



US-China Review

Fall 2022

Vol. XLVI, No. 4



**Nobel Physicist's 100 Years in China, U.S.
Teaching Teachers to Teach About China
Why Did China Ban Online Tutoring?
USCPFA's Washington Seminar**

Letter from the President



US-China Peoples Friendship Association

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Washington Seminar on US-China Relations, Oct. 13–14

Dear friends of the Chinese people,

The virtual **24th Washington Seminar on US-China Relations: Challenges and Opportunities**, will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 13 and 14, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. EDT. Registration information is on page 17 of this issue and on our website: www.uscfa.org. Please mark your calendars and register early.

The program will feature China experts on trade, economics and climate change. There will also be a discussion about Pearl Buck, videos from the Nixon library and a cultural segment. Youxie and Chinese Embassy officials have been invited to speak. More details will be posted on the website and sent to chapter presidents.

Panda Anniversary at Chinese Embassy

I attended a celebration of 50 years of giant panda conservation and a special viewing of a film titled *The Miracle Panda* on August 24 at the Chinese Embassy in Washington. I was invited by Chinese Ambassador Qin Gang and Dr. Brandie Smith, the director of the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

At the embassy, I was met by Wang Yang (Mia), formerly with CPAFFC, who is now Second Secretary at the embassy. Upon hearing Ambassador Qin in person for the first time, I was fascinated by his charming and light-hearted delivery and brief and humorous introductory remarks. He commented that he was sure the guests had not come to see him, but rather had come to see the pandas

He spoke about how many panda fans exist in the U.S. and all over the world. He seemed quite happy to let the pandas be the center of attention during the evening. Guests were even greeted by a tall, costumed panda with whom pictures could be taken. Large and small stuffed pandas adorned the large stage area, to the delight of the children in the audience.

You may recall that China gave a pair of pandas, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, to the United States the same year that President Nixon and his wife visited China. The pandas arrived at the National Zoo in April 1972, and instantly became the most watched and sought-after attraction.

At that time, the giant panda was classified as an endangered species. *The Miracle Panda* film documents how U.S. and Chinese scientists successfully cooperated in giant panda conservation. Pandas represent friendship, and this specific project was an important example of how two countries partnered to save the giant panda from extinction. The film tells the story about a cub born during Covid. The diligent efforts of scientists led to panda conservation success and the birth of that cub, Xiao Qi Ji, whose name means "Little Miracle."

Friendly conversations and delicious Sichuan food topped off the delightful evening. Enchanted panda fans drifted home carrying gift bags with panda delights. The Pandaversary celebration was a kind gesture of good will from the Chinese Embassy to those in attendance and to all Americans as well.

In friendship,

Diana C. Greer
President of USCPFA



Diana Greer in Washington with Wang Yang (Mia), Second Secretary at the Chinese Embassy and formerly with CPAFFC.



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About the cover:

Chen Ning Yang (left) and Tsung-Dao Lee (second from left) at the 1957 Nobel Prize ceremony. (Photo courtesy of CN Yang Archives, Chinese University of Hong Kong.). See article on page 4.

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As Nobel Prize-Winning Scientist Turns 100, His Life Reflects Changes in China, U.S.

By Mengning (Frank) Zhou

Chen Ning Yang was born in China but won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1957 while working in the United States. After a long career in the U.S., he moved back to China in 2004 and gave up his U.S. citizenship 11 years later at the age of 93. Yang's life and career reflect the ups and downs in U.S.-China relations, as well as dramatic changes in China, the U.S. and the treatment of Asian Americans.

Yang, better known to his colleagues in the U.S. as C.N. Yang or Frank Yang, is a theoretical physicist who shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with his then Republic of China fellow countryman, Tsung-Dao (T.D.) Lee, who is now 95.

Celebrations for Yang's 100th birthday began last fall in China, where he is a household name. President Xi Jinping extended his best wishes to Yang, and China's CCTV broadcast programs about him. He is also widely respected in U.S. physics circles.

His birthday is listed as October 1, 1922, but when he first came to the U.S. in 1946, he only knew his Lunar Calendar birthday, and listed September 22 on his passport application.

Yang was born in Hefei, capital of Anhui province, to Ke Chun Yang (known as Wu Zhi Yang), and Meng Hua Luo.

Less than a year after Chen Ning's birth, his father earned an Anhui provincial scholarship to study in the United States, where he received a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, followed by a master's and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Yang was raised by his mother for five years until his father came back to China to become a university professor in 1928. During that time, the Republic of China, founded in 1912, was in the Warlord Era, and his mother had to take him to the countryside from time to time to escape the fighting.

No matter how bad the situation was, Meng Hua kept teaching Yang Chinese characters. When Yang was 4, she made flash cards and taught him more than 3,000 characters. In addition to studying the Chi-

nese classics, Yang attended middle schools and high schools where English was the official teaching language.

Wu Zhi Yang taught in Amoy University (now Xiamen University) in Fujian for a year before he got recruited north to Tsinghua University in Beijing as a professor of mathematics.

Chen Ning Yang recalled his mother's uneasiness during that time: "After my father came back from U.S., my mother was worried that he would divorce the woman with little education, but he didn't. When we moved to the campus of Tsinghua, my mom was under enormous pressure, as most of the wives of my father's colleagues were well educated, some even had overseas degrees. She made the choice to stay away from regular social life and to focus on getting our family affairs in order."

In 1937, as fighting increased between Japan and China, Yang and his family of six moved south to their hometown of Hefei, and later to the relative safety of Kunming in Yunnan province.

New University in Kunming

Three top universities in China at the time, Tsinghua, Peking and Nankai (in Tianjin), lost their campuses in the north to the Japanese invasion, and formed the "National Southwestern Associated University (西南联大, NSAU)" in Kunming, where Wu Zhi resumed his position



Chen Ning Yang meets Mao Zedong, 1973. Photos courtesy of CN Yang Archives, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

as the head of the math department.

In 1938, when Yang was in 11th grade, it was announced that students could take a university entrance exam even if they did not have a high school diploma, because there were so many people whose education had been disrupted.

Wu Zhi discouraged Yang from majoring in math, believing that chemistry or physics offered more opportunities to contribute to his country. Initially, Yang wanted to be a chemistry major, but he switched to physics after admission.



Yang with President Reagan, 1986.

According to him, “I needed to take a physics exam for admission, therefore, I borrowed a physics textbook and studied for a month. It turned out that physics was more interesting to me than chemistry was.”

NSAU was set up in 1938 and operated until 1946 as a make-do institution during the war. Yang recalled that the roof of his classroom was made of metal sheets, causing a loud noise when it rained, and there was no glass in the windows, so papers had to be weighted down to keep them from flying away when the wind blew.

Food was scarce. Yang remembers the trick he learned during mealtime. “The kitchen staff carried a giant barrel of rice to the dining hall and we soon learned to just fill our first bowl half full so that we could get a second bowl of rice sooner. Otherwise, the rice would run out and you wouldn’t get a second bowl if you had filled up your first bowl.”

Even though the facilities were not of high standards, the academic staff was superb, having earned their degrees from such places as the California Institute of Technology, the University of Chicago and Cambridge.

Scholarship to Study in U.S.

Yang recalled that the field theory work he did at NSAU was more advanced than what he later learned at the University of Chicago, which had the best physics department in the U.S. In 1944, Yang earned his master’s degree and was awarded a Boxer Indemnity Scholarship, which paid for Chinese students to be educated in the United States. In 1908, Congress had voted to fund that program with excess funds paid by China as reparations for American losses incurred during the 1900 Boxer Uprising.

Prior to going overseas, the awardees were required to carry out an internship. Yang chose to teach math at the high school affiliated with NSAU. Among his students was a girl named Chih Li Tu, his future wife, but they didn’t have much interaction then. During his leisure time, Yang studied physics articles on field theory. He and his fellow scholarship winners arrived in New York in November 1945.

Initially, the 23-year-old Yang sought to be mentored at Columbia University by one of his idols, Enrico Fermi, who had won the 1938 Nobel Prize. But Fermi

had moved to the Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico as the associate director under J. Robert Oppenheimer.

Eventually, Yang got a tip from Dr. Wenyu Zhang, who used to be a physics professor at NSAU, that Fermi was going to set up a new institute at the University of Chicago. Yang arrived in Chicago around Christmas of 1945 and registered as a doctoral student.

Adopts the Name Frank

For easier communication, he adopted the name Franklin, because he admired Benjamin Franklin, and came to be known as Frank. In August that year, 20-year-old Tsung-Dao Lee came to the U.S., hoping to study nuclear physics.

However, the U.S. government didn’t allow foreigners to participate in nuclear physics research due to national security concerns. Lee enrolled in the University of Chicago and was selected by Fermi as his doctoral student. Both Yang and Lee began to participate in an informal physics symposium organized by Fermi.

Yang felt that physics was an experimental science, and he did not have enough training in experimental physics. Therefore, he decided that he should write an experimental thesis. He wanted to have Fermi as his adviser, however, Fermi’s experiments were classified. In the fall of 1946, Yang began 20 months of experimental research at the University of Chicago.

Lab Mates with Joan Hinton

Among his lab mates was Joan Hinton, a nuclear physicist who later moved to the People’s Republic of China and became a dairy farmer.

Yang gradually realized that he was not good at experimental physics. He almost accidentally electrocuted Hinton. His colleagues jokingly said, “Where there is a bang, there is Yang.”

In the spring of 1948, Edward Teller, known as “the father of the hydrogen bomb,” sponsored Yang’s theoretical thesis. Later that year Yang received his



T.D. Lee (left) and Yang in 1961 at Princeton.

doctorate and became a physics instructor at the University of Chicago.

Back in China, in December 1948, Yang’s father boarded one of the last two planes that Chiang Kai-shek sent to Beijing for the academic elites to leave the capital. As a consequence, Tsinghua ended his employment after the Communist Party took over. He taught in Shanghai, starting in 1954, and later retired due to diabetes.

Yang asked to be recommended by Fermi and Teller for a postdoctoral position at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where Oppenheimer, known as “the father of the atomic bomb,” was the director.

Attempted Matchmaking

In the fall of 1949, the 27-year-old Yang was told that Hu Shih, an influential figure in China, wanted to see him in New York. It turned out that Yang’s father had talked to Hu Shih about finding a girlfriend for Yang. Yang’s father was worried that there were limited possibilities for his son to meet a Chinese woman in the U.S., with the strict limits on immigration.

Furthermore, with Mao Zedong declaring the founding of the People’s Republic of China on October 1, 1949, the future of the estimated 10,000 Chinese students in the U.S. who held Republic of China passports remained uncertain. The ROC government, led by Chiang Kai-shek, moved to the island of Taiwan.

The decision by Yang to remain in the U.S. despite discrimination against Asians gave him a dramatically different life than

Continued on next page

Nobel Scientist *(continued)*

Chinese scholars who returned home to help build “New China.” Yang’s longtime friend Deng Jiaxian, for example, went back to China in 1950 immediately after earning a Ph.D. in physics from Purdue University. He became a key contributor to China’s nuclear weapons program but, like thousands of other intellectuals, was persecuted during the Cultural Revolution. When the political turmoil ended, Deng was eventually regarded by many in China as a “patriotic scholar” who had given up overseas opportunities to do something for his country.

Hu Shih did not turn out to be a matchmaker. But later, while Yang was eating at a Chinese restaurant near Princeton, he ran into his former student from Kunming, Chih Li Tu, who was studying English literature at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx.

Help from Madame Chiang

Two years earlier, when the then 18-year-old Chih Li had wanted to go abroad to study, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek had arranged for her enrollment at her alma mater, Wellesley College. However, in January 1949, Chih Li’s father, Lieutenant General Yu Ming Tu of the Nationalist army, was captured by the

People’s Liberation Army. Losing the major financial support of her family, Chih Li had to transfer to Saint Vincent, which was tuition-free. Every weekend, Yang traveled to New York from Princeton to see her, and eight months later, on August 26, 1950, they married in Princeton.

Two months earlier, the Korean War had broken out, further straining relations between the U.S. and the PRC. In January 1950, Yang wrote a letter to Fermi in which he said, “I recently got some letters from my father. He strongly discourages me from going back to China. So I think I would want to be back in Chicago next fall.” But in the end, Yang stayed at Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study, as he was granted a five-year appointment there in the spring of 1950.

One year after their marriage, Yang and Chih Li welcomed their first child, Franklin Yang, Jr. Their second son, Gilbert, was born in 1958 and their only daughter, Eulee, was born in 1961.

Collaboration Begins

Meanwhile, Lee obtained his doctorate from the University of Chicago in 1950 and went to the University of California at Berkeley as a lecturer for one year. But he didn’t like the anti-Chinese atmosphere in California back then. In the fall of 1951, Lee came to the Institute for Advanced Study for a two-year post-doctoral fellowship. That’s when Yang and Lee began their formal collaboration. In 1956, the 29-year-old Lee became the youngest full professor in Columbia’s history.

