will take approximately 12 business days...AND, a permit does not automatically guarantee entry to the bridge!
- Only 150 private car permits are granted a day, and only to HK permanent residents only, who also have to prove they are employed or have a business in Macau.
- Most travelers are expected to cross on private 24-hour shuttle buses
- Shuttle bus trip costs US$8.30 during the day and US$9 during the night
- All vehicles have to pay toll
- There are 48 surveillance cameras along the bridge to counter potential terrorist activities and two border checks
- At least 18 workers were killed during construction, hundreds injured
- Nineteen people faced corruption charges over faked concrete tests parts of two of the four artificial islands were observed to be “floating away” just weeks after completion

Chinese New Year is February 5, 2019.
Send details of your group’s Chinese New Year event by December 15, 2018 for inclusion in the January 2019 issue of China Insight to articles@chinainsight.info

Happy Thanksgiving!

Production Editor Needed

Great opportunity to gain experience in laying out China Insight, a monthly tabloid newspaper that has serving the community for 17-plus years.

- The right candidate must know InDesign Creative Suite and have graphics background.
- Reliability and ability to meet deadlines are critical.
- A strong interest in Chinese culture and business matters will be an asset.
- Must be willing to take creative initiative and be a team player.

This is classified as a volunteer position, but a small stipend will be provided to the right individual who demonstrates a strong passion for our mission and can work with minimal supervision.

Send resume to Greg Hugh at ghugh@chinainsight.info or call 612-723-4872
By Kaimay Yuen Terry, originally published in MinnPost, Oct. 26, 2018

For months I have been reading news headlines streaming into my cellphone or in print that our president is waging a trade war with China. Pundits first said it’s not serious, it will get resolved, and now they say it is serious. The most recent article that I read in The Economist described two countries entering a Cold-War-era-like relationship.

How did a country that for decades has been supplying us with a multitude of quality consumer goods, filling orders from American companies like Target and Best Buy, suddenly become a pariah for our current administration? How did the millions of Chinese workers who left their villages to toil in the huge city factories to satisfy our appetites for goods become the invisible and faceless foes of America? Have we to the point where an argument is no need for a trade war.

The U.S. economy is strong, with its employment reached a peak in the 1950s, recession of 2008. He reminded us that manufacturing long recovered from the recession of 2008. He reminded us that the manufacturing share of total U.S. employment reached a peak in the 1950s, long before China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), and that manufacturing as a portion of the U.S. economy has been steadily shrinking since the 1950s. He attributed much of the cause for this change to U.S. manufacturers becoming more efficient, via technological advances such as automation, thus needing fewer workers to produce the same amount of goods. He further pointed out that in any society a wealthier population consumes more services than goods.

Rice stressed the need for greater intellectual property protection, the need for China to open up its markets, e.g. financial services, and she acknowledged her strong and continued support for student exchanges. Rice herself was a past beneficiary of NCUSCR’s support for her first visit to China.

What followed the streamed Rice interview was an eye- and mind-opening live talk by Andy Rothman, a seasoned investment strategist at Matthews Asia. Rothman had a long U.S. diplomatic career with a focus in Asia. He offered a perspective of the U.S. China “trade war” that differed vastly from that of the Trump administration.

Rothman’s first assertion was that there is no need for a trade war.

The U.S. economy is strong, with its manufacturing long recovered from the recession of 2008. He reminded us that the manufacturing share of total U.S. employment reached a peak in the 1950s, long before China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), and that manufacturing as a portion of the U.S. economy has been steadily shrinking since the 1950s. He attributed much of the cause for this change to U.S. manufacturers becoming more efficient, via technological advances such as automation, thus needing fewer workers to produce the same amount of goods. He further pointed out that in any society a wealthier population consumes more services than goods.

Many U.S. firms “winning” in China

He then pointed out that many American firms have been and are “winning” in China. Rothman gave statistics showing that since China’s inclusion in WTO in 2001, U.S. exports to China have risen by 580 percent while only increasing by 100 percent to the rest of the world. He cited examples of General Motors, which now sells more cars in China (4 million) than in the U.S. and Nike, whose sales to China contributed 16 percent of its global revenue. In short, more Chinese have become consumers and have growing spending power, so why do we want to jeopardize this market?

Rothman gave equally credible arguments about the harm to our American economy and American workers in a trade war. He gave the example of Boeing, our largest exporter, which employs more than 50,000 factory workers and 45,000 engineers across 50 states plus supporting 1.3 million workers at parts suppliers. Loss of Boeing sales to Airbus for the China market will have a widespread and long-term impact. Apple products, the darling of consumer desire in China, contain parts from the U.S. reflecting the labor of 2 million U.S. workers. Change of Chinese consumer preferences will not only hurt Apple’s profits, but the incomes of Apple employees and the stock portfolios of countless U.S. investors.

Lastly for Midwesterners, Rothman reinforced our concerns for our own soybean farmers who are now in the crosshairs of reciprocal tariffs. Nowhere else can our farmers find a market large enough to absorb the surplus soybean crops year after year that we have grown for animal feed in China.

Rothman’s final argument against this trade war was helping us to understand that China is no longer an export-dependent country for its economy. Net export (export minus import) accounts for only 2 percent of China’s gross domestic product, and China’s exports to the U.S. accounted for only 19 percent of its total exports. So what is the point?

Economist Stiglitz’s point of view

Some answers come from Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, interviewed in the latest Barron’s. Without using economic jargon, he claimed that the trade imbalance that has troubled our administration so much and led it to accuse China of cheating in its trade practices was absurd. Stiglitz explained, “When we save less than we invest, there will be a trade deficit. Because of the very badly structured tax bill of December 2017, combined with the January expenditure bill, the fiscal deficit and trade deficit are going up way.”

China has moved 700 million people out of poverty in just a few decades. Stiglitz considered this as “one of the most important global events in the history of mankind.” The general fallacy was that we were told China’s growth and development was at our expense. “But isn’t it good to have more people with income to want to buy our goods?” he asked.

As midterm election nears, these voices seem to be from the wilderness as we are drowning in the torrent of political advertisements or tweets. There have been few meaningful debates in Congress on our trade policies. Do we really need a trade war with China?
Qu Zhenhong: a Chinese lawyer’s profile of courage

Qu Zhenhong, a Chinese lawyer with a human rights profile, is representing Liu in suing the government for a 7.87 million-yuan state compensation, triple the amount directed by the law, for the 9,218 days Liu spent behind bars. Qu, who was harassed and detained by the authority in 2014 for her association with her famous uncle, the most prominent civil rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang, is determined to seek justice for Liu in this unprecedented state compensation for wrongful conviction case. The case is still pending.

According to the State Compensation Law, the state compensation adopts the principle of statutory compensation, and is the scope of compensation and the compensation standard are all statutory: in the case of Liu, the compensation name only has two types: restrictions on personal freedom compensation and spiritual comfort compensation. The compensation is based on the average daily wage of national workers multiplied by the actual number of days of detention, and the spiritual comfort is a certain percentage of the personal freedom compensation (the judicial interpretation mandates compensation not exceed 35 percent in principle). However, the prisoner is imprisoned 24 hours a day, not just eight hours a day. People who have been in prison knows that the 24 hours imprisonment feels many times more than the 24 hours of normal life outside the prison. When you are in prison, you count time in seconds. American scholars have argued that using wages as a standard for paying compensation may raise moral issues: because under this kind of standard, sitting in jail and losing personal freedom are considered a “job” for citizens.

