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US-China Review

Winter 2022

Vol. XLVI, No. 1



50th Anniversary of Nixon's China Trip

A Look at "The Week That Changed the World"

USCPFA's First Virtual Convention

A Warning Against U.S.-China Conflict

Climate Change Cooperation

Sports Connects China with the World

China's Rapid Urbanization

Letter from the President



US-China Peoples Friendship Association

Office of the National President
105 Treva Road, Sandston, VA 23150
804-310-6388 mobile—dgreer@uscdfa.org

USCPFA's Washington Seminar Coming in April

Dear friends,

On behalf of the National Board members and myself, as president, I wish all of you a successful and prosperous Chinese New Year of the Tiger in 2022. In