In 1952, after Yang and Lee published two papers, 73-year-old Albert Einstein invite the two young men to his office to discuss their work. Lee recalled that they had a broad discussion on physics and, at the end of the meeting, Einstein said: “I wish you future success in physics.” But Yang recalled that he had difficulty understanding Einstein because he couldn’t concentrate on his words—he was quite overwhelmed by the presence of the great physicist that he had admired for so long.

Yang and his wife moved to Long Island in 1953, where he worked for one year at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. That winter, as they were driving along the north shore of the

island, they admired a little town—Stony Brook. They didn’t know then that the next time they went to Stony Brook, it would become their home.

During his time at Brookhaven, Yang shared an office with a doctoral student from Columbia named Robert L. Mills. They published two papers together in 1954 that would later have a profound impact in the field of physics.

Housing Discrimination

In late 1954, Yang and Chih Li put down a couple of hundred dollars as a deposit for a home in a new development near Princeton. But a few weeks later they were told by the developer that he had to return their deposit because he was afraid that selling a house to an ethnic Chinese might hurt his business. The Yangs were furious, but a lawyer told them they had little chance of winning a lawsuit.

Lee and Yang began collaborating again in 1954 after an interruption when Lee had moved to Columbia University. They published a paper and visited each other twice a week for about six years. Despite their common interest in physics, they were quite different in temperament, perception and taste, which worked to the advantage of their collaboration. In October 1956, they published the paper that led to their Nobel Prize the next year.

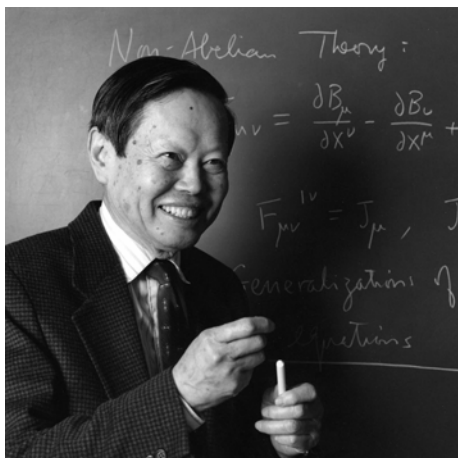
Abraham Pais, in his book *J. Robert Oppenheimer: A life*, wrote, “The great achievement of this paper was not that Yang and Lee had the courage to question a sacred cow—sacred cows are obvious and tempting targets for theoretical physicists—but rather that they recognized that it could be questioned in the first place.”

Even though they had proposed several experiments to test their hypothesis, there was little interest in the experimental physics field to carry them out. Not only were those experiments difficult, but people didn’t want to waste their time on a theory that they believed was wrong.

But in 1956, Lee convinced his colleague at Columbia, Associate Professor Chien-Shiung Wu, to conduct one of the proposed experiments. Perhaps because she was Chinese, she trusted her fellow Chinese scholars’ theory. She collaborated with four National Bureau of Standards (NBS) physicists and got preliminary results that supported Yang and Lee’s theory. After additional checks verified their re-



Yang and Chih-li Tu at their wedding.



Yang at Stony Brook.

sults, Wu and her collaborators lifted the veil of secrecy and a shock wave swept through the physics community.

On January 16, 1957, one day after Columbia called a press conference about the discovery, the *New York Times* published a front-page story titled “Basic Concept in Physics Reported Upset in Tests.” The Columbia and NBS paper was published in February.

Reunions with Parents

In early 1957, Yang went to France to give a lecture and do two months of research. Even though he held an ROC passport, he contacted the PRC government and was granted permission for his parents to visit him in Geneva.

Yang’s father wrote a little verse to Yang and Chih Li Tu: “Never forget your parents with each meal, always be grateful to your country throughout your life.” Yang’s parents met him again in Switzerland in 1960 and 1962.

Differing Views of “New China”

Yang recalled a 1962 conversation. “One night, my father was lecturing me on the achievement of the New China: ‘We can

make automobiles and airplanes, we no longer have floods or droughts that cause the deaths of millions, the illiteracy rate is historically low, with all the children in the cities going to school.’”

“He was pretty exultant when my mother cut in: ‘Don’t just say these good things. I got up early to buy tofu and waited three hours in queue, only to get two shabby pieces. What good is that?’”

“My dad was furious, as he thought my mom had given their son a bad impression about the New China. He went into the bedroom and slammed the door behind him.” These meetings brought new knowledge of the PRC to Yang and influenced him to visit China as a U.S. citizen in the summer of 1971, to see his sick father, the year before President Richard Nixon’s historic visit. Yang’s father passed away in 1973, at age 77.

First Chinese Nobel Laureates

Less than a year after the experimental verification, the 35-year-old Yang and 31-year-old Lee were awarded the 1957 Nobel Prize in Physics. At the time, both of them still had ROC passports, thus becoming the first two Chinese Nobel laureates. This probably changed the image of China, not only in Chinese people’s minds but also internationally.

Both the ROC and PRC wooed the Nobel winners, perhaps in hope of receiving a show of loyalty from them as a means to add legitimacy as to which government represented China. Yang’s family was in the PRC, while Lee’s was in the ROC on Taiwan, which still represented China in the United Nations. Not only did the Nobel Prize lead to Yang’s parents being able to travel from mainland China to visit him in Geneva, but it also paved the way for his mother-in-law to leave Taiwan to settle in the U.S.

Despite the fact that a Nobel Prize was awarded to the first two Chinese nationals, other events occurred in 1957 that added political complications to the otherwise joyful news. To name a few: in the middle of the year the “Anti-Rightist Campaign” broke out in the PRC in which a lot of intellectuals were politically persecuted. The first satellite, Sputnik, was launched into space by the Soviet Union on October 4, before the announcement of the Nobel Prize.

Sweden, where, the Nobel Prize ceremo-

ny was held, had established diplomatic relations with the PRC in 1950. The honor of winning the Nobel Prize had the unintended consequence of putting Lee and Yang’s lives, as well as international diplomatic differences over China, in the spotlight.

Collaboration Ends

From 1958 to 1962, Yang and Lee published 17 papers together. According to Yang, “Our relationship had started in 1946. It had been close and warm. It had been based on mutual respect, trust, and consideration. Then came 1957 and our success. Our fame, unfortunately, introduced new elements into our relationship that were not there in earlier years. Our collaboration remained fruitful, however, for five more years, but amidst slowly increasing strains.”

“On April 18, 1962, Lee and I had a long talk in his office, in which we reviewed what had happened since 1946: our early relationship, the early 1950s, the events of 1956 that led to the parity paper, and subsequent developments. We found that we had, except for minor points, the same memory of all crucial events. Like reconciliations in family conflicts, it was an emotion-draining experience, with cathartic senses of liberation. The reconciliation, however, did not last. A few months later we parted company for good.” One long-time source of friction had been which one of them should get the most credit for their work.

In 1963, Chih Li’s mother, who had been living with the couple in the U.S. for five years, returned to the PRC, where she reunited with her husband, the Nationalist general who had spent 14 years as a prisoner of war until being pardoned in 1959. Yang sent an array of appliances to China to make their life easier, and Premier Zhou Enlai waived the tariffs for those items.

U.S. Citizenship

In the spring of 1964, the year after Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, and as the civil rights movement was starting to make progress in the fight against racial discrimination, 42-year-old Yang became a naturalized U.S. citizen, rather than choosing between the PRC and the ROC. Lee had become a U.S. citizen two years earlier.

Continued on next page

(T.D. Lee and C.N. Yang)
“discovered particles which had the same masses, lifetimes and scattering behaviors, but which decayed differently, proving that the fundamental and supposedly absolute law of parity conservation can be violated.”

—Brookhaven National Laboratory’s summary of the Nobel Prize-winning research

Nobel Scientist *(continued)*

Yang wrote: "The concept of leaving China permanently, to emigrate to another country, simply did not exist in traditional Chinese culture. In fact, to emigrate was once regarded as downright treachery... Yes, there were things that held me back. Yet I knew that America had been most generous to me. I had come very well equipped, but America had allowed me the opportunity to develop my potential. I knew there was no country in the world that was as generous to immigrants."

In 1966, after 17 years at Princeton, Yang joined New York's State University at Stony Brook, where he headed the Institute of Theoretical Physics (later, named the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics).

In 1967, Yang began to consult with Jim Simons, a legendary mathematician and hedge fund manager, about the relationship between physics and math. Simons, who founded Renaissance Technologies, was then the chairman of the math department at Stony Brook. Later, Yang invited Simons to give a series of math lectures to physicists.

I think this is a good example showing that, throughout his life, Yang has tried to be a bridge between different fields, cultures and countries. Yang and Simons developed a deep-rooted relationship, which probably led to Simons' donation to Tsinghua University, where Yang is affiliated, to establish the Chern-Simons Hall in 2008.

In the spring of 1971, with ping-pong diplomacy, it became clear that the frozen state of U.S.-China relations since 1949 was showing signs of a thaw. When Yang learned that the ban on U.S. citizens traveling to China had been lifted by the State Department, he felt this was a chance for him to again see his country of birth, and to visit his family, relatives, teachers and friends. His father, with Premier Zhou Enlai's consent, wrote to him that he could apply for a visa, which he did at the Chinese Embassy in Paris. Yang visited China for a month in the summer of 1971, half a year ahead of President Nixon.

He visited Shanghai, Beijing and Hefei and ran into Joan Hinton, his former lab mate in Chicago, in Dazhai village. After World War II, Hinton had become disenchanted with nuclear weaponry and its applications. Alarmed by the trajectory of

the Cold War, she left the United States in 1948 for China, married Erwin Engst, and stayed there until her death in 2010. She worked as an educator and translator and spent many years working on dairy farms. During the 1950s, she was implicated by Senator Joseph McCarthy as a potential Communist spy. Yang wanted to ask Hinton about the rumor but didn't.

On August 4, 1971 Zhou hosted a banquet to welcome Yang, who had provided a list of people he would like to meet. Number one on the list was Deng Jia-xian, the friend, mentioned earlier, who had returned from the U.S. to become a key figure in China's nuclear weapons

*I knew there was no country
in the world that was as
generous to immigrants.*

program. Yang had seen Joan Hinton and Deng mentioned in the U.S. press as being involved in China's atomic bomb project. Little did Yang know that, by listing Deng, he had helped to free him and quite a few other scientists who were being confined and persecuted for their foreign connections.

Yang hoped that the Chinese had made the atomic bomb all by themselves, without spying, as he felt that the old Chinese civilization had suffered greatly in the past due to a lack of modern weaponry. In Beijing, Deng told Yang that he didn't think Hinton was involved, but he needed to verify it.

The next night, during a banquet hosted by Shanghai government officials, Yang received a note from Deng saying Hinton was not involved and the Chinese finished the project after the Soviet Union withdrew their help in June 1959. While reading the note, Yang couldn't hold back his tears and had to leave for the restroom to pull himself together.

What emotions were going through Yang's mind? Was he proud of the achievement of his fellow Chinese? Did he feel left out by staying in America? Did he remember his father's words back in Geneva? At the end of the letter, Deng modified a famous verse by Song dynasty poet, Su Shi: "I wish that we could live long and walk on the same path thousands of miles

apart." (但愿人长久, 千里共同途).

After Yang came back to the U.S., he gave a talk at Stony Brook in September 1971 where he was reported to have said the following: "I went to a country I find very exciting. There is a need of many material things. But what I found to be very moving is a spirit. I wondered, looking back at this country [the United States], if there was too much of the material here and not enough spirit." And at the end of his talk, he translated a verse by Mao Zedong: "Aspiring to heroic goals, sacrifices we dare make. Creating a bright new world, the order of the stars, moon and sun will change."

The United Nations recognized the PRC and expelled the ROC as the lawful representative of China on October 25, 1971. Nixon visited the PRC in February 1972. The Bamboo Curtain between China and the U.S. showed a crack as the two sides were eager to know more about each other.

By the time of his next trip in the summer of 1972, Yang had already decided that it was his responsibility as a Chinese American scientist to help build a bridge of understanding and friendship between the two countries that were close to his heart. He also felt that he should help China in her drive toward developing science and technology.

After several more visits to China, Yang founded The National Association of Chinese Americans in 1977, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of cordial relationships between the United States and China. Yang and Chih-Kung Jen, a China-born physicist at Johns Hopkins, signed a full-page advertisement appearing in the *Washington Post* and other major U.S. newspapers in February 1977 urging President Jimmy Carter to normalize diplomatic ties with Beijing and to end diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

On January 1, 1979, the U.S. transferred diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing. This was followed by a state visit by Deng Xiaoping to the U.S. Yang, part of the delegation welcoming Deng, concluded his welcoming speech with this: "Without the bridge, there is no true peace and stability in the world." Yang is one of the few scientists who has met with all "five generations" of Chinese leaders: Mao, Deng, Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping.

The next year, he set up the Committee



Yang's 85th birthday celebration, with wife Weng Fan.

on Educational Exchange with China (CEEC) in Stony Brook, which solicited donations from the U.S. and Hong Kong to support scholars from China to do research at Stony Brook. Lee had started the China-U.S. Physics Examination and Application (CUSPEA) in 1979 as an alternative graduate school admission procedure. At that time in China, higher education was still recovering from the Cultural Revolution; school transcripts and recommendation letters were difficult to evaluate. Furthermore, standardized tests, such as the Graduate Record Examination, were unavailable in China.