So, under China’s State Compensation Law, those exonerated of criminal charges are entitled to roughly 285 yuan for each day of wrongful imprisonment, equivalent to the daily wage of an “average worker” in China’s non-private sector. It’s not fair for people to be locked up for 24 hours a day due to injustice at the hands of police and judicial authorities, and only get compensated for as little as an eight-hour daily work-shift.

Regarding personal freedom compensation, in recent years, some courts have exceeded the upper limit of 35 percent. In Fujian Province, Nianbin’s personal freedom compensation reached 86 percent of his personal freedom compensation. In Zhejiang Province, the Zhang Hui and Zhang Gaoping case and in Jiangxi Province, the Leping Five case reached 69 percent and 65 percent respectively. But I think this is far from enough to make up for the mental damage caused by wrongful conviction and wrongful imprisonment. Liu’s youth was spent in prison because of the state’s mistakes. He missed the best time of his life. He missed the chance to marry and to have a family, and he is traumatized, always nervous, always depressed.

In addition, almost all parties in wrongful imprisonment cases will apply for reimbursement of the cost in seeking compensation. This part of the expenses was not included in the statutory compensation program, so almost no support was obtained in judicial practice. After the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Supreme Court began to correct wrongful convictions and wrongful imprisonment cases, and addressed some of the wrong cases that had accumulated for many years. After the redress was rectified, the parties involved in the case would inevitably apply for state compensation. In order to “try to make the people feel fairness and just in every judicial case” as the Party authority promised, especially to let the grieving parties feel the fairness and justice, it is recommended that the state compensation agency should insist on fair and reasonable and be more accommodating to different compensation claims when judging the compensation case. The principle of humanism should be applied here. After all, they are victims, and they are in their predicament through no fault of their own; they are willing to believe in justice and willing to express their demands through legal channels after enduring many years of injustice.
In this offering we will look at the pronunciation of Chinese Mandarin which is based on the dialect of Beijing. I should warn the student that Chinese, who are raised outside Beijing, may pronounce some of these sounds differently.

Dealing first with consonants, several tend to confuse beginning students. Among them are:

**C** This represents an aspirated “ts” sound. The term “aspirated” simply means that there is a slight puff of air following the consonant. Try Google Translate for any offering of “ça” or “cang.”

**Q** This represents the “ch” sound as in “itching.” Like “c” there is a slight breath of air following the consonant. Try Google Translate for any “qi,” “qing” or “qu.”

**R** Some Chinese from outside of Beijing pronounce the “r” as Americans do but actually there is a slight sound of friction. Try Google Translate for any “ren,” “ri,” and “ru.”

**X** This letter has a soft “sh” sound. The tongue is a little more forward. Try Google Translate for any “xi,” “xiang” and “xu.”

**Z** This letter represents an unaspirated “ts” sound. One could pronounce this letter as a “dz” sound but then an American accent will be heard. Try Google Translate for “za,” “zang” and “zu.”

Another feature of Chinese initial consonants is the fact that there are two variations of several of them.

**“ch” and “q”** Both consonants are aspirated. The major difference between them is the position of the tongue. For “ch” the tongue is curled back further in the mouth. This is why the Chinese syllable “zhí” (zhí) sounds a bit like the English word “drew.” The Chinese syllable “zhú” will sound much like the “jer” in “jerk.” A Warning here: many Chinese from central, south and southwest China may pronounce this “zh” as a “ts.”

For “q,” the tip of the tongue is more forward in the mouth. It will sound much like the “j” in “jeep.”

The letters “l,” “k” and “p” all have the presence of aspiration (a slight puff of air). The letters “d,” “g” and “b” are unaspirated versions of “l,” “k” and “p.” If you pronounce these unaspirated sounds as “d,” “g” and “b,” you will be understood but your American accent will be noticed. We also have these distinctions in our speech, but we do not notice them. The unaspirated consonants in English will occur when an “s” precedes them. The English words “sky,” “spy” and “sty” all use unaspirated versions of “s,” “k” and “p” after the “s.”

In Beijing, the “h” often has the sound of “ch” in the Scottish word “loch” or the German “ch” in “doch” (but not like the “ch” in “mich”). Outside of Beijing one may hear this sound pronounced much as it is in English.

The remaining consonants l, m, n, w and y sound very similar to their English counterparts.

As for the vowels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a / a</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai / ai</td>
<td>aise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an / on</td>
<td>an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i / i</td>
<td>in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>io / ow</td>
<td>iow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e / e</td>
<td>iin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>iung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i / i</td>
<td>iin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>io</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei / e</td>
<td>ei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o / o</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>io / iow</td>
<td>io</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i / i</td>
<td>iin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ya / y</td>
<td>ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iu / iu</td>
<td>iu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui / ou</td>
<td>ui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o / o</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iu / iu</td>
<td>iu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui / ou</td>
<td>ui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao / ow</td>
<td>ao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oo / ay</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u / u</td>
<td>u</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The third tone is a high-falling pitch. The fourth tone is a high-falling tone. It somewhat resembles the tone we put on one-syllable commands such as “Go!” or expressions like “No!” or “Damn!”

Try the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / mother</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo cat</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuāng a sore</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hái Dans!</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slide</td>
<td>mó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect</td>
<td>móng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second tone is a mid-rising pitch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / hemp</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo speak</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuang bed</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remain</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>same, with</td>
<td>tóng same</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As for the tones, when I refer to the tones in these lessons, for this sound, try saying the word “see” but round your lips when saying the “ee.” The timbre of this sound will be changed.

As for the tones, when I refer to the terms “high” and “low,” I am referring to one’s own normal high and normal low pitches.

The dialect of Beijing Mandarin has four tones plus a neutral tone which occurs with unstressed syllables. This unstressed neutral tone varies according to the pitch of the preceding syllable and will not be a problem for the learner as in most cases. The learner will tend to automatically use it correctly. Usually the neutral tone is pronounced somewhere lower than the end of the pitch on the preceding syllable. The tone exception is after the second (or rising tone) where the neutral tone is at a mid-high level pitch.

In normally stressed syllables, the first tone starts at a speaker’s normal high pitch and remains level. This tone reminds me of a singer preparing his or her voice by singing “mi-mi-ma.”

Practice:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / hemp</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo speak</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuang bed</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remain</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>same, with</td>
<td>tóng same</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fourth tone is a high-falling tone. It somewhat resembles the tone we put on one-syllable commands such as “Go!” or expressions like “No!” or “Damn!”

Try the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / mother</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo cat</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuāng a sore</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hái Dans!</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slide</td>
<td>mó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect</td>
<td>móng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fourth tone is a high-falling tone. It somewhat resembles the tone we put on one-syllable commands such as “Go!” or expressions like “No!” or “Damn!”