In 1985, Yang moved his 89-year-old mother to Hong Kong, and he was appointed Distinguished Professor-at-Large at Chinese University of Hong Kong the following year. In 1986, not only did Yang visit Taiwan for the first time for the birthday celebration of Professor Ta-you Wu, his undergraduate thesis adviser, he was also awarded a National Medal of Science by President Ronald Reagan.

That was the year he saw his childhood friend Deng for the last time, in Beijing. Deng was dying of late-stage colon cancer due to his exposure to high doses of radiation from the primitive methods used during China's early nuclear tests.

The official newspapers *People's Daily* and *People's Liberation Army Daily* published a short article titled "A Hero of Great Distinction in Our Atomic Bomb and Hydrogen Bomb Projects—Deng Jiaxian" that declassified his work to the public to commemorate him on June 24. He passed away on July 29, 1986, two months after Yang's visit. He was 62.

the same path' in that letter you sent me 50 years ago. I am confident to say to you that I have been on the same path with you for the past 50 years and I believe you will be contented as well."

In 1995, Yang and Chih Li visited Shantou University in Guangdong province. Weng Fan, a young woman who was a first-year student, was appointed by the university as their guide. She would later become a big part of Yang's life.

In 1997, Yang helped Tsinghua University establish the Center for Advanced Study, attended the ceremony that marked the end of the 156-year British rule in Hong Kong and underwent successful coronary bypass surgery in the U.S.

In 1999, at the age of 77, Yang retired from Stony Brook and became a professor at Tsinghua University. Stony Brook named the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics (YTTP) in his honor. Yang also decided to donate his articles, letters, manuscripts, and medals, including the Nobel Prize medal, to Chinese University of Hong Kong, where the C.N. Yang Archive was established.

Chih Li passed away in 2003 and Yang settled in Beijing and named his residence "Returning to Roots." One year later, at age 82, he married the 28-year-old Weng Fan, who had been his guide at Shantou University eight years earlier. This marriage caused some controversy at the time. Yang and Weng bravely embraced the storm. According to an interview with the couple, Yang said, "Whatever people's current views on our marriage are, they will feel this is a good romance 30 or 40 years later." Weng said, "I like the poem

Yang has since written many tributes to him. Most recently, in September 2021, Yang spoke of him in a centennial symposium honoring himself, co-hosted by Tsinghua University, the Chinese Physical Society and Chinese University of Hong Kong. He said, "Jiaxian, I know what you meant by 'walk on

'The Road not Taken' by Robert Frost very much. I think I also took the one road less traveled by."

Bridge Building

For the past 100 years, Yang has had a life that few others have the opportunity to experience. What I like the most is his devotion to being a bridge between the United States and China.

With the increasing tensions in the U.S.-China relationship, I'd like to mention the late Robert Wu, an alumnus of my high school—Shanghai Nanyang Model High School. We met during an alumni event in the Bay Area in 2015. He and his widow, Li-chun, have life stories that echo Yang's in that they both strived to build a bridge between the two nations. (See Li-chun Wu's article in the summer *USCR* about her life in the Chinese countryside during the 1964 Four Cleanups campaign.)

As people familiar with both cultures, it is our privilege as well as duty to keep promoting the mutual understanding between the two peoples. I have learned a lot by researching Yang's life story. And I have also learned from Robert and Li-chun Wu's life stories, not only by reading, but by observing their work since 2016, when I became involved in activities of the U.S.-China Green Energy Council, which they founded.

In the 100 years since Yang was born, China has gone through wars and turmoil, a new government, as well as dramatic changes in society and international relations. Yang has experienced these developments firsthand, and has been recognized by China, the U.S. and the international community for his achievements. 友

Mengning "Frank" Zhou (周孟宁) is a financial adviser in Northern California. He also has a part-time appointment at the Stanford University School of Medicine, where he does cancer research. Prior to these positions, he was a research scientist developing tests for infectious diseases. Zhou was born in Shanghai, graduated from Fudan University and then earned a Ph.D. in biological sciences at Carnegie Mellon University, where he met his wife, an engineer, who also earned a Ph.D. there. They moved to the Bay Area in 2010, where he worked in biotech before becoming a full-time adviser with MassMutual.

Deja Vu: China's Relations with the West

By Penelope Prime

The early 1980s saw the first glimpses of China's domestic reforms and interactions with people and economies outside China. This loosening was dangerous territory for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), which had ruled with state control and minimal outside influence for several decades. But the top leadership, led by Deng Xiaoping, had decided that if China did not learn from, and interact with, the rest of the world, it would never develop.

The economy had tanked, food was scarce, and the country was far behind in technologies and institutional development. Deng traveled to New York City in 1974 to attend a special session of the United Nations, where the backwardness of China was brought home to him. It was another turning point in Chinese history where policy shifted from *ti*—substance or essence (体)—to *yong*—function or usefulness (用).¹ In this case, it was a shift away from a pure ideological or Chinese approach and a move toward accepting some foreign ideas. Or, as Deng Xiaoping said, “It doesn't matter whether a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice.”

Based on my experiences in China over the years, I saw a growing shift toward practicality, but today we see another reversal—to the reestablishment of *ti* as primary. Along with that reversal, foreigners' role in China's development is also changing.

Nanjing in Early 1980s

In 1982, I was one of the early international students to go to China to do research. Graduate students from several countries had already been allowed to



Penelope Prime

study there, and the U.S. followed a few years after normalizing relations in 1979. I was the second or third cohort from the U.S. to be sponsored by the Committee on Scholarly Communications with the PRC.² My project was to analyze Jiangsu province as a case study of the effect of central policies on local development. Since reforms were so new, I first researched the Mao decades and later extended my analysis to the reform period.

Data was essential to my project, but it was also problematic. The government classified economic data as a state secret. Some scholars had been detained for having data. A conundrum, indeed. At least I had the U.S. government behind me in this endeavor. My strategy was to create tables with the headings of the information I wanted to collect and have the respective

The government classified economic data as a state secret.

offices fill in the blanks. In hindsight, it was perhaps wishful thinking that this approach would succeed. As it turns out, there was a major effort across China, at all levels of administration, to put together data yearbooks. Because of this, officials did, in fact, fill in (at least some) of my data tables.

Since my focus was Jiangsu province, I applied to do my research at Nanjing University (Nanda) in Nanjing, the provincial capital. I lived in the university's foreign compound with about 150 other students and faculty from around the world, some of whom had Chinese roommates. We had heat and hot water several hours a day, and food that was substantially better than the regular university canteens, but life was quite harsh relative to what we were used to.

The Economics Department was technically my host, but they did not invite me to meet with them or any students studying economics at any time throughout the two years I was there. However,

I could audit courses, which I did. In the last semester of my stay, I finally met one of the professors. Professor Zhu was responsible for helping me make contact with the officials I wanted to interview in Nanjing and several other cities in the province. Professor Zhu spoke English, as he had worked in international trade, while most other professors did not. I was learning Chinese but needed help with translation during the interview process.

In 1982, Western foreigners studying or doing business in China was a new development, allowed to support the leadership's economic reform efforts. We were treated hospitably and with respect. But there was an underlying tension, perhaps suspicion, that foreigners could contribute to China's reforms and development, but may also be dangerous. The university administrators were responsible for our well-being and so were careful to keep a close eye on us. Anyone who wanted to visit us had to register and show ID. Our mail was read. Our boxes were opened. If we wanted to travel outside the city limits, we needed to apply to the university and the local police station for permission. Just riding our bikes within Nanjing, we would find signs at the boundaries of the city that said foreigners could not go further.

Daily life was challenging, and our environment was restricted and monitored, but we felt there was a good chance that society would move toward more openness. Unfortunately, the opposite is true today. While daily life in China is quite comfortable for most by now, the signs are that the society is closing again. For example, the universities are under pressure to use textbooks by Chinese scholars, and not those written by foreigners. Authorities monitor classrooms with video cameras, and professors can quickly get into trouble for saying something that questions or counters the Party's line.

Change and Backlash

Two incidents occurred while I was in Nanjing that reflected the tensions and disagreements about the changes afoot in those early days: first, the “Spiritual Pollution” campaign and second, a



Nanjing skyline in 1982.

demonstration at Nanda. People desired change, but not surprisingly, they also wanted to choose the reforms that benefited them the most. And China's age-old dance between importing foreign ideas *yong* (用) and finding a Chinese solution *ti* (体) was also at work.³

Spiritual Pollution Campaign

The Spiritual Pollution campaign in the early 1980s was a backlash against the dangers of China opening too fast and of adopting ideas that went against the strategy of maintaining stability by the political elites. Today, the pressures on professors, students, and citizens to conform to the leadership's view of China's path is reminiscent of these early years. The difference is a new looking back rather than looking forward.

The Spiritual Pollution campaign's main message was that socialism could not be criticized. Intellectuals were discussing the existence of alienation under a socialist system. Markets may be possible under socialism, but alienation is not. Thus "dangerous" ideas, such as those of Sartre, were to be criticized if discussed at all. People who had written pieces favorable to Sartre, or discussed alienation, were asked to write their ideas anew. Specifically, at Nanda, one professor was criticized for an article he had written on Hu Shih, a well-known Chinese academic who had studied and promoted pragmatism.⁴

While targeted primarily at harmful ideas in intellectual circles, the campaign also touched on areas of laxity and unethical behavior. For example, Party spokespeople and written editorials criticized books and magazines for printing stories about love affairs and other situations deemed "indecent." Also suspect was long hair, facial hair and revealing attire. One rumor was that all city workers in Beijing were subject

to hair and dress regulations.

It was understood, of course, that a main source of these bad influences was foreigners and their decadent societies. Reforms had meant China had much more contact with the international community, and some of this contact was deemed harmful. Being a foreigner in China, then, raised interesting contradictions. Our dress and culture were indecent (even if desired), but

our technology and markets were necessary to modernize China. Ironically, this situation is back in spades in China today.

The most immediate problem for us at that moment was judging whether this campaign was severe enough to cause trouble for the Chinese with whom we associated. Our experience was that the Chinese were not worried—aside from the few targeted intellectuals—and that the campaign did not involve us in their minds. People said that indecency was not desirable in books, magazines, and films, but nonetheless, everyone was informed of the details of the latest "indecent" story. But Chinese friends did not stop seeing us, and on the surface, at least, only the amount of gossip changed.

At the university, however, there were required meetings for students, faculty, and administrators to discuss the message of the campaign. These meetings were reminiscent of the numerous campaigns before. In October 1983, the Foreign Affairs Office asked us if we would like to discuss "spiritual pollution." We agreed, thinking we could ask what this meant for us and if the restrictions on our contact with Chinese people would increase. Instead, the meeting consisted of a two-hour speech on the question of alienation delivered by a university official in perfect line with recent *People's Daily* editorials. By December, after going through the motions, we all—Chinese and foreigners—had forgotten that "pollution" had been a problem.

The Nanda Incident

Another reaction to China's reforms occurred during three days in May 1984. This event began on campus but eventually involved the provincial government, a central investigation and the international news media. The catalyst for this incident was the status of Nanjing University, but the key issues were the students' right to demonstrate and factionalism on campus. Earlier in May, the Ministry of Education chose 10 institutions to receive more autonomy and an extra 100 million yuan each to help them quickly implement their educational reform and improve programs. To the dismay of the university community, Nanda was not among this privileged group.⁵

On May 28, posters appeared on campus criticizing the university leadership for



A 1984 poster urging people to fight spiritual pollution. (Photo by Katte Belletje.)

Continued on next page

Relations with the West *(continued)*

lack of concern for intellectuals and the overall quality of the university. The former university president, Guang Yaming, had been transferred and not replaced, leaving Zhang De, the Party Secretary, in charge. The Party Committee was powerful within Nanda's administration, and removing Guang gave the dominant party group free rein.

One of the confrontations between Guang and the Party Committee had been over the status of intellectuals. To improve the situation of professors in line with current reform policy and compensate them for poor treatment during the Cultural Revolution, Guang wanted to add their years spent in school to their work time to increase the years counted in seniority. Since seniority determined access to housing and other perks, this change would mean professors would benefit at the expense of other university employees. This change was not in the interests of the Party Committee, and they succeeded in getting Guang transferred.

After Guang left, three separate elections failed to fill the position. The students accused Zhang of being instrumental in preventing the election of a permanent, reform-oriented president, and they demanded the return of Guang. According to one account in the Hong Kong paper, *Pai Hsing*, the Party Committee tried to appease the students by agreeing to meet with them to discuss their proposals, but the students rejected this.⁶ The paper also implied that the students decided overtly to demonstrate their displeasure when the Party Committee asked the Nanjing Armed Police to patrol the campus.