Try the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / mother</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo cat</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuāng a sore</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hái Dans!</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slide</td>
<td>mó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect</td>
<td>móng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fourth tone is a high-falling tone. It somewhat resembles the tone we put on one-syllable commands such as “Go!” or expressions like “No!” or “Damn!”

Try the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / mother</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo cat</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuāng a sore</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hái Dans!</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slide</td>
<td>mó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect</td>
<td>móng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fourth tone is a high-falling tone. It somewhat resembles the tone we put on one-syllable commands such as “Go!” or expressions like “No!” or “Damn!”

Try the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mā / mother</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>māo cat</td>
<td>māo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuāng a sore</td>
<td>chuāng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hái Dans!</td>
<td>hái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slide</td>
<td>mó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect</td>
<td>móng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chinese American Association of Minnesota launched a membership drive that was launched during a dinner at the Tea House restaurant, located in St. Paul, that was attended by honorary guests that included Sping Lin who recently celebrated his 100 birthday and Minnesota State Senator Foung Hawj, representing the Hmong community, descendants from Chinese ancestors who live in Changsha, China, sister city to St. Paul. Also, in attendance were former CAAM presidents, Ming-jen Chen and Yu-Ching Lo along with Weiming Lu, a CAAM co-founder and former treasurer.

Attendees of the CAAM membership drive

Connie Mei Ledford, current CAAM president, welcomed the gathering by announcing that CAAM is revamping its membership efforts and intends to return to its roots as envisioned by its founders. A new membership brochure with a new logo was unveiled. According to Ledford, “The logo design includes the colors red, white, blue and gold representing the flag colors of the US and the PRC set in a prosperity circle representing the globe with a figure cradling the world in its arms signifying mutual cooperation.” CAAM is the oldest and largest Chinese American community organization in Minnesota, tracing its history to the Chinese American Club gatherings at Nankin Cafe dating back to the 1930s, which was founded by Nankin Cafe’s owner Walter James in 1951 and incorporated with his help in 1967.

Over the years, CAAM membership has grown to encompass Chinese academic immigrants, first generation Chinese, families with adopted children from China, as well as individuals from all kinds of backgrounds who are interested in learning about and experiencing Chinese culture. As stated in its membership brochure, “CAAM is non-profit and non-partisan with the mission to provide cultural, educational, recreational, and other programs to promote the cultural heritage and enhance the quality of life of Chinese Americans in Minnesota. This mission is being carried out through CAAM’s community service programs and by its CAAM/Twin Cities Chinese Language School and its CAAM Chinese Dance Theater.”

CAAM also administers the Stanley Chong Scholarship Program and, according to Ledford, plans to expand the scholarship program to be more inclusive in 2019. To commemorate the membership drive, guests were presented with commemorative shirts with the new CAAM logo. The group shared a delicious meal prepared by the staff at Tea House, a cake made by Bravo on Grand, and Japanese jelly treats made by Ledford.

In addition to participating in annual events such as Festival of Nations, Passage to China and Dragon Festival, CAAM will be holding other types of activities such as a lion dance-drumming clinic that was recently held in St. Paul. The clinic was conducted by sifu (master) Choy Leow who entertained and informed a group of about 25 who gathered to learn drumming. Leow explained that the lion dance without drumming is boring, that drumming adds to the dance. Then he struck the large flower drum with a barrage of strikes—the excitement spiked the very air in the room and the lion’s heart beat was felt by all. From a toddler previously more interested in a nearby water fountain to an old man on his iPhone, everyone paid attention and enjoyed the show. What was advertised as a drumming training was actually a very entertaining show, from Leow’s artful strikes to the youngest student’s joyful pounding.

Leow had adults, youth and children gathered around, each with a drum. He explained the many different types of drums present: hand drums, lor gu, flower drum (fa gu), and the Malay tambourine-like kompong. Ledford even joined Leow in an impromptu “session” on the kompong.

Two flower drums, one very large and one medium size, were the center of attention. Two groups of students gathered around the drums and Leow worked with each group, teaching basic striking technique, rhythm, various drumming sequences, and a bit of showmanship as well. CAAM will be holding its annual recognition banquet on Dec. 2. Visit www.caam.org to learn how to buy tickets or become a member or donor.

CSCS holds 33rd annual dinner banquet

The Chinese Senior Citizens Society (CSCS) celebrated its 33rd anniversary by hosting a banquet dinner at Peking Garden Restaurant in Saint Paul. The event was attended by more than 200 guests, young and old, who enjoyed a great meal of 12 delectable courses. The evening included presentation of several awards, musical performance and karaoke.

CSCS board members kicked off the evening with greetings. The highlight of the evening, however, was the drawing for door prizes that were generously donated by businesses (recruited by David Fong) so there was a 50 percent chance of winning something for each attendee! Follow CSCS at www.cscsmn.org to learn of their next event.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of dinner, awards, and entertainment at the CSCS annual banquet.
Chinese Heritage Foundation holds 14th annual open house

By Greg Hugh

The Community Room of Grammercy Park in Richfield, Minnesota, was filled to capacity when Chinese Heritage Foundation (CHF) recently held its 14th annual open house. The CHF was established in 2004 by members of the local Chinese community to preserve and promote the understanding of Chinese history, culture and tradition among all Minnesotans. In 2008, the CHF Friends (CHFF) was established separately to support the mission of CHF through educational and cultural activities, community outreach programs and fund-raising projects.

Prior to the start of the program, Margaret Wong, CHFF Board chair, welcomed the gathering and encouraged everyone to register and mingle with each other. Also, as is custom of most CHFF functions, guests were treated to a luncheon put together by Tomato House and CHFF Board member. Evidently, this was a very popular part of the open house since the gathering devoured the tasty offerings, which prevented most of the volunteers an opportunity to partake of the food prepared by a few CHFF board members and other volunteers.

Representatives from previous CHFF grant and fellowship recipients were then introduced to provide remarks. These included Song Festival, History Theatre, Theater Mu, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden and the Department of History at the University of Minnesota.

Several comments.

Representatives from previous CHFF grant and fellowship recipients were then introduced to provide remarks. These included Song Festival, History Theatre, Theater Mu, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden and the Department of History at the University of Minnesota.

The following statement was part of the tribute Bergad included in her remarks. “Today we are here not to celebrate David’s financial success, or for being among the first to be inducted into the Minnesota Restaurant of Fame, but for being the model citizen that he has become. He is grateful for the many opportunities available to him in Minnesota, particularly in Bloomington, and has taken his civic duties seriously. He has cheerfully offered free space at his restaurant for the meetings of many nonprofits, including the Bloomington Lions Club and VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People), and hosted many of their fundraising events. Throughout the decades, all local community fundraisers that support schools, churches, youth sports and other charities have found a receptive ear in David. Bergad also acknowledge that Fong was very active in the Chinese community. “Within our community, David’s influence is equally wide-ranging. In 1970, David was president of CAAM (Chinese American Association of Minnesota) and under his leadership our community built the famous Chinese arch that graced Nicollet Mall during the Aquatennial Parade. The arch was later moved to the State Fair Grounds. During this same period David and wife Helen have found a receptive audience in downtown Minneapolis. Helen was also a founding member of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society. In the ensuing decades both she and David have remained active in this organization. There are always extra box lunches for outings or extra prizes at annual events...”