From the beginning, in addition to the university's status, a key issue was the rights of students to disagree with, and try to influence, the university administration. This aspect of the conflict was reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution. The students drew on China's Constitution to support their right to demonstrate. The university also drew on the Constitution to argue that the demands for reform were correct but that the students' method of dissent was disruptive and illegal. The students were to meet formally with university officials and not write posters or demonstrate. This position was repeatedly read over the loudspeaker in the evenings when people



Nanjing University.

would gather. Besides this action, however, the university did nothing directly to stop the activities. The students ignored the instructions and put up many large and small-character posters. The lights on the outdoor bulletin board were left on all night so people could read and discuss them.

By the second day, the criticisms in the posters had moved from generalizations about poor leadership to criticizing Zhang by name, pointing to the influences of "leftism." The activity and excitement on

The students drew on China's Constitution to support their right to demonstrate.

campus then built quickly. Students wrote more posters and discussed the issues late into the night, and people crowded the streets in the evenings. During these events, international students mingled freely among the crowds.

On the third day, a rumor spread that there was to be a demonstration involving a march from campus to the provincial government buildings about two miles away. The students felt they had met a dead end in dealing with the universi-

ty and decided to take their complaints to provincial leaders. That evening the number of people on the campus streets swelled to make quite an event. Peddlers were selling spiced eggs and ice cream; people brought their children; and the loudspeaker was repeating its message, apparently to non-listening ears.

Eventually, we heard that people had gathered just outside the gate and began to walk, picking up people as they went. I and a few others rode our bicycles to catch them, but not knowing their route, we went straight to the provincial government buildings and waited. The atmosphere was tense, but no one said anything to us. Minutes later, the marchers arrived. The group was orderly and quiet but was large by then, with well over a thousand people. For a few moments, it seemed there would be a confrontation. Public security was blocking the major intersection, but the group did not slow its pace. Then, just before the group reached the blockade, the police moved aside.

For the next hour, little happened. I was standing in the back on a cement wall overlooking the square. The gates to the government complex opened and closed several times. I heard later that the provincial officials asked the students to send representatives inside, but people were reluctant to volunteer. Eventually, several people volunteered to negotiate,

and a meeting between the students and the government was set for the next day. After some time, the crowd thinned out and the demonstration ended.

We never knew whether that meeting took place or not. However, the next day the university abruptly ended all activities relating to dissent on campus. The bulletin boards were now kept unlighted, posters were forbidden, security checked IDs at the university gate and university officials questioned the student leaders. The incident was over.

Two other things of importance related to the Nanda incident happened. First, during the first two days of activity on campus, the situation was reported by Voice of America; and second, Beijing sent an investigation committee shortly after the demonstration, which further curtailed discussion and increased rule enforcement on campus. Perhaps if the international press had not reported news of the event, Beijing would not have become so directly involved in provincial and university affairs.

On the one hand, foreigners' knowledge of what is going on may increase the impact of a protest by adding pressure to resolve the issues. On the other hand, officials may fear how foreigners will interpret and report the incident and, therefore, may react by quickly ending the dissent and punishing the Chinese people involved. Another aspect of the position of foreigners in China is that we are all under suspicion of being spies. During this incident, a rumor that Voice of America had reported it during the first two days did not allay these suspicions. Even the foreign community was surprised at how quickly this incident became known beyond the university. As this experience suggests, our presence alone may cause problems of which we are unaware.

We had no way of knowing at the time that student protests would put such monumental pressure on the Communist Party and Chinese government. Early protests like this were precursors to events that led to the violent Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. Such protests are difficult to imagine in Xi Jinping's China today.

A New Day

Over the period I lived in Nanjing, the

restrictions eased slowly, and people were more relaxed about talking with us. More cities were opened to foreign investors and travel, although only certain hotels could host foreign visitors. Over time, China continued to relax restrictions across society. In contrast to the lack of contact with peers at Nanda in the early 1980s, I developed deep friendships over the years and fruitful academic exchanges and collaboration. I traveled alone, with my husband, with friends, and with student groups, visiting every province and region in China. We were free to explore and learn by talking with whom we wanted.

Now, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, China's trend toward opening is reversing—abandoning *yong* (用) for a new type of *ti* (体). Covid-19 is the most

The term “spiritual pollution” has returned to conversation.

apparent reason for restricting society, but it also provides a convenient excuse. Behind the currently closed borders is a growing narrative that China no longer needs foreign ideas, skills, or capital. Western values are critiqued and rejected, replaced by a mix of Confucian and modern Chinese thought. The term “spiritual pollution” has returned to conversation. The leadership harshly critiques any expression of alienation, such as the “lying flat” trend of young people who talk about doing as little as possible to get by since success, as customarily defined, is so elusive.⁷ Even English is being downplayed after a spectacularly successful push to teach it across the Chinese education system. The crackdown on online tutoring of English is an example of this. (See story, page 18.)

Moreover, authorities expect Chinese academics to conduct research in support of China's policies and do it with decreasing collaboration with Western scholars.

While economic development continues apace, the range of allowed debate is narrowing, along with individual freedoms as the CCP returns to its Marxist, socialist roots. President Xi talks of pushing China into the next stage of socialism with “common prosperity.” In the past,

we heard Chinese people sometimes say the CCP stood for the Chinese *Communism* Party—a reference to a gentler party leading social progress. Today, the Party is returning to sticks over carrots and is increasingly feared. One can only guess that President Xi sees taking the socialist mantle as his way of maintaining his and the CCP's power for years to come. 友

End Notes

¹ Essence-Function — Wikipedia

² Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (CSCPRC) | GW Libraries (gwu.edu)

³ The description of these events at Nanjing University is based on my essay, “Reform and Reaction in Nanjing: A foreigner's observations, 1982–1984,” *Asian Review*, Southern Connecticut State University, Spring 1986:12–15.

⁴ Hu Shi (1891–1962) | Encyclopedia.com

⁵ Six of the 10 institutions were listed in an article in the Hong Kong paper, *Pai Hsing*, as Beijing University, Fudan University, Jiaotong University, Qinghua University, Nankai University and Beijing Medical Institute. *Pai Hsing*, September 1, 1984, pp.20,21; translated in Foreign Broadcast Information Service (China Daily Report), September 7, 1984, pp. W3-W4.

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ What is ‘lying flat’, and why are Chinese officials standing up to it? | *South China Morning Post* (scmp.com)

Dr. Penelope Prime, a member of USCPFA's Atlanta chapter, was most recently clinical professor of International Business in the Institute of International Business at the J. Mack College of Business, Georgia State University from 2012 until 2020. She is the founding director of the China Research Center and managing editor of China Currents. This article appeared in China Currents, Volume 21, Number 2, and is reprinted with permission from the China Research Center. It can be found online by going to chinacenter.net/china-currents, and scrolling down to Deja Vu: China's Relations with the West.



Young Americans Face Obstacles in China-Related Careers

By Mike Revzin

Some young Americans are having second thoughts about pursuing China-related careers, according to an article in Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post*.

The article cited Patrick Beyrer, a 22-year-old University of Pennsylvania graduate who had studied Mandarin in China before the pandemic but who cannot re-enter the country to pursue a master's degree because of Covid restrictions.



Patrick Beyrer

"It has become a challenge to understand China without the prism of face-to-face interactions," said Beyrer. "I think if China doesn't open soon, there is a huge risk that there's going to be... five or maybe even 10 years of young Americans who'd just develop a really negative opinion of China. This is not good."

Only 2,481 U.S. citizens went to China for studies in the 2019–2020 academic year. This was a 78.7 per cent drop from the previous year, marking a 10-year low, according to the article.

While China's strict border policies during the pandemic have affected nearly all foreigners, Americans have been especially hit hard as relations between Washington and Beijing remain tense.

In the past, opportunities for Americans to develop in-depth experience by studying, working or living in China have helped seed the presence of China experts in the U.S. government, private sector and academia, the newspaper noted.

Less Ability to Understand China

Bonnie Glaser, director of the Asia Program at the German Marshall Fund, said, "The lack of first-hand experience may lead to a diminished ability to understand and interpret China and its policies."

Victor Shih, a China scholar at the University of California, San Diego, said reduced economic opportunities, combined with China's zero-Covid approach, have put foreigners off China who might otherwise be interested in the country.

"China was [once] seen as a kind of land of opportunity for young foreigners. That is no longer the case," said Shih. He described the "golden period" for aspiring China experts as spanning the 1990s to 2017–2018.

Mary Gallagher, director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan, believes Beijing's firmer hand in recent years has contributed more to plummeting interest in China studies than pandemic limitations.

"We are starting to see students make a choice," explained Gallagher, saying

students think, "Maybe I will not be a China scholar because I just can't take risks right now." She said students reason that either China won't "open up in the next couple of years" or that their topic of interest "is too politically sensitive," leading them to conclude they need to pursue another field. It is "very risky for students to focus solely on China right now," she added.

Deborah Seligsohn of Villanova University, who served as a science counsellor at the U.S. embassy in Beijing from 2003 to 2007, said Washington also shared some of the blame. Seligsohn said that, as security clearances were harder to come by during the Trump administration, more people working in China research became more careful about how their ties to the country might be perceived.

Beyrer still hopes to return to China, even though many in his academic program are leaving China studies, the article said. In the meantime, he is working as a China analyst at a business advisory firm in Washington.

"In China, you really have the opportunity to meet people, learn about their daily lives and the way politics and the government influence an average person," Beyrer said. "In the U.S., things are a little more politics- and international relations-centric." 友

Heat Wave Causes Shanghai to Order Power-Saving Measures

Shanghai ordered landscape illumination for its landmark areas—including the Bund, North Bund and the Lujiazui financial area—to be switched off on Mondays and Tuesdays, as the area battled a power crunch triggered by record high temperatures, according to an official announcement in August, *China Daily* reported. The city was also considering requiring the dimming of outdoor advertisements and signs and restricting the use of power at outdoor construction projects during peak hours.

Shanghai was experiencing its hottest summer since record-keeping began in 1961, registering a record six days of 104 degrees Fahrenheit and 47 days when temperatures were 98 or above.

The heat also smothered the Sichuan Basin and regions in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, fueling massive demand for air conditioning. Earlier, Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province, and Chongqing adopted similar measures to save energy. 友



The Bund in Shanghai. (Photo by Ding Ting/Xinhua.)

The 1990 Institute Expands Programs that Help Educators Teach About China and Asian Americans

The 1990 Institute has expanded its programs that help prepare American educators to teach about contemporary China. The San Francisco-based nonprofit has conducted in-person teacher workshops since 2013, starting in the Bay Area, for sixth through 12th grade teachers.

In July and August of this year, the workshops were taught online, allowing teachers and other interested individuals to participate from anywhere. Teachers from 34 states and 12 countries participated. The organization also added workshops on Asian American history.

The 1990 Institute promotes a constructive relationship between the U.S. and China, and fair and equitable treatment for Asian Americans. Billy Lee, a member of the USCPFA's South Bay chapter, was one of its founders. An article in the spring 2021 US-China Review described the variety of programs carried out by The 1990 Institute.

Here, with minor changes and updates, is an article from The 1990 Institute's website, describing the new workshops.

1990 Institute Reshapes its Teachers Workshops

By Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

Former 1990 Institute Director Megs Booker had a relative who was a teacher who saw the need for professional development opportunities about China, said The 1990 Institute Executive Board officer and program lead Sandra Pan.

From that initial idea, The 1990 Institute held teachers workshops from 2013 through 2019, in person, over two days, with up to 80 teachers attending. "Teachers came initially from the Bay Area," said The 1990 Institute Board President Grace Yu. "But over time, we had teachers from Hawaii and Southern California and other states. In the past, the workshop focused only on contemporary China, but in 2022, the



Sandra Pan



The 1990 Institute's teachers workshops include lectures and discussions.

workshop went online and focused on Asian Americans and on contemporary China."

With the new online format, The 1990 Institute hopes to reach more teachers across the entire nation to enhance their ability to teach these topics in the classroom, "sort of like adding arrows in their quiver," Yu said.

The newly designed 2022 teachers workshop has two tracks, one on Asian Americans and one on contemporary China. Each track has two sessions. Each session consists of a one-hour lecture by a speaker, followed by a 30-minute interactive time where attendees ask the speaker questions and discuss with one another how to structure a lesson plan around the materials.



Grace Yu

"Our goal is to provide relevant information and expansive resources to teachers [who] can immediately apply the material in their classroom," Pan said. "Like our previous workshops, our speakers are from different disciplines and backgrounds to provide a balanced perspective on the subject matter."

The Asian American track follows California's ethnic studies requirements on Asian American history and includes topics such as the Asian American experience and Asian American legal cases that have had a profound impact on American society. The workshop is geared toward middle and high school history and social studies teachers, but all students and parents who want to learn more are encouraged to attend. "We have also gotten our workshop approved this year so that California teachers may earn CEU (continuing education unit) professional development credits again. We are also looking into getting our workshop qualified in other states," Yu added.

"Our goal is to help teachers build the confidence they need to discuss subject matter that they themselves may not have learned before," Pan said. "Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in America [and] China is a rising superpower. Both of these [points] cannot be ignored for students in the 21st century. Our goal is to prepare our youth with the knowledge base to face issues in the future."

Teachers recognize the impact of this content on their students.