Over the years, China Insight has extensively reported on the achievements of David Fong and family, who attended the event in full force in honor of the family patriarch. (These articles are available at www.chinainsight.info, enter “David Fong” in the search box.)

The open house concluded with comments from Ida Lano, CHFF board member, about upcoming CHFF events, details of which are available at www.chineseheritagefoundation.org.

In all our ventures together, Will has always been prompt, courteous, cheerful, patient and accommodating. He is the super-administrator of our website, guiding us through migrating from various hosts and platforms as these availabilities came and went. He patiently taught us how to rebuild our website when that became necessary, and he figured out how to accomplish the tedious task of moving our 3,000-plus photos in the process. This is very important to us: our photos constitute the single most visited section of our website: there have been to date close to 700,000 hits for our 3,200 photos.”

Pearl Bergad, CHFF board member, then concluded the recognition awards by announcing that David Fong has been chosen to be honored as Minnesotan of Note. This recognition was likely the reason for the standing-room-only gathering, which reflects the degree he is respected by the community.

Enlisted to Assist People), and hosted many of their fundraising events. Throughout the decades, all local community fundraisers that support schools, churches, youth sports and other charities have found a receptive ear in David. Bergad also acknowledge that Fong was very active in the Chinese community. “Within our community, David’s influence is equally wide-ranging. In 1970, David was president of CAAM (Chinese American Association of Minnesota) and under his leadership our community built the famous Chinese arch that graced Nicollet Mall during the Aquatennial Parade. The arch was later moved to the State Fair Grounds. During this same period David and [wife] Helen have found a receptive audience in downtown Minneapolis. Helen was also a founding member of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society. In the ensuing decades both she and David have remained active in this organization. There are always extra box lunches for outings or extra prizes at annual events...”

Over the years, China Insight has extensively reported on the achievements of David Fong and family, who attended the event in full force in honor of the family patriarch. (These articles are available at www.chinainsight.info, enter “David Fong” in the search box.)

The open house concluded with comments from Ida Lano, CHFF board member, about upcoming CHFF events, details of which are available at www.chineseheritagefoundation.org.
Excerpts from “No Third Person: Rewriting the Hong Kong Story” by Christine Loh and Richard Cullen

British Hong Kong had a good story in the run-up to 1997. Its people worked hard and had an indomitable spirit. China had its own story about Hong Kong: after reunification, the city would prosper as never before due to China’s wise and pragmatic “one country, two systems” policy.

Hong Kong people and the world bought those stories. But now it is clear that the British version of the Hong Kong story no longer holds while Hong Kong people are not so sure about themselves and their future seems less bright. The city and its people are stuck—they have no compelling narrative that joins the past and the future.

This book is based on the authors’ thoughts of what a new Hong Kong story might be: a story about “we” and “you,” the people who care about Hong Kong, not an impersonal “he/she/it” story—a story, moreover, to be worked out between Hong Kong and mainland China and no one else.

Stories with a grand narrative can join the past and the future. They can motivate a community to believe and act. A good story can even persuade others that someone or something is special and, even though they may not have a direct stake in the outcome, they would nevertheless wish the protagonists well.

Hong Kong had a good story in the run-up to 1997. Its people worked hard, and they had an indomitable spirit—they would surely triumph even under Chinese rule because they were well-governed. Hong Kong people were free to do what they wanted, especially in the pursuit of business under a capitalist-liberal environment, protected by a common-law-based legal system. That story was the creation of the British, the former colonial master.

Hong Kong people and the world bought those stories. The British version was what the international media focussed upon. Besides, China was modernising, and with economic advancement, the Chinese would become more “capitalist.” Economic reform would lead to democratic change and China could well follow a “liberal democratic” path, as western powers sought to bring it into the global fold. The Tiananmen crackdown in 1989 was just a blip—the trend was for liberal democratic systems to win out in the end. Hong Kong’s freedoms would best be maintained and yearning for democracy fulfilled when China itself became free and democratic.

Forty years on from when China started its modernisation in the post-Mao Zedong era and twenty years after the reunification, the British version of the Hong Kong story no longer holds. Hong Kong people are not so sure about themselves and their future seems less bright. The outside world also seems to find Hong Kong less interesting. Hong Kong has yet to create a new story that can inspire. The city and its people are stuck—they have no compelling narrative that joins the past and the future.

Indeed, Britain’s story about Hong Kong is over. Beijing’s story about Hong Kong has its own perspective. Only Hong Kong can create its own story that can make sense of its past, explain the present and give a believable yet inspirational picture of the future that can command broad popular support.

It is for Hong Kong to make sense of its perceived trials and tribulations to enable its own people and others to understand the amazing journey the protagonist is on. It should be a story with universal appeal that weaves in the uniqueness of the place, its people, their experiences and culture, their institutions — no longer within the simplistic dichotomy of “capitalism good” and “socialism bad” but against the backdrop of shifting global geopolitics in which China is a rising power, and western powers are questioning the global architecture they constructed post World War II.

To put simply and bluntly — Hong Kong must first and foremost accept the People’s Republic for what it is today and work towards national betterment in good days, while economically, it is first in line to benefit from the mainland’s continued opening of its markets. Beijing has not helped to advance democracy, implement better policies or improve local governance. Along this path lies continuing self-absorption, self-flagellation and the toxic politics that collectively propel young people towards concluding that the “one country, two systems” rubric cannot work, combined with either apathy or misplaced romanticism regarding “independence” or “self-determination.”

The perfect has too often been made the enemy of the good. Hong Kong’s political experience before and since 1997 offers insights for the future. Beijing has shown willingness to compromise (for example reforms agreed for the 2012 legislative election and the proposed but not enacted reforms for the chief executive election of 2017) but it will want not unreasonable assurances that Hong Kong will reject using its liberties to allow the HKSAR to become an “anti-Beijing-anti-China” base. An “all or nothing” approach has, on balance, plainly been counter-productive. Hong Kong made a grave error in rejecting Beijing’s offer in 2015 allowing candidates, however they might have been selected, to compete in a direct election to choose the chief executive in 2017.

The new Hong Kong story is part of the core narrative of the city’s zeitgeist. It relates to history, affiliations, emotions, nationalism, partisan distinctions, class and the emerging global future. Our primary aim is to advance the construction of this story. We hope it rings true. There is no shame in a patriotism that loves a flawed nation and wanting to contribute to its betterment.

Hong Kong needs its own affirmative story. Nobody from outside can construct that story for Hong Kong. Above all, Hong Kong must avoid trapping itself within a narrow framework which is tied to a view that the best times are over.

The old British Hong Kong story can inform — but certainly should not constrain — the development the new Hong Kong story, which has to pivot on a constructive vision of the present and future. Hong Kong people must seize the moment — as they had done before — to build a robust future as a part of the People’s Republic and to contribute to the betterment of the nation.