"I believe it is very important for my

Continued on next page

1990 Institute *(continued)*

students to walk out of my classroom with more tools to understand the real world they live in," said San Lorenzo, California, social studies teacher Eunjee Kang, who has attended several 1990 Institute teachers workshops. "It is very crucial to empower our young scholars. And one of the most effective and positive ways is to have them learn about their own

communities, including themselves, their classmates, and their neighbors. Ethnic studies is definitely an effective tool to teach our learners to navigate this learning journey in this multi-layered society." 友

Frances Kai-Hwa Wang is a journalist, essayist, and poet focused on Asian and Asian American issues. The child of immigrants, she was born in Los Angeles, raised in Silicon Valley, started writing in Kathmandu, and now divides her time

between Michigan and Hawaii. Her writing has appeared at NBC Asian America, PRI Global Nation, Detroit Journalism Cooperative, Pacific Citizen, New America Media, Cha Asian Literary Journal and various anthologies and art exhibitions. She has degrees in Asian Studies (China) and Chinese Philosophy, and she teaches Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies at the University of Michigan and creative writing at the University of Hawaii Hilo.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RECENT SUMMER WORKSHOPS

The 1990 Institute hosted two educational workshops: "Missing in History: The Asian American Journey" on July 30 and "The China You Should Know: Past and Present" on August 6. These workshops were tailored for teachers as professional development sessions, but were also of interest to the general public. Attendees were provided with resources and lesson guides including carefully curated and catalogued programs, reports, studies and videos. Here are the topics:

The Making of Asian Americans

by Lok Siu

Who are Asian Americans? Where did they come from? Why are they here? Professor Siu took participants through the histories of migration, the diversity among Asian Americans, and their various challenges and struggles. Participants gained an understanding of the historical background of Asian immigration to America and their challenges and struggles to assimilate in this new homeland and their new identity as Asian Americans.

Mapping Asian American Identity

by Margaret Yee

The U.S. Census Bureau defines "Asian" as "a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam." How

can all of these disparate cultures be encompassed by one word, "Asian," a word mostly used by people in the West? This workshop uses maps and works of art to spark reflection and discussion on what it means to be "Asian." Participants gain knowledge of the geographic and cultural diversity of Asia and its peoples and its impact on Asian American identities.

Asian American Legal Cases that Shaped Civil Rights for All

by John Trasviña

Asians first landed in America in the 18th century but continue the quest to belong in an otherwise black, brown and white America. Asian Americans have been at the forefront, with others, of advancing our national goal "to form a more perfect union." The courage of Asian Americans to take on often lonely fights for equal rights benefits all Americans today. This teachers workshop session builds upon the foundational introduction to ethnic studies with landmark—but not widely known—legal cases initiated by Asian Americans. It examines four important cases that address segregation, equal protection, immigrant exclusion and naturalization issues that continue to have an impact on events today and the identity of Asians in America.

China's Past is Always Present

by Thomas Gold

China has secured its position as a rising superpower: economically, militarily and politically. Its place in the world order did not happen overnight. We cannot understand China today without paying

attention to its changing relationship with the rest of the world. We also cannot make sense of China's global posture without a solid understanding of its history and how its leaders understand and present it to the country's people. Participants will gain a fundamental understanding of China's economic growth and political reach that is deeply rooted in its history.

Headline: China

by Clayton Dube

China has been a staple in headline news recently, from Covid lockdowns, trade wars, supply chains and infrastructure/tech bottlenecks, to Taiwan conflicts and changes in the global power. What is China's global image? The U.S.-China relationship affects not just the two countries, but has ripple effects globally. Clay Dube sheds light on China's changing geopolitical status in the world. Participants will gain a better understanding on the impact of China as an emerging superpower, on the changing relations with the U.S. and

For video recordings of the latest workshops, go to 1990Institute.com and look for the links to the "2022 Teachers Workshop" on the left side of the page. A link to "1990 for Teachers Portal" offers additional resources.

South Bay's Lucille Lee Honored by The 1990 Institute

Lucille Lee, of USCPFA's South Bay Chapter, has been named a Director Emeritus of The 1990 Institute and recognized for her long-time contributions to that organization.

In June, the Board of Directors of The 1990 Institute passed a resolution that said she "tirelessly contributed to the development of the Institute. In many ways, Lucille's footprints landed on some of the key projects that the Institute had organized..."

One of those projects was the Spring Bud initiative, started in 2001, which was sponsored by the All China Women's Federation.

It supported the education of 1,000 impoverished girls in rural Shaanxi province who would otherwise have dropped out of school after third grade. All 1,000 girls completed middle school; 275 graduated from high school and 200 from vocational schools. Another 170 attended college.



Lucille Lee

Lucille also was recognized for her work in the Institute's microfinance program, established in 2007, to help alleviate poverty in Shaanxi province, as well as the China arts and environment programs.

"More recently, Lucille served as the keeper and architect of the Institute's website and our extremely well-stocked" reference library, the resolution stated.

"Finally, as a chief proponent of our teachers workshop, Lucille and her guiding hands turned the program into one of our flagship initiatives for teachers. The impact of our teachers workshop became the foundation of many other programs."

"Lucille served the Institute with commitment, care, and dedication. She incorporated her passion for advancing U.S.-China relationships and the understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander issues into the work of the Institute during the many years she served as a pillar of the Board," the resolution stated. "The members of the Board of Directors express their heartfelt appreciation and highest commendation to Lucille for her steadfastness, passion and service. 友

—Thanks to Lucille's husband, Billy Lee, of the South Bay chapter for submitting information about this award.



— REGISTRATION —

**The Virtual 24th Washington Seminar
on US-China Relations**



Thursday, Oct. 13 – Friday, Oct. 14, 2022, 6 p.m – 8:30 p.m. EDT

There are two ways to register for the virtual seminar, either by check sent through the mail or online at Eventbrite. Register one way only. Please complete the following information to register by mail. Registration is only \$25.

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Make check for \$25 per registrant payable to USCPFA National and mail to Woon Chow, 11032 Ellis Meadows Lane, Glen Allen, VA 23059. Letters must be postmarked by Oct. 8, 2022.

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Expert Discusses Reasons Behind China's Crackdown on Private Tutoring

By Mike Revzin

In July 2021, China issued a ban on private after-school tutoring. This action immediately affected a multi-billion-dollar industry, as well as more than 300 million students, from kindergarten through high school, who were enrolled in the programs.

In September 2021, an expert on this topic, Wenchi Yu, was interviewed by Erica Quach, a program officer for the National Committee on U.S. China Relations (NCUSCR). Here is a summary of that interview. A video of the entire interview can be seen by going to [NCUSR.org](https://ncusr.org) and searching for "China's Crackdown on After-School Tutoring."

Yu began by raising the question, "What is happening to this \$100 billion after-school market in China and why do we need to care about it? How is it relevant to us here in the United States or in other parts of the world?"

The regulation is known as the "double reduction policy," she said, explaining that the name refers to reducing the compulsory student homework burden and reducing the after-school tutoring burden.

Huge Impact

"The market immediately felt the impact. Stocks of several publicly listed educational companies plunged and have not recovered since," she noted.

Yu called the government decision "one of the most drastic measures in recent years because of its impact on all students, schools, teachers, parents and education businesses." The education technology business was a sector that experienced rap-

id growth in recent years, she pointed out.

For context, Yu said, it is important to understand the big picture. "Unlike education in the United States, education is really centralized in China from curriculum design pedagogy to school administration to the hiring and retention and training of teachers—everything is pretty much done and controlled by the government," she explained.

After-school tutoring, including education businesses that used technology, grew rapidly, especially during the pandemic when schools were closed, until the recent regulation. "The government views this after-school tutoring sector as a disruption to public school education in a way that the government and society find troubling," Yu said. She said the government is primarily targeting the K through 12 tutoring industry.

The new policy "was not completely unexpected," Yu said. There were signs that some kind of new education regulations were coming, "But no one really knew the extent and scale of it until July."

"To understand after-school tutoring and why it's such a big deal in China one needs to understand the education system in China," Yu said. "The government considers that taking care of student education is the government's and the state's responsibility, not the private sector's. Schools are supposed to even be like a child-care center so, in this regulation, what you will find is that it really emphasizes the role of schools in taking care of children, even after school hours."

Test-Based Stress

What led "to this huge after-school tutoring sector is that you really have a test-based educational system in China," as well as in other parts of East Asia, Yu said.

"This system basically ranks student performance from elementary school all the way to college, and your academic performance pretty much determines your future and the kind of job you will get, much more so than here in the U.S."

"So, for example, the college entrance exam: a lot of people would say that's probably the most important exam one

can have in his or her life. You spend two to three days (taking) the exam and then it determines what school you're going to. And what college you go to pretty much determines what job you're going to get, and of course what job you're going to get determines your future. Your ability to earn an income."

"That's why after-school tutoring flourishes in those societies, not just limited to China, because parents want their kids to do well in taking tests."

After-school tutoring is known as the shadow education sector and has been around for a long time. In 2020, during the pandemic, it's estimated that more than 10 billion dollars was poured into the private tutoring sector.

"In terms of how much every family is spending on tutoring, just to put in perspective, it's about 50 percent of all educational expenses in China's first-tier cities. That's a tremendous financial burden on most families," Yu said.

"There's a lot of sort of social anxiety among parents because they're all worried about their kids not being competitive enough, and of course there's also tremendous pressure on students and children. They all need to compete to do well and test well. On top of that, I think there's a lot of other anxiety in society that contributed to this government decision that it's time to crack down on this private after-school tutoring sector which, in their minds, is only adding stress and pressure to student life."

Reasons for Crackdowns

Yu was asked whether other factors contributed to the crackdown. For example, the demographics crisis, the crackdown on tech industries and Xi Jinping's focus on common prosperity.

"I think for us in the West, it's very easy to read news headlines and almost every day now there's some kind of crackdown by the Chinese government on certain parts of the economy," Yu replied. "Education is one of them. But I would say let's step back and really look at where China's economic and social state is today."

Yu said a lot of the recent regulato-



Wenchi Yu

ry crackdowns are targeting “the new wealth-creation sector.” That includes the internet sector, videogaming and some aspects of the financial and real estate sectors.

“It’s very much aligned with the government’s or President Xi’s common prosperity focus, because I think his government thinks that, since the open and reform era in the late ’70s, Chinese society has grown to be so unequal and so the wealth distribution is uneven.”

Yu said the Chinese government sees a growing divide in Western societies, and problems in Hong Kong in recent years, which they attribute partly to social media. “They don’t want to see that happening in China,” she said.

“So it’s hard to just look at education sector as just one thing. You really have to look at everything that’s happening in China right now. I think there’s a lot of domestic concerns that I just touched on. There’s also some national security concern in a lot of those policy changes.”

“I think the Chinese leadership feels it’s too risky for their own young people, their young minds, to be heavily influenced by these things they probably consider not the right kind of things they want their students to have. So what you’re seeing is that school curriculum is reintroducing socialist thinking and they want to teach Xi Jinping thought in school curriculum and they want young minds to learn more about Chinese traditions and cultural heritage.”

Trying to Insulate China

Yu said a lot of this focus is designed to make sure that China is in some way insulated from a lot of what’s going on in other parts of the world. “If you’re in the Chinese leadership’s shoes you can see why they’re doing it. Whether you agree if these measures are really going to lead to the kind of outcomes they want to see in society I think is up for debate,” she said.

Yu was asked whether the tutoring policy was connected to China’s effort to encourage families to have more than one child.

“Yes, there’s definitely a connection there,” Yu said, especially for families in tier-one, two and three cities. “If they feel this anxiety around paying so much for tutoring classes for their kids, parents may not feel they can afford having more kids.”

Living expenses in those cities have become so burdensome, she said. “I think there’s an intent to make sure that this is not an extra kind of burden on the middle-class family and the lower-income family.”

Yu was asked about the future of K to 12 tutoring.

A lot of after-school tutoring companies, especially cram schools, have closed, she said. Local authorities are the ones to carry out the regulations and each locality has its own implementation details, she said.

Demand Is Still There

“You certainly see the immediate impact, but in terms of long term it’s really hard to say because people do question, and myself too, this kind of dramatic crackdown. Is it really going to address the demand issue? The reason why it’s become such a huge industry and big business is because there’s tremendous demand out there.”

The cause for the demand is “the test-based educational culture and this *gaokao* system, the college entrance exam system... So if you don’t address the elephant in the room,” and simply close down the businesses, “the demand is still there.”

On social media, people say, “The wealthiest will always find a way because they can have private tutors come to their home. They don’t need to send their kids to those businesses. But what about the majority of the people? What do they do?” Yu asked.

In the 1980s, South Korea banned cram schools for similar reasons, but the industry just went underground, so the ban was later lifted, Yu said.

“Now the South Korean student tutoring rate is the highest in the world. So I do have questions on whether those policies are eventually going to address the demand issue.”

When asked how the public responded to these regulations, Yu said “Parents fall on different sides of the argument. Some agree that it’s really time to lessen the pressure on students and work toward more of an equitable access and less pressure on both parents and students. Then you have others who really think this will just increase inequities because only the wealthiest will be able to find workarounds to the crackdown on access to tutoring. I see definitely a lot of discussions on so-

cial media. A lot of people support those policies, a lot of people don’t... I’ve heard that people will just find different ways to find tutoring because no one wants their kid to be lagging behind when it comes to this *gaokao* system.”