Author: Christine Loh and Richard Cullen
Publisher: Abbreviated Press
Publication date: September 2018
Hardcover: 82 pages

Christine Loh Kung-wai has served Hong Kong in the public, NGO and educational sectors for more than three decades, most recently as Hong Kong Undersecretary for the Environment. Richard Cullen is a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong.
In her skillful retelling of the history of white workers’ violence against Chinese immigrants and the formulation of laws to first restrict, and then exclude, Chinese laborers from the United States in the mid-late 19th century, Professor Lew-Williams weaves a story of racial discrimination and nativism that continues to resonate today. She focuses on the interplay of local violence, national level politics, and U.S. treaty obligations in arguing that racial violence against the Chinese played a critical role in the creation of the “modern American alien,” for whom citizenship would always prove elusive. Lew-Williams persuasively argues that “the cascading effects of anti-Chinese violence” reveal how “entangled relations of power,” comprised of “racial boundaries, national borders and imperial relations,” intersected at multiple scales to push “the Chinese to the margins of American society and American memory.”

Lew-Williams uses what she terms a “transcalar” approach to map the interconnectedness of the different scales that comprise the story. Vigilantes at the local scale in the American West, whose rallying cry was “The Chinese Must Go!” prompted legislative efforts at the national scale to control the flow of Chinese labor into the U.S. These events had repercussions at an international scale; as the federal government proved unable to effectively protect Chinese workers from mob violence, tensions arose, not surprisingly, in the U.S.-China diplomatic relationship.

The 1868 Burlingame Treaty with China was premised on the notion of a “coop-erative open door,” which included free, unrestricted migration and the granting of “most favored nation” status to China. The U.S. was interested in friendly relations with China; the potential for vast profits from “the China Trade” beckoned, as did the prospect of the spread of Christianity in China. Although they were initially welcomed, Chinese laborers came to be viewed by the white working class as a threat to their jobs, and to colonial settlers in the U.S. West as a threat to their vision of establishing a white American society in the West. Anti-Chinese vigilante violence ensued, and the federal government proved unable to stop it or protect the Chinese workers.

Negotiations with China resulted in a new treaty that permitted reasonable restrictions on the migration of Chinese laborers. This, in turn, led to battles in Congress where regional and economic divides manifested themselves in the debate over “The Chinese Question.” Congress eventually passed a series of laws (in 1882, 1888, 1892, and 1904) to restrict first, and then exclude, Chinese labor migration. The first of these laws, the Chinese Restriction Act of 1882 (which is still widely referred to as Lew-Williams argues, incorrectly—as “The Chinese Exclusion Act”) launched a period of experimentation in border control. The laws became progressively stricter as the number of Chinese finding their way into the U.S. was reduced in the number of Chinese finding their way into the U.S. The failure to implement national laws effectively at the local level led to more vigilante violence.

Despite regional differences — with members of Congress from Northeastern and Atlantic states interested in expanding “the China Trade” and in preserving a good relationship with China, and those from the Western states interested in harsher measures to halt the “Chinese invasion” and thus stem the violence — there was a consensus that “the Chinaman,” could never become American. Because he was “uncivilized” and “heathen” and possessed “non-amalgamating habits,” he would never assimilate. Lew-Williams complements her “transcalar” analysis of the interplay of the local, national and international spheres with a detailed look at the primary method of violence inflicted on the Chinese in the West: expulsions. In 1885 and 1886, Chinese migrants were expelled from at least 168 communities across the American West. Some white Westerners were stunned by what was happening: as a minister in Tacoma, Washington Territory watched the 300 Chinese in his community driven out of their homes by vigilantes in driving rain on a November morning in 1885, he turned to a friend who was with him and asked, “My God, is this America? Why do we stand and do nothing?”

As the U.S. grapples with a reemergence of nativism and xenophobia today, one of the most enduring legacies of Chinese exclusion is the “plenary power doctrine,” which emerged from challenges to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1888. In rejecting the petition of Chae Chan Ping, a Chinese laborer who was barred from re-entering the U.S. under the 1888 law after his return from a visit to China, the Supreme Court held that the federal government had essentially unlimited power and discretion to decide who could enter the United States at its borders. The Exclusion Act cases have never been overruled, and the plenary power doctrine continues to wield its force today.

About the reviewer

Andréa Worden is a researcher, human rights activist, writer, translator and educator based in Washington, DC. She had lived and taught in China and has a Ph.D. in Chinese history from Stanford University.

Do we really need a trade war with China?

Continues from page 5

president’s trade policies and their potential seismic consequences affecting the relations between the two largest world economies. Media pundits’ coverage is unsatisfactory. It is time for us in Minnesota to rise above the din and let our true north be our guide. Some questions for us to contemplate:

Is the world not big enough for us to share?

Is it not reasonable for a country to aspire to advance technologically after it has successfully industrialized?

Can we not find compassionate ways through our own domestic policies to help those who are left behind in a fast-changing world? ♦
Dating practices of Dong youth

By Le Guobin and Bu Aihua, The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage at Huaihua University, contributors

Note: This is the 11th article in the series on the Dong ethnic group by The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage at U.S.-China cultural and educational exchange and research. The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage is located in Huaihua University, southwest Hunan Province, China. It is a provincial translation institute dedicated to the preservation and development of Hunan’s diverse ethnic communities and shared with the global community. This month’s article features the young Dong people’s dating.

He Guobin is PhD on translation and cross-cultural communication and associate professor in Foreign Languages School of Huaihua University. This article is financed by the Philosophy and Social Sciences Fund Project of Hunan Province, Fund Project of Hunan Intangible Folklore Research Centre, Foreign Language Teaching and Research Project of National Universities, as well as Fund Project of The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage. Professor Bu is the dean and professor in Foreign Languages School of Huaihua University. Her major research interests cover cross-cultural education, biculturalism and bicultural active living style with a special focus on the Hmong youth in western Hunan Province and the state of Minnesota. She is also the vice director of the Hunan Cultural Heritage Center. This article is supported by 2018 key project of the Philosophy and Social Sciences Fund Project of Huaihua Municipality.

In Tongdao County of Hunan Province, young Dong men and girls date in various special ways. The typical ways are described this month.

1. Conveying the romantic love around the fire pit

In Dong villages, when night falls, Dong girls are spinning threads, weaving cloth, or doing needlework in their wooden houses. Dong boys would walk slowly to the houses from afar playing Dong flute, lute or cow leg harp.

The Dong cow leg harp gets its name from its shape, is a stringed instrument played that accompanies Dong folk dance or songs —photo from http://p.d1xz.net

Hearing the melody of the musical instruments, the girls would shut the doors quietly on purpose. Seeing the door being closed, which indicates the girls are at home, the boys would approach the door singing love songs to plead the girls inside to open the door. The girls would not open the door until they are impressed by the boys’ songs. After entering the house, the boys usually offer cigarettes to the elderly people inside and chat with them for a while. Then, the elders would leave the room on excuse to let the young people enjoy being together singing in antiphonal songs to their hearts content. The girls’ mother would usually make youcha for them as a night snack.

Youcha is a, thick special soup. The Dongg usually offer it as a special treat to welcome their guests. The ingredients include green tea, puffed rice, crisp soybeans, fried peanuts, pig offal and green onions etc. A Dong fire pit is a one-meter-square soil pit surrounded by a wall of bricks. In the past, people piled three large stones in the pit to make wood fire for cooking or heating. Later, the stones were replaced by an iron tripod for convenience. Customarily, the fire has been on in the main fire pit of a family all year round where its owners cook food or warm themselves in winter. For the Dong, the fire pit is a very important place in their lives. They get together around the fire pit to communicate with each other, or pray for the safety and health of their family members, etc.

The Dong fire pits are gathering spots for families and their guests —photo from http://image.so.com/

2. Climbing windows to woo the young girls

In Dong villages like Malong, Tuantuow and Dyangying in Tongdao County, the boys would use a distinctively ancient way of courtship — climbing windows at night to woo the girls. This way of courtship is locally known as “the stars circling around the moon.” The stars are the boys, while the moon to the girl.

In the stillness of the night, suddenly, when the sweet music of lute, cow leg harp or flute from below the building windows, girls will know young admirers have arrived. Hearing the inviting music, the girls in the boudoir would peer through the grid windows to see whether their beloved one is among the group, or they would intentionally open a very small part of the window to indicate their interest in the courtship. Then, the boys downstairs would sing love songs to express their adoration for the girls. They would sing:

Tonight’s moon is round and bright, I am waiting at your windows, my honey. If you are in the boudoir, Please, open the window and reply to me.

If the girls don’t make any response, the boys would keep singing until they get a response from the girls:

I am playing harp outside the window, You are listening to me attentively. Don’t let time go in vain. Our hearts should not be separated by the window.

If the girls finally sing back to invite their boys to sing by the window, the boys would climb up to the window and stand on the ladder singing songs together with the girls inside humorously and joyfully. At this time, the boys would sing:

You stand inside the room and me outside, I can’t see your face blocked by the window. If I were a cat jumping around your window, Would you like to further our relationship?

There are other boys wooing girls differently. They would climb up to the windows quietly by a wooden ladder, and try all means to please the girls inside by sweet words and songs. Knocking gently at the window, they hope to tug the girls’ heartstring for an intimate conversation. Hard work eventually wins the heart of her beloved. The boys, finally standing on the ladder, get the chance to exchange their mutual emotions in romantic words or sweet love songs with the girls by the window.

During the dating of “climbing windows to woo girls,” the boys are not allowed to enter the girls’ room no matter how long they have waited outside or how bad the weather is. What’s worse, the girls may neither get out of the room for a while nor get close to the boys anymore. The intense dating usually takes several hours and sometimes it doesn’t end until the dawn of the next day. Upon parting, neither girls nor boys are willing to part with each other. To express their reluctance, the girls would say goodbye by singing songs in a roundabout way to suggest to clinch a hot date next time. For example, the boys would sing:

Bye, honey. Our hearts are together although we are parted. You are the bright moon in the clouds, The more you are here and faraway, the more I become attracted to you. Keep secret about tonight’s dating, I will climb to your window for more sweet chats on another day.

In the beginning, boys would woo three to four girls after his own heart. As long as a boy finds the right one, he would keep going after her wholeheartedly. If the girl has the same fancy for the boy, her family members would pull the lad up to the window with a rope twisted by cloth for an intimate talk. As their relationship deepens, the girl would secretly give her Mr. Right a hand-made flower belt as a token of love. The flower belt is usually exquisitely cross-stitched with colorful patterns and silk thread, two to three centimeters wide and two meters long. The flowers and birds on the belt are vivid, pretty and varied. A flower belt is usually a token of love a Dong girl often gives to her beloved Mr. Right. In return, the boy would give to the girl he loves a gift such as a jade bracelet, a silver ring, or a carved comb.

3. Gathering at the shelter pavilions

Dong flower belts are symbols of love — photo from https://image.baidu.com

Another popular dating point among Dong youth in the Dong villages of Fu-rong, Jidian, etc. in Tongdao County is to get together at the local shelter pavilions. Generally speaking, each Dong village has its own fixed shelter pavilion for their young people’s gathering and dating. Customarily, it is forbidden to have dating or sing songs at night at girls’ house, so Dong people built those shelter pavilions to provide more opportunities for their young people to communicate and develop relationships.

A local Dong shelter pavilion—photo from http://image.so.com/  

4. Getting together at the Community House

Getting together at the Community House is a very impressive and unique way for young Dong people to develop their romance. It is mainly prevalent in the Dong villages of Matou, Dihui and Shekou in Tongdao County, which usually takes place during the slack farm season. “Community House” is a shabby building collectively built by the local village or funded by the women’s families in the village. In general, the construction of the Community House includes three steps: first, making a shelf with six sticks of cedar, covering the shelf with cedar bark; third, enclosing its surroundings with wooden boards. The Community House is usually 10 to 20 square meters in size. In the middle of the house, there exists a fire pit with benches or slats around it. Generally, those who organize the gathering at the Community House are one or

Continues on page 13
Radical Machines: Chinese in the Information Age

Location: Museum of Chinese in America, 215 Centre St, New York
Date: Through March 24, 2019

"Radical Machines: Chinese in the Information Age" explores the historical significance and technological innovation behind the Chinese typewriter, and the role it played in the survival of the Chinese language into the information age. Drawing from archives and collections across 15 countries, the exhibition will feature typewriters and word processors built throughout the past century from San Francisco’s Chinatown to Shanghai, including never before exhibited typewriters from MOCA’s Collections.

The exhibition examines the seemingly impossible Chinese typewriter – a machine that inputs a language with no alphabet, yet has more than 70,000 characters. For centuries, written Chinese has presented fascinating puzzles for engineers, linguists, and entrepreneurs. With help from the global community, China solved these puzzles, and Chinese became one of the world’s most successful languages in the information age.

Originated at Stanford University, the exhibition is curated by Dr. Tom Mullaney, Stanford historian, and comprises items from his personal collection, which is the largest Chinese and Pan-Asian typewriter and IT collection in the world. MOCA’s presentation of “Radical Machines” will be the exhibition’s first appearance on the East Coast.

Through the display of rare typewriters and computers — and an array of historic photographs, telegraph code books, typing manuals, ephemera, propaganda postcards, and more — visitors to MOCA will gain unprecedented insight into the still-transfoming history of the world’s oldest living language. Objects from MOCA’s Collections that will be exhibited include the oldest known Chinese typewriter in the world to tell the untold story of how the best minds came together in the spirit of Chinese-American cross-cultural exchange to solve the linguistic and engineering puzzle that is the Chinese typewriter.

“The machines and artifacts on display are in many ways quintessentially Chinese-American,” said Mullaney. “They were the culmination of cross-cultural exchange between Chinese students studying at American institutions, like NYU; Chinese inventors partnering with American corporations, like IBM; American inventors of non-Chinese descent thinking about the Chinese script; and the pioneering work of Chinese-American linguists and technologists.”

About MOCA

The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) aims to engage audiences in an ongoing and historical dialogue, in which people of all backgrounds are able to see American history through a critical perspective, to reflect on their own experiences, and to make meaningful connections between: the past and the present, the global and the local, themselves and others.