Enhancing School Quality

Yu pointed out that the new regulations also aim to enhance the quality of school education, including teacher qualifications.

“There’s a reason why people seek outside-of-school tutoring,” Yu said. So the government is focusing on delivering higher quality education. If there is a need, the regulations say that after-school tutoring can take place in school and schools can even give extra pay to the teachers. The government doesn’t want the private businesses to play the tutoring role, she said.

When Yu was asked about the impact on people in the private tutoring industry, she estimated that about 100,000 in the sector had lost their jobs by September 2021. She said the government hosted online job fairs catering to those employees, but that the government does not think “the (private tutoring) sector should exist at all.”

Yu mentioned that some public school teachers had been involved in private tutoring, explaining that “One of the main things is the pay.”

“Public education and public school pay is just not as lucrative, and if you could have the additional income by taking on outside tutoring opportunities of course school teachers are going to do it. Of course the government really thinks this is wrong and that’s one of the reasons they want to crack down.”

Some teachers were not focusing on their school jobs but were telling students “‘If you need more, come to my private tutoring business.’ This really should not happen in the education sector.”

“The government has said schools can pay additional money to teachers who are willing to do additional tutoring in school. It’s coming back to everything can happen inside a school, just not by those private businesses,” Yu said.

When asked what lessons China can learn from the experience of countries like South Korea, which failed to ban private

Continued on next page

Private Tutoring (continued)

tutoring, Yu said the industry thrives in places where “college entrance exams pretty much determine your job prospects, and that’s why it matters so much for kids to do well from elementary school all leading up to the college entrance exam.”

Reforming the college entrance exam system is essential “if you want to change this after-school tutoring tradition and culture. I think if there is any lesson learned, it’s that simply banning it is not going to address the problem, as we have seen in South Korea.”

Yu cited another reason for the tutoring crackdown. “I think one has to look at the current state of social and economic development in China right now. I think China’s going through a lot of changes... right now it’s kind of turning inward.”

Global Ties Benefit China

“My question to China is, China in the last three to four decades has really benefitted hugely from more and more global-minded citizens. Many of the Chinese students study abroad, work abroad and then they bring the skills and knowledge back to China. And they’ve created this vibrant and extremely innovative economy over the last few years. So is it wise to reverse the trend, and is it even feasible? You know, I don’t know. I think it just remains questionable.”

The tutoring crackdown is “related to the prohibition of having foreign teachers teach Chinese students and not allow-

ing foreign curriculum to be taught in schools,” Yu said. “A lot of it seems to be making sure the Chinese students are not too heavily influenced by the West or international community.”

“That’s the biggest question I have. Not so much with regards to the cram school culture. I think, to a large extent, a lot of people would agree it’s become so burdensome and unhealthy for any young students’ development. But the cutting off this connection to international learning and exposure, I think that is a big question, because I do think China is where it is today because of the international exchanges and understanding.” 友

Wenchi Yu is a nonresident research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, conducting research on technology, education, and cross-border social impact. Previously, she spent three years in Beijing as Goldman Sachs’ Asia Pacific head of corporate engagement. Before that she was a staff member in the State Department Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues (2009–13) and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (2008–9). Yu’s writing has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Council on Foreign Relations and CSIS blogs, Caixin and Forbes. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and NCUSCR, and an Asia Society Asia 21 Fellow.



Video of Weeping Girl Shows Pressure Faced by Students

A video of a teenaged girl kneeling in front of a Confucius statue and weeping about a poor test score went viral on Chinese social media in August, where it renewed debate about the intense pressure placed on students, according to Hong Kong’s *South China Morning Post*.

The video was taken at a Confucian temple in Foshan in Guangdong province. The man who took the video of the unidentified girl said, “I could faintly hear her saying she regretted not doing well in a test. She was murmuring that she had caused her parents to lose face and let them down.”

Millions of people saw the video, and many expressed support for the girl. “I want to tell this girl it doesn’t matter when you fail one exam,” wrote one person on Weibo.

“Even if your scores are not always good, it’s still fine. Poor academic scores do not mean that you will live a worse life than others. There are numerous ways of making money. What’s more, what your parents care most about is whether you are happy or not,” said another comment.

One comment that had 33,000 likes read: “I think this girl felt guilty for her parents quite possibly not because she is filial toward them or respectful, but because her parents put excessive pressure on her. They have possibly imposed their unachieved dreams on their kid.”

Anhui Ending College Majors with Low Employment Rates

Anhui province has ordered universities to stop enrolling students in majors that do not lead to good job prospects, according to an August article on the SixthTone.com website.

Universities were told to “halt enrollment” for majors that had employment rates below 60 percent for three consecutive years. Based on the 2021 employment trend, the decision would put a wide range of majors at risk, including finance, law, languages and broadcast journalism.

Within three years, the province hopes

that 70 percent of majors lead to jobs in 10 strategic emerging industries, such as new-energy vehicles.

There has been both praise and criticism of Anhui’s policy. One college president was quoted as saying, “The nature of education is to grant freedom of thought, judgment, and imagination, and employment shouldn’t be the only purpose.”

(To see the entire article, go to SixthTone.com and search for “Chinese Province to Kill Majors.”)

Take a Virtual Walk or Drive in China

By Barbara Cobb

In-person travel to China may be difficult now, but virtual travel to China's well-known and lesser-known places can be easy and somewhat gratifying. You can revisit your favorite places from past trips, and/or see and learn about parts of China you haven't yet visited.

The YouTube channel Walk East offers video visits of a variety of places in 4K high resolution; watch "full screen" on your computer. No fee or registration is required, and the occasional ads can usually be clicked off. (Watch for "Skip ad" in the lower right corner of the screen.) Access at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WalkEast>.

There is no narration, but there is music, ambient sound and subtitled information. Videos range in length from about a half hour to more than two hours.

Here is a sampling of the videos.

Night Walk in Shanghai—From the Bund to East Nanjing Road

The Bund is a waterfront and historical area on the west side of the Huangpu River in central Shanghai. This strip of less than a mile was an important financial district and is distinguished by its architecture. The video offers a long shot of the grand Western-style buildings that date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries before scanning to the ultra-modern glass, brick, and metal skyscrapers, neon and flashing lights — here and on the east (*Pudong*) side of the river. This is a place where people gather—especially young people—to relax and talk and take selfies.

As you turn on Nanjing Road, you pass the Peace Hotel. I've heard its ancient jazz band still plays here. Further on, the brightly lit windows and doors of modern stores invite you in.

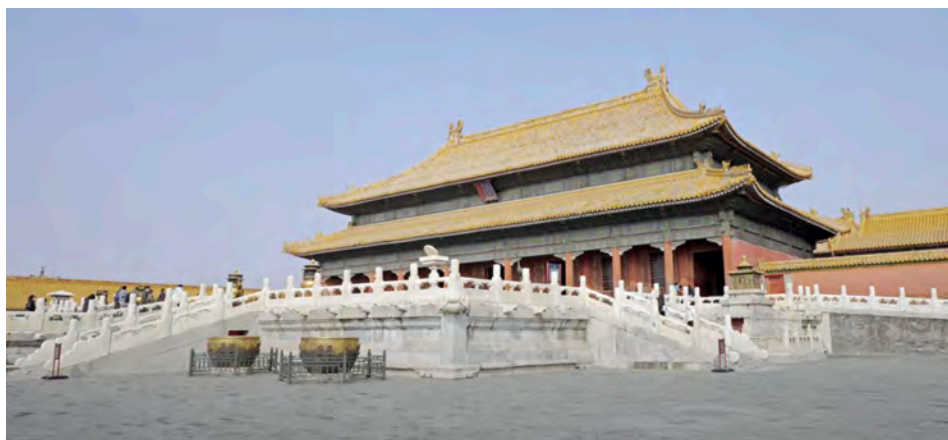
Beijing—Forbidden City Walk

This walk takes you through and around the grounds of the Forbidden City, including the Palace Museum. Although it has few inside shots, it brings up close many traditional architectural details and adornments we might miss.

Continued on next page



Night on the Shanghai Bund.



In the Forbidden City.



The Miao village of Xijiang.

Virtual Walk *(continued)*

Night Walk in a Miao Village

For a welcome change of pace and scenery, watch this video of a morning and night walk in the Miao village of Xijiang, near Kaili in China's southwest province of Guizhou. Cross the rice paddy on a wooden walkway, and shop at the "street merchants" on a boardwalk next to the river. Enjoy the music and dancing of Miao performers in colorful dress. See the wooden houses of four to five stories climbing the hillside; this is a succession of villages and the largest concentration of Miao people in China.

(The Hmong, a subgroup of the Miao, have a sizable population in Minnesota and are represented in the Saint Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden.)

Many other videos on locations in China (including a drive in Qinghai) are available. Check them out! 友



A streetside stall in Xijiang.

Barbara Cobb is a USCPFA National Board member and lives in Nashville.

Will Hong Kong's Star Ferry Sail into the Sunset?

One Hong Kong Icon Gone, Another Endangered

By Mike Revzin

Hong Kong has long been a gateway for travel to China, especially when the People's Republic first opened up to tourists. Many USCPFA members have fond memories of dining on Hong Kong's Jumbo Floating Restaurant, or crossing Victoria Harbor on the famed Star Ferry.

Now the restaurant is but a memory, and, as a Reuters story stated, the "Star Ferry has sailed into dire financial straits. The local uproar suggests that allowing the Victoria Harbor icon to sink is an unthinkable outcome," the article said, giving details of efforts to keep it in business.

Since 1880, the two-level green and white boats have connected Hong Kong Island to the Kowloon Peninsula. In modern times, however, the Star Ferry has become more of a novelty than a necessity. In 1972, the first of three cross-harbor vehicle tunnels opened, and Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway now has four subway routes that go under the water.

Riding the Star Ferry still appeals to tourists, who enjoy the 11-minute trip for about 40 U.S. cents, as they take in the sights, sounds and smells of Hong Kong, whose name means "fragrant harbor," while covering a distance of a little more than a half mile. Although most locals opt for the speed and convenience of the subway or car tunnels, some prefer to relax on the short ferry ride, just like the tourists do.

"Oh, loved the Star Ferry. Just so iconic,



The Star Ferry has financial difficulties. (Photo by Mike Revzin)

so special," said Archie McKee, who until recently was a long-time USCPFA member.

Jumbo Floating Restaurant Gone

McKee also had fond memories of the Jumbo Floating Restaurant, which went out of business this year after huge financial losses before and during the pandemic. Initial reports said it sank in June while being towed away from its longtime home in Hong Kong's Aberdeen Harbor. Later news stories indicated it had capsized but did not sink. Either way, the 260-foot, three-story tourist attraction, which looked like an imperial palace and could seat 2,300 diners, is no more.

Ed Peters, a columnist for Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* (SCMP), described its history and reputation:

"Opened in 1976 by casino tycoon Stanley Ho Hung-sun, the world's biggest floating restaurant was bold, brash and demanded attention. It was a massive pull for tourists and in its heyday, visited by Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth Taylor, Jimmy Carter and Tom Cruise along with just about everyone else who came to Hong Kong."

"Let's be frank, the food wasn't phenomenal," Peters admitted. "You went for the spectacle—the neon lights and gold trim, the ferry ride there, photos and bragging rights. Most locals went only once, to

check it out, but that didn't mean they didn't love it—it was part of the landscape, a cultural icon."

3 Million Visitors

The Associated Press noted that 3 million people dined at the restaurant over the decades.

McKee recalls eating at the restaurant "several times while traveling through Hong Kong. Massive old floating restaurant... first time was back in the 1970s with my dad on a trip with him to the PRC. Second time was with my parents and a tour group they were taking into the PRC."

"Fantastic experience, both times," he recalled. "A raucous dining area, huge by U.S. standards. Filled with circular tables, all with appropriately large Lazy Susans and maybe 10 guests each. When I was just with my dad they seated us with a Chinese group. We did not speak Cantonese and none of them spoke English. Fun time to be sure."

McKee's third visit was with his wife, Grace. "Rainy night, long taxi ride from our hotel, then short boat trip to the Jumbo. For whatever reason, they seated us in a Western style restaurant and we had a traditional Chinese dinner. Very nice, but nothing like the first two dinners. Not many people around and no raucous crowds, a shame."

Not everyone was a fan of the restaurant. Another SCMP columnist, Kate Whitehead, called it a "gaudy monstrosity known as the Jumbo F***ing Rip-off." 友



Hong Kong's Jumbo Floating Restaurant went out of business.

Former Kansas City Chapter President Was a World Traveler

Joyce Cox, a former president of USCPFA's Kansas City chapter, died in North Carolina in June at age 89.

In addition to her 13 years as chapter president, she also served on the Midwest Region's board as a member and president.

USCPFA President Diana Greer commented, "Joyce was such a hard-working supporter of USCPFA. She was so adept at bringing the community leaders and friends together around China issues."