About the curator

Thomas S. Mullaney is Associate Professor of Chinese History at Stanford University. He is the author of “The Chinese Typewriter: A History and Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China.” His writings have appeared in the Journal of Asian Studies, Technology & Culture, Aeon, Foreign Affairs, and Foreign Policy, and his work has been featured in the LA Times, The Atlantic, the BBC, and in invited lectures at Google, Microsoft, Adobe, and more. He holds a PhD from Columbia University.

Dating practices of Dong youth

Continues from page 12

Young Dong people’s gathering at the Community House — photo by Lin Liangbin

Two elder girls ready to get married in the village. They usually invite several other girls of the village to help make fire in the fire pit in the Community House. As the fire burns, they make Youcha or bake sticky rice cakes over the fire to welcome the young men from the neighboring villages. Among the visitors, only one or two are the leading roles while the rest are just in “along for the ride.” The young girls and young men sit together around the fire pit. The former on the left and the latter on the right. At the beginning, the girls offer the young men youcha and sticky rice cakes. After the joyful welcome snacking and drinking, both sides begin to sing antiphonal songs. Meanwhile the girls may ask the young men several questions when they sing to test whether they are clever and smart enough. Usually, those who sing well and respond quick-wittedly and fluently attract more girls. If both of the young girl and young man are falling in love with each other, and willing to further their relationship, the girl would gift a bracelet or an embroidered handkerchief to her lucky one as “a token of love.” In return, the young man will gift their chosen girl also. The Dong girls enjoy the same freedom as the young Dong men in terms of dating different people at the Community House. It is customarily accepted that even those married Dong women could join the gathering at the Community House during their first three to five years of marriage when they still live with their parents.

6. Being guests to visit the other Dong villages

Being guests to visit other Dong villages is a very popular convention among Dong people in northwest areas of Tongdao County. The young men and women travel together to other Dong villages to visit relatives and friends as guests. Customarily, when the young men visit, the young women in that visited village take care of the gathering reception and vice versa. During the gathering, both guests and hosts dance and sing together, sometimes even lasting for several days and nights. A special stage is often set for the competition of singing among the young group. During the day and before midnight, people in the village, regardless of age and gender, would come to the competition stage to watch the performances. When midnight falls, the elders and kids would go home. The young men and women remain to court via antiphonal singing of love songs. When the dawn comes, they part with each other with a reunion song.

During the visiting, both the young men and young women could invite their sweethearts to their family dinner. Through such contacts, they get to know each other’s family. The parents may also take the opportunity to observe and get to know more about their future daughter- or son-in-law.
Celebrated photographer Wing Young Huie book launch at Minnesota Historical Center

By Greg Hugh

Wing Young Huie, a noted local photographer and 2018 McKnight Foundation Artist, shares his exploration of issues around identity and his process and inspirations for the photos in his just-released book, “Chinese-ness: The Meanings of identity and the Nature of Belonging” at the Minnesota Historical Center in Saint Paul.

Huie said he was the youngest of six children and the only one born in the United States. He grew up in Duluth, Minnesota, where images of pop culture fed, formed and confused him. At times, his own parents seemed foreign and exotic. His visit to China in 2010 compounded the confusion: his American-ness made him as visible there as his Chinese-ness did in Minnesota.

During his talk, Huie used photos to illustrate the cultural riddle of his identity as a Minnesotan of Chinese descent. He also invited a few of the subjects who appeared in his book to share their own thoughts regarding their Chinese-ness.

The presentation ended with a Q&A session, followed by a book signing.

Books may be ordered at http://www.mnhs.org/mnhspress/books/chinese-ness.

Jennie Hsiao honored at National Philanthropy Day

Continues from page 1

Share-Lundquist Associates, Inc., the largest minority-owned construction firm in the Midwest, where until recently, Jennie served as a director.

“Like many Chinese-Americans, Jennie’s early giving reflected her desire to enhance the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture – first for American-raised children and then for her community.

“Jennie has broadened her passion for philanthropy through many gifts to a diverse group of Chinese-American cultural and social organizations to enhance understanding of Chinese culture. She has also been generous of her time in support of the University of Minnesota, promoting the Chinese garden and the many wonderful programs offered to students and the public about Chinese language, culture and society.

“Jennie has been a generous donor to the University of Minnesota, including the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, China Center, Confucius Institute, and Gopher Athletics. Jennie provided the lead gift for a Chinese Garden at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. In 2001, she and Fred established the Hsiao Scholarship and in 2005 the Hsiao-Shaw Lundquist Fellowship at the China Center, benefiting more than 100 students to date.

“Jennie’s passionate support for students through the scholarships she and Fred established through Minnesota China Center from donors in the Chinese-American, University, and Minnesota communities.”

Videos showcasing each honoree’s contributions were shown, followed by comments from the honorees. All of them spoke candidly about their call to philanthropy. Hsiao proved to be an excellent example of how the Chinese American community could be a more active participant to encourage and advance philanthropy in our community.

Hsiao was nominated by Joan Brezinski, University of Minnesota China Center, Sherri Gerbert Fuller, Minneapolis Historical Society, Peter Moe, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and Susan Hommes, University of Minnesota Foundation and selected by an AFP committee to be an honoree.

To learn more about AFP, visit www.afpmnnesota.org.

Read CHINA INSIGHT online www.chinainsight.info

UM China Center and Confucius Institute host events

CHINA Town Hall 2018

On Oct 9, the University of Minnesota China Center and Global Minnesota served as the local hosts for the 2018 CHINA Town Hall, a project of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations that took place at over 100 venues across the United States and China. More than 80 guests gathered at the Pinnacle Ballroom at the Graduate Hotel for a reception, followed by a live webcast featuring the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor, as the national webcast speaker. Secretary Rice was interviewed by National Committee President Stephen A. Orlins, who selected questions submitted by viewers—including a question from Minnesota!

After the webcast, local speaker Andy Rothman, an investment strategist at Matthew’s Asia, presented a lecture titled, “Trade War, What Is It Good For?”. Rothman delivered an engaging talk about the relationship between the Chinese and American economies, and the need for cooperation between the two countries, followed by a Q-and-A session.

CHINA Town Hall is a national conversation about China that provides Americans across the U.S. and beyond the opportunity to discuss issues in the relationship with leading experts.

(Note: See Kaimay Yuen Terry’s “Do we really need a trade war with China?” on p. 5 regarding Andy Rothman’s presentation.)

The ceremony opened with remarks from Consul Jin Lei, visiting from the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago, and Joan Brezinski, executive director of Confucius Institute. During the ceremony, students received certificates or medals, and received high-fives from Brezinski, Consul Jin Lei and Consul Chen Min.

Nearly 600 students, teachers and parents gathered at Ted Mann Concert Hall on Oct 6 to recognize student achievements in Mandarin Chinese at the Chinese Proficiency Award Ceremony and Reception.

The event, co-hosted by the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Education celebrated successful performances by more than 15 students on the 2017 Youth Chinese Test and HSK Chinese proficiency tests, Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL), Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and STAMP proficiency assessment.

The ceremony opened with remarks from Consul Jin Lei, visiting from the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago, and Joan Brezinski, executive director of Confucius Institute. During the ceremony, students received certificates or medals, and received high-fives from Brezinski, Consul Jin Lei and Consul Chen Min.