An obituary published in her native North Carolina described her as "A true student of the world," and added "Joyce was known for her passion for travel. She had visited all 50 states and all seven continents."



Joyce Cox

Joyce began her teaching career in North Carolina, and later spent 40 years teaching U.S. history and civics in Fort Myers, Florida; Memphis, Tennessee and Kansas City, Missouri. She also taught English in China and in the Czech Republic.

With the help of An Wei, the Xian representative to the Sister Cities program, she established a Sister School relationship and a pen pal program between a school in Missouri and one in Shaanxi province.

Wherever she went, she sought out stories of everyday life. She was equally fascinated about learning how to properly prepare Chinese tea as she was to meet former President Jimmy Carter with her USCPFA delegation in Shanghai.

Joyce had an affinity for China and was eager to share information about its culture. In 2004, she helped found Kansas City's Society for Friendship with China. Upon her retirement, Bob Chien, the Society's president, found her a position teaching English at Northwest University in Xian.

During her year in Xian, she learned Chinese history and culture from her students, who escorted her on many excursions, including a trip over the Silk Road to Kashgar in Xinjiang and a visit to

Yan'an, where Edgar Snow had interviewed Mao Zedong.

Upon her return from teaching in China, she held leadership roles with the Kansas City-Xian Sister Cities Committee and the Kansas City Sister Cities Association.

She was instrumental in a campaign to buy desks for a school in China and helped establish scholarships for students in three schools near Xian.

She also served as organizer of the annual Kansas City International Dragon Boat Festival for many years and joined the Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation. Joyce was a frequent visitor to China and helped other teachers find positions there.

She was influential in promoting The Society for Friendship with China's New Year celebrations and exchange programs. At the 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration, Joyce was presented with The Society's Bridge of Friendship Award for 20 years of service.

Suzanne Pepper—Long-Time China Watcher

"The China watcher who China watchers watched." That's the headline on an obituary for Suzanne Pepper, a noted China scholar who called Hong Kong home for more than half a century. She died there in June at age 83.

The obituary, by Frank Ching, was posted on the website of the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of Hong Kong.

Pepper first went to Hong Kong in the 1960s to study Chinese. After earning a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, she returned to Hong Kong in the 1970s with her husband, VG Kulkarni, who became an editor at the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

Pepper was long affiliated with Hong Kong's Universities Service Centre (USC), where she did some of her first research. It had been set up in 1963 by American scholars as a place to study China in the years when foreigners could not visit the mainland.

In a history of that facility, Pepper wrote in 1988, "In its prime...the USC served as

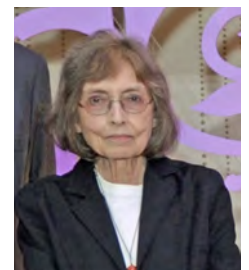
An avid art lover, Joyce had her own kiln and enjoyed making and teaching ceramics out of her home. On her travels, she was interested in local art and amassed quite a collection.

She believed that, to be a good U.S. citizen, one must understand how our democracy works. To that end, Joyce sponsored the Youth in Government program at her Missouri high school, where she coached students to represent and serve their communities through model government. Through this experience, Joyce mentored a number of students who eventually ran and held public office at many levels of government.

In 2013, Joyce moved to a retirement community in Charlotte, North Carolina, to be closer to her family. 友

—Information for this article was compiled from a Carolina Funeral Service obituary submitted to USCR by Linda Hanley, and from a 2013 article on the Society for Friendship With China website.

the main research base in the field for several generations of China scholars... As interest quickened during the late 1960s and 1970s, a period of affiliation with the USC became de rigeur for American social scientists in particular."



Suzanne Pepper

She was associated with the center for the rest of her life. In 1988, when it closed, its collections were taken over by the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Pepper, too, moved to the university, where the center continued until last year.

Pepper authored major books on the Chinese civil war and on education reform in the 1980s. In 2008, she wrote *Keeping Democracy at Bay: Hong Kong and the Challenge of Chinese Political Reform*.

About that time, Pepper started a blog,

Continued on page 30

Novel Explores Life of Yuan Dynasty Artist



A landscape by Wang Meng.

The Ten Thousand Things

By John Spurling

Duckworth Books, 2014

368 pages. Hardcover \$25, paperback \$11.72

Reviewed by Randall Chang

The *Ten Thousand Things* is a historical fiction novel about Wang Meng, one of China's most influential artists, who lived during a period of dramatic change. The book is written as a first-person account by Wang, who lived from 1308 to 1385. He was a minor government official during the Yuan Dynasty (1271–1368). As a painter, he is recognized as one of four masters of that dynasty. His renowned paintings are characterized by lush, crowded landscapes and dense, detailed natural scenery.

A glimpse of his paintings reveals such details as needles on pine trees, tiny cracks and crevices in rocks on mountainsides, and streams and waterfalls in the distant hills. All of these elements compete for a spot in the limited space of the artist's scroll paintings. Wang's works set the tone for Chinese landscape painting and greatly influenced Chinese art. Wang's paintings are in several of the world's finest museums, and one of them sold for \$62 million.

The book takes us with Wang as he travels in a China transitioning from the Yuan Dynasty into the Ming Dynasty. It

is not a story about the boring life of a Chinese painter, but about the exciting life of a Chinese artist at a time when China was undergoing political change. We share his experiences as he meets countryside rebels, suffering peasants, Buddhist monks, an attractive young female bandit, and several notable painters influenced by Taoism. We see China in turmoil as the struggling Yuan empire begins to fall apart and its Mongol leaders impose harsh punishments upon citizens to retain control. Along with this, we gain insight into Wang's philosophy of painting and the attitude of a gentleman scholar.

In one delightful episode, Wang meets an old friend, Ni Zan, a famous painter whose style involves thin and sparse strokes, as opposed to Wang's heavy strokes and crowded landscapes. As the two good-naturedly banter about their styles, they drink wine well into the night until they fall asleep on each other.

This historic novel about Wang's life gets inside the artist's head to reflect his passions as a Confucian scholar and how he was influenced by the political turbulence of the era, right up until his own tragic ending. Reading *The Ten Thousand Things* is like taking a journey back in time. 友

Randall Chang is a member of USCPFA's Honolulu chapter.

China Through European Eyes: 800 Years of Cultural and Intellectual Encounter

By Kerry Brown and Gemma Cheng Deng
World Scientific Publishing Europe, 2022

270 pages

Hardcover \$88, Kindle \$52.99

Reviewed by John Butler

China Through European Eyes is a very helpful and well-presented annotated anthology of extracts from European writers on China. The authors presented range from Marco Polo to Roland Barthes, giving readers wide and various perspectives on the subject; some see China as a threat, others romanticize it, and still others find inspiration in its world outlook.

It is an ideal starting-off place for anyone interested in how China has been viewed by Western intellectuals over the centuries, and the editors have done good service by providing substantial extracts in one place, together with informative introductions and a good selection of further readings listed at the end of the book. It would make ideal reading for any students of cultural exchanges between China and the West, and it broadens our knowledge of how the West's attitude toward China varied and how we got to the place we are now.

The selections include observations by well-known intellectuals such as Voltaire, Bertrand Russell, Simone de Beauvoir, Hegel, Marx and Jung, but readers also encounter travelers. These include the Abbé Evariste Régis Huc (1813–1860), who dyed his skin yellow as part of his disguise as he travelled through areas of China where Christians were being persecuted, and John Barrow's account of Lord Macartney's British mission of 1792. Barrow characterized the Chinese as "puerile" and "gross and vulgar," although he admitted that they were really good at firework displays.

"Travel Liar" Never Left England

We also have the Reverend Samuel Purchas (1577–1626), a "travel liar" who never left Cambridge except to go to Lon-

Continued on next page

European Eyes *(continued)*

don (a 56-mile trip) but whose mind and imagination went everywhere, including China, where he tells us that the “Great Khan” employed “ten thousand falcons,” whose actions he watches “abiding in a chamber carried upon four elephants.”

The differences in the observations expressed by the writers in this book are well-illustrated by the selections offered, and some are striking in their apparent “modernity,” a characteristic which demonstrates that contemporary thinking often differs little from that of the past.

Montesquieu, for example, sees China, which he calls “a despotic state, whose principle is fear,” as an example of what we would now call totalitarianism, and notes that the Chinese see the world quite differently from the West. “Their customs, manners, law and religion being the same thing,” he asserts, “they cannot change all these at once,” unless, of course, someone conquers them, in which case “either the conquered or the conquerors must change.”

For Montesquieu, in China “it has always been the conqueror,” because it’s easier that way. If you can’t beat them, join them. He laments that this means Christianity can’t make much headway there. Leibniz’s observations, on the other hand, are extremely latitudinarian and show a concerted effort to understand Chinese thinking in and of itself, in spite of the fact that he had never been to China, knew no Chinese, and gleaned all his knowledge from reading.

Hegel, another armchair traveler, wanted to fit China into his theory of what he called the “world spirit,” the idea that consciousness is non-individual, that it’s shared by people everywhere. Hegel’s prose is, as might be expected, complex and dense, but there’s clarity, too: “The universal Will,” he tells us, “displays its activity immediately through that of the individual,” and that, for Hegel, includes Chinese individuals.

There’s a refreshing sense of cultural curiosity in most of these writings, even if the authors never went anywhere near China.

Voltaire Admired Confucius

The surprise, for me, was Voltaire, who wrote a long entry on China in his famous *Dictionnaire philosophique* (1752). He argues that China must be encountered on its own terms, and he has great admiration for Confucius as well as a healthy respect for the reasons that the Chinese emperors of the Qing dynasty actually first engaged intellectually with the Jesuits although they eventually expelled them for their missionary activities.

Voltaire’s well-known antipathy to the Catholic church probably lay behind his enthusiasm, but this bias does not reduce the general validity of his observations. “The religion of their learned is admirable,” Voltaire wrote, “and free from superstitions, from absurd legends, from dogmas insulting both to reason and nature,” and, in spite of Western assertions to the contrary, they are not atheists.

We can find some of this echoed in the sociologist Max Weber’s analysis of what the Chinese believe. Weber, who also wrote about India and the Middle East, approached Chinese thought through Confucianism (Leibniz called it a “cult”), as did many other Europeans, which he understood was primarily a system of ethics rather than philosophy as practiced in the West, which dealt with questions such as the nature of reality. As Weber noted, “Confucianism was in large measure bereft of metaphysical interest.” He believed that in Confucianism “the basic impulses of human conduct were economic and sexual,” and that as a result “the world was... just as imperfect as man.” There was no sense of sin and guilt in this world outlook.

The general reaction to these readings is that Western intellectuals had a wide-ranging amount of ideas about China. There’s a refreshing sense of cultural curiosity in most of these writings, even if the authors never went anywhere near China.

What is perhaps most striking is that modern attitudes toward this country are not surprisingly different from those articulated by past generations of China students. China is often considered as a threat, sometimes a land of exoticism, and even occasionally as a role model or at least a place worthy of examination for

the validity of its way of life and whether it could have a positive impact on our own way of thinking in the West.

Many writers commend the broad-mindedness of the Chinese; Bertrand Russell stated plainly “I think the tolerance of the Chinese is in excess of anything that Europeans can imagine,” and that Chinese civilization was “built upon a more humane and civilized outlook than our own.” And, as far as the Chinese “threat” was concerned, Karl Marx felt that “The Chinese have at least ninety-nine injuries to complain of to one on the part of the English,” referring to the Opium Wars and their aftermath.

We also have some examples from the writings of Roland Barthes, Julia Kristeva and Simone de Beauvoir; to my mind only de Beauvoir has something useful or revealing to say, as she actually engages directly with Chinese intellectual debate as it tries to move beyond Confucianism, discussing different schools of thought as they were contending in 1957.

Barthes, on the other hand, is represented by disjointed scribbles which rarely rise above the level of undergraduate lecture notes, and the extract from Kristeva’s *About Chinese Women* (1976) ranges from the idealistic to the condescending and self-indulgent. She even tells us where the voices of Chinese women come from; “They begin in the chest or belly,” she tells us, “but they can suddenly hiss from the throat and rise sharply to the head, strained in aggression or enthusiasm.” Is Kristeva writing about people or some exotic tropical bird? Thank goodness we can turn back to Marco Polo, Purchas, Voltaire and the Abbé Huc. 友

John Butler recently retired as Associate Professor of Humanities at the University College of the North in Manitoba, Canada. He specializes in early modern travel literature (especially Asian travel) and 17th century intellectual history. His books include an edition of Sir Thomas Herbert’s Travels in Africa, Persia and Asia the Great (2012) and a book of essays, Essays on Unfamiliar Travel Writing: Off the Beaten Track. This review is from the Asian Review of Books and is published with permission.

Rouge Street: Three Novellas

By Shuang Xuetao, translated by Jeremy Tiang
Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and
Company, 2022

216 pages. Kindle edition \$13.99,
hardcover \$26.99

Reviewed by Fran Adams

Rouge Street is a real street in Shenyang, the largest city in Northeast China and hometown of the author, Shuang Xuetao, who was born in 1983. Throughout this book of fine novellas, the street is called Yanfen, which literally means “bright powder,” or rouge.