After the ceremony, students and their families enjoyed cookies and punch and socialized with other families of Chinese language learners in the Ted Mann Concert Hall Lobby.
Community

Chinese Americans gather to strengthen the community

Approximately 500 Chinese Americans gathered in Washington, D.C., Sept. 27-29 for United Chinese Americans’ (UCA) second Chinese American Convention. The theme for the event was “Strengthening Our Community, Embracing a Pluralistic Society.”

UCA is one of the largest Chinese American community organizations dedicated to civic engagement and political participation in America. Incorporated in 2007, UCA has seven chapters in the country. The convention attendees hailed from 32 states, as well as Canada and the Greater China region.

The undertone of the event was concern that the Chinese American community may become collateral damage as a result of the worsening U.S.-China relation. Four keynote speakers: Ambassador Gary Locke, Federal judge Theodore Chuang, former Deputy Secretary of Labor Chris Lu, and University of Maryland-College Park president Wallace Loh shared their personal stories, views on current affairs in America, and how Chinese Americans can be more civically and politically engaged in American life.

Another highlight of the convention was the unveiling of the UCA “Interactive Chinese American Heritage Map,” a first of its kind tool for anyone who wants to find information online about Chinese American history.

The UCA acknowledged this is a trying time as well as a very promising time for Chinese Americans. It said the 2018 Chinese American Convention has reinvigorated UCA’s mission to serve, lead and inspire our community; it has strengthened our community in its preparedness for an uncertain future.

For a complete playlist of convention sessions, visit https://ucausa.org/2018-convention-videos/.

Chinese New Year
February 5, 2019

Is your group hosting an event to celebrate the Year of the Pig?

Send details of your group’s Chinese New Year event by December 15, 2018 for inclusion in the January 2019 issue of China Insight to articles@chinainsight.info

Save the Date!

USCPFA-Minnesota Chapter will celebrate the ~2019 Year of the Pig ~ ~Chinese New Year ~

Sunday. February 10, 2019 at Peking Garden St. Paul, Minnesota

Watch for more information!
Much has been happening at Phalen Park this summer and the public is invited to come and see the progress first hand.

Construction of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion officially began in early August following the completed shipping containers from Changsha. The first structure to be completed, the pink granite carved Hmong Heritage Wall sculpture, was installed in August. Following the departure of the 13 Changsha artisans at the end of August, construction continued with the St. Paul construction team. The Changsha artisans taught them how to finish installing the green glazed roofing tiles and the decorative artwork adorning the inside beams of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion. By October’s end, the installation of the granite pavers and granite railings at the pavilion are complete, as are the pavers in the plaza surrounding the pavilion. Nearly 150 tons of beautiful limestone rocks are currently being set in place for the landscaping around the site.

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society has sole responsibility for funding the sister-city project and has made tremendous progress with fundraising. We held the GROUNDBREAKERS capital campaign for two months (December 2017 and January 2018) to raise the minimum $700,000 required in order for the St. Paul Parks & Recreation Department to begin the project. This figure was based on initial estimates for the construction of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion and plaza, Hmong Heritage Wall, the West Entrance Archway, and surrounding landscaping.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the actual costs for construction have been significantly higher than those initial estimates. First, due to time constraints, the 2017 estimated construction costs were based on conceptual level drawings, rather than detailed designs. Second, the bids initially received through the City’s bid process were exorbitantly high and were rejected. It is now understood that the reason for the higher-than-expected bids was because of the generous and dedicated Minnesota China Garden Society Board member.

Parks & Rec determined that given the short time frame before the shipping containers would arrive, it was necessary to use one of the state-approved contractors on a time-and-materials contract basis. This means that actual expenses were not known until various stages of the construction are completed. Third, it was initially understood that the Changsha artisans would provide the labor for installation of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion as part of the gift from Changsha. However, visa limitations necessitated St. Paul to hire local labor for assembly of the structures, under the guidance of the Changsha artisans. Fourth, additional costs were incurred when five shipping containers were detained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Customs and Border Protection when entering the U.S. at North Dakota from Canada. The largest and most important of these containers was detained for three weeks before it was finally released, holding up construction until Aug. 3. Fifth, during the course of the summer it became clear to Parks & Rec and the China Garden society that additional items were desirable that had not been included in the earlier estimates, such as electricity, water, security camera, anti-graffiti coating, donor wall, signage, etc.

As a result, the estimated budget for the 2018 construction went from $700,000 (initial amount required to start the project) in late 2017, to $900,000 in mid-2018, to the current estimated budget of $1.2 million. To date, the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society has successfully raised more than $1 million. The China Garden Society has begun its GROUNDBREAKERS II capital campaign and has applied for a Cultural STAR grant. It should be noted that none of the money raised has been used for any salary or travel expenses for any China Garden Society Board member.

The China Garden Society is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. It takes its fiduciary duty seriously and has worked with Parks & Rec to monitor all expenses. The primary expenses are as follows:

- Design costs for Hmong Heritage Wall, West Entrance Archway, and landscaping: $35,000
- Fabrication and shipping costs for the Hmong Heritage Wall and West Entrance Archway: $112,500
- Construction costs for the Xiang Jiang Pavilion, Hmong Heritage Wall, West Entrance Archway: $525,000
- Landscaping costs (estimated): $225,000
- Miscellaneous other costs: $175,000

We are so grateful to the City of Changsha and Changsha Yanghu Wetlands Park for their generous donation of the Xiang Jiang Pavilion: design, construction, deconstruction, packing, and shipping from Changsha to Minnesota at their expense. We are also grateful to Changsha and Yanghu Wetlands park for covering the costs for travel, housing, and living expenses of the 13 artisans who were in St. Paul for 48 days to supervise the reconstruction of the Pavilion.

We also recognize the inestimable gifts of time and energy that were donated by generous and dedicated Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society leadership volunteers who were active in negotiations, planning and designing, involving the community on the phone and at the worksite for hours, turning into days, turning into weeks, turning into months.

On Nov. 3, the public had an opportunity to see the beautiful and magnificent structures and limestone landscaping at the garden’s open house.

As a result of the hard work of many, including our own Board members, the City of St. Paul construction team, and our amazing Changsha artisans, we can celebrate our pavilion’s open house. As tribute to her late father Dr. C.C. Hsiao, co-founder of the Chinese garden committee and her mother, Joyce C.Y. Yuan Hsiao, MCFGS vice president, Caroline Hsiao Van, a MCFGS advisor, contributed a haiku to celebrate the pavilion’s open house.

Liu Ming Yuan rises with her stunning Xiang Jiang Ting! Let friendships flourish.

"More beautiful than in the dreams of my late father, now on the shores of Lake Phalen rises a powerful prize for all Minnesotans and global visitors to enjoy," said Hsiao Van.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Cost Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xiang Jiang Pavilion</td>
<td>$435,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hmong Heritage Wall</td>
<td>$112,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Entrance Archway</td>
<td>$525,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>$225,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit www.mnchinagarden.org for garden updates and fundraising efforts. ♦