Yanfen Street is re-created in this book in some of its details and reimagined in a way true to its spirit in other aspects. The street is a huge spiral, forming what we might consider a district more than a street. It is described in the book as a “shantytown” and a “mud pit.” Within its boundaries are coal mines, railroad tracks used by trains that never stop, and Shadow Lake, which is poisoned, perhaps by restless ghosts.

And there are factories, mostly shuttered since the late 1990s, when much of the book is set. Today, the gritty Yanfen Street portrayed in these stories is gone, replaced by a neighborhood of skyscrapers. But it is preserved in all its rough liveliness by Shuang, who grew up in the neighborhood. In a book full of vivid characters, the street itself is equally alive.

The people who live on Yanfen Street are ex-cons, hooligans and those reassigned there for being “reactionary,” all poor, all living in a place and holding jobs that they did not choose. Living in the part of the country known as China’s Rust Belt, they lose their jobs when the state-run factories close.



Shuang Xuetao

Shuang said in an interview, quoted by the translator in an informative introduction, that “For me, Yanfen Street was like the American Wild West,” but we might also compare it to places like Detroit in the U.S. Rust Belt. Like those Americans who lost their chance to chase the American Dream when the factories closed, the inhabitants of Yanfen have been denied their promise of an “iron rice bowl.”

There is something universal about these stories of people living on the margins of society. What is specific to Chinese bureaucracy, form of government and its laws is kept very much in the background. But at the same time, these tales spring from their time and place. They are populated by wonderfully quirky individuals, such as Li Mingqi in “The Aeronaut” who first appears in a pair of flashy bell-bottoms, and recruits friends to steal parts from the factories where they work so that he can invent a personal flying machine.

Or the sculptor forcibly turned toilet cleaner, “the lunatic” Liao Chenghu in “Bright Hall,” who had some fingers cut off during the Cultural Revolution because his sculptures were insufficiently dedicated to Chairman Mao. He has made a map of Yanfen Street, which will be used after his death by Zhang Mo, the 12-year-old protagonist. The map includes such personal landmarks as a giant banyan tree and a tiny figurine of a woman. The banyan tree has been cut down and the map blows away. Yet Zhang and his little cousin find the small figurine of a woman Liao must have loved, and immortalized in his little sculpture which he hid, to be found only after his death.

Zhang says that Liao has drowned in Shadow Lake but “it’s not a very interesting story.” In this book people commit suicide, fathers become lost to drink and parents leave for a distant city, never to be seen again by their children or the reader. Shuang’s spare, deadpan style, which shies away from sentimentality and understates emotions, is appropriate to the toughness of life on Yanfen Street.

A list of books that one of the characters gets out of the library in the story “Moses on the Plain” includes works by authors that must have influenced Shuang’s style, such as Haruki Murakami. Also on this list

is *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler, and indeed some of Shuang’s language recalls a classic hard-boiled detective story such as Chandler’s.

“Above us was Orion with his belt, the arrogant bastard,” comments one no-nonsense character of many. An impoverished taxi driver talking to a wealthy passenger says, “Hope isn’t evenly distributed. People like you hoard it all.”

Shuang’s stories can seem like detective stories in their plots as well, but plot here always serves atmosphere, and the deeper mysteries of human behavior are suggested but left unsolved. *Moses on the Plain*, with a convoluted plot worthy of a classic American detective story, is the one that made Shuang’s reputation in China, and it fully deserves all its accolades. It has an intriguing structure, in which various characters each give a short narration concerning a crime, apparently making reports to the police. Each voice adds a few new details and a new point of view. It’s unputdownable, and hidden between its suspenseful lines is a moving poignancy that is the true strength of the story.

Although Shuang writes with gritty realism, he also introduces elements of magical realism, as hard-boiled a magical realism as one could imagine. It effectively represents the intrusion of the past into the present, as if in a dream, as when an interrogator of the Cultural Revolution era is a fish, its scales and tail glimpsed beneath a suit of clothes, encountered at the bottom of Shadow Lake.

Shuang gives us a sense of the cycles of history repeating, taking a new form on each turn. In these stories, Red Flag Square recurs, described by various narrators in different periods. It is one of the features of Yanfen Street, first built by the Japanese occupiers of Shenyang around the time of World War II. The Japanese filled it with pigeons, which were eaten by the starving residents of the city, so the Japanese stationed guards with guns to protect a new flock.

When the revolution came, up went a statue of Chairman Mao, so large that there was talk that he must be seven feet tall in life, or have a head much larger

Continued on next page

Rouge Street *(continued)*

than normal. In the 1990s, Chairman Mao was replaced by a statue of a yellow bird, designed by “some foreigner.” By the end of the last story, a sorghum field that we see earlier has been replaced by a Walmart, but the statue of Chairman Mao has returned to Red Flag Square. Now the statue is seen in a haze of nostalgia, its huge, raised hand looking, to the narrator of “Aeronaut,” like “an amiable hand that anyone could approach.”

What is so moving about these stories is that beneath the understatement of

emotions and the spareness of the prose, Shuang’s characters—living tough lives, haunted by the past and betrayed by the present—remain loyal to each other. The children of Yanfen Street look after each other, care deeply about each other, and share a love that has a chance of surviving into adulthood. *Rouge Street* is a book of great skill, and of great humanity. 友

Fran Adams is a retired cataloger of art and architecture books at a university library. She became interested in China through her mother, Rezsín Adams, who was an active and enthusiastic member of the USCPFA.

The Class of '77: How My Classmates Changed China

By Jaime FlorCruz
 Earnshaw Books, 2022
 218 pages
 Kindle \$6.99



Reviewed by
 Mike Revzin

During the past 50 years, Jaime FlorCruz has had a front-row seat to the remarkable changes that have taken place in China.

Now he has written a book that describes China’s transformation, as well as the highs and lows he experienced over the decades, from being a homesick exile to becoming a foreign correspondent.

The cover story in the fall 2021 *US-China Review* described how, in 1971, he and other student leaders in the Philippines went on what was to have been a three-week tour of Mao’s China. An article in the spring 2022 *USCR* described the video presentation by FlorCruz that was available to those who registered for the last USCPFA convention

While the Philippine students were in China, President Ferdinand Marcos cracked down on dissent. FlorCruz and the other anti-Marcos activists risked arrest if they returned home. He and some of the others decided to remain in China. They worked on a farm in Hunan province and on a fishing trawler off of Shandong province.

FlorCruz said he went to China expecting to see a socialist utopia, but instead found a “Maoist dystopia.” However, the progress that China has made since the Mao era causes FlorCruz to see China today as “a class half full.”

When the Cultural Revolution ended, FlorCruz became part of the Class of '77 at the prestigious Peking University. As he notes in the book, his classmates are identified by the year they started, not the year they graduated, because it was the first time in 10 years that students were selected by merit rather than class or politics. Among his fellow students were current



Jaime FlorCruz

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Bo Xilai, a powerful politician sentenced to life in prison for alleged corruption. The book is a fascinating decade-by-decade look at how changes in Chinese government policies affected the lives of Chinese, including his classmates. 友

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The Long Beach luncheon. (Photo by Min-Lee Cheng.)

Long Beach USCPFA Chapter Goes Deep South

The acclaimed documentary *Far East Deep South* was the focus of an August 13 meeting of the Long Beach, California, chapter of the USCPFA.

Thirty-three members and guests saw the story of Chas L. Lou, who left China with many others in the late 1800s to settle in the Mississippi Delta region. Lou avoided work on cotton plantations and instead established a Chinese grocery store in Pace, Mississippi. In lean times he often extended credit to his patrons so they could purchase their much-needed food and merchandise.

Years later, his great-grandson, Baldwin Chiu, was astonished to learn about these Chinese settlers in the Deep South. Chiu, the film's director, follows the path of his Chinese ancestors and learns much about his own family history. Chiu's wife, Larissa Lam, made her feature film directorial debut with the documentary.

The film's website says the documentary includes interviews with Congresswoman Judy Chu, the former mayor of Pace, Mississippi, Levon Jackson; Chinese American Citizens Alliance past President Caro-

lyn Chan and historians like Gordon Chang (Stanford History Department and author of *The Chinese and the Iron Road*), the late John Jung, who was a Long Beach USCPFA member and author

of *Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton*, and Jane Hong, author of *Opening the Gates to Asia*.

The site describes Chiu's journey to discover his family history: "Along the way, they meet a diverse group of local residents and historians who shed light on the racially complex history of the early Chinese in the segregated South. Their emotional journey also leads them to discover how discriminatory immigration laws like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 impacted their family and they learn how deep their roots run in America."

The film is available to stream on PBS.

In his role as event coordinator, Joe Lissak put forth much effort into renting the movie and making arrangements for the Chinese buffet lunch at the Jade Restaurant on the Water in Long Beach.



Baldwin Chiu



Larissa Lam

Long Beach USCPFA Creates Event Coordinator Position

To share the responsibilities for meetings, the Long Beach USCPFA chapter has created a new position called event coordinator. This position is not permanently assigned to one member but can be rotated and performed by various members of the chapter.

Here are some of the duties of the event coordinator:

- Visit the meeting venue about four weeks ahead of an event and check on the menu, prices, use of audio or microphone and parking availability.
- Inform the speaker of the location, date and parking.
- Determine, from the reservation chair, who will be attending and inform the person preparing name tags.
- A couple days ahead, be certain that the restaurant is informed of the number of guests expected.
- Manage the program on the day of the event: Encourage the chapter president to greet the guests, and begin the luncheon. Be certain that someone has the details of the presentation and is prepared to introduce the speaker. Arrange for someone to thank the speaker and perhaps present a gift. Long Beach USCPFA often presents the speaker with an orchid plant. Recently the role of event coordinator has been carried out in Long Beach by Claire Yeh and later by Joe Lissak.

The duties of the event coordinator are carried out in conjunction with those of the chapter president, membership chair, publicity chair, reservation chair and name tag preparer. The use of the event coordinator strengthens the chapter. It also assures that more members are familiar with the tasks that make a luncheon and meeting run smoothly.

—These two articles were submitted by Elizabeth Kraft, publicity chairman of the Long Beach USCPFA.

San Francisco Chapter Joins 25th Anniversary Celebration of Hong Kong's Return to China

On July 1, members of USCPFA's San Francisco chapter joined hundreds of people in Chinatown to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China.

China's Consul General in San Francisco, Zhang Jianmin, gave the keynote speech. USCPFA provided flowers for the centerpiece in front of the stage. The People's Republic of China's flag was raised.

It was a happy, celebratory commemoration of Chinese-American friendship. We felt proud of China's enormous achievements through these 25 years of peace and prosperity. Zhang emphasized China's commitment to those principles and to friendship with the American people. What will the next 25 years bring?

—From David Ewing, USCPFA
San Francisco chapter president



Dan Etler (left) and David Ewing flanking the USCPFA floral display.

Suzanne Pepper (continued from p. 24)

Hong Kong Focus, and began publishing articles in the media. When *Hong Kong Free Press* launched in 2015, she became a contributing writer, providing analyses on political affairs; she later became a columnist, bringing her knowledge of China to bear while analyzing Hong Kong politics.

In a recent piece after hardline former security chief John Lee emerged as Beijing's choice as Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Pepper wrote, "Beijing is making the rules and Beijing is deciding up front who will be Hong Kong's next Chief Executive. No more niceties about public opinion, consultations and the like. There must be

no doubt as to the source of authority for this decision."

Pepper's writings about Hong Kong "brought together her amazing grasp of mainland politics and society with Hong Kong's lived reality," according to John Burns, of the University of Hong Kong, writing on the FCC site.

"Suzanne was the institutional historian of the Universities Service Centre in Hong Kong. She spent well over half a century there researching China and Hong Kong. As a result, her name today, more than that of any other, stands synonymous with the USC. In many ways they are interchangeable," Burns wrote. 友

Atlanta Chapter Enjoys Dim Sum—In Person

In August, the Atlanta chapter shared lunch at a Chinese restaurant—the first in-person gathering in a while—to welcome a new member, Grace (Hui) Zhu. Grace was active in the Minnesota chapter and wants to continue her USCPFA activism after moving to the Atlanta area. The restaurant offers 81 dim sum dishes; we sampled delectable treats, selected by Grace.

—Submitted by Barbara Cobb

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The US-China Peoples Friendship Association is a nonprofit educational organization. Our goal is to build active and lasting friendship based on mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of China. **We recognize** that friendship between our two peoples must be based on the knowledge of and respect for the sovereignty of each country; therefore, we respect the declaration of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China that the resolution of the status of Taiwan is the internal affair of the Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Straits. **We also recognize** that friendship between our two peoples and good relations between our two governments plays a critical role in maintaining peace in the Pacific Basin and in the world. **As an educational organization**, our activities include sponsoring speakers and programs which inform the American people about China, organizing tours and special study groups to China, publishing newsletters and other literature, promoting friendship with Chinese students and scholars while in the United States, and promoting cultural, commercial, technical, and educational exchanges. **Everyone is invited** to participate in our activities, and anyone who agrees with this Statement of Principles is welcome to join. Subscription to *US-China Review* is included in membership.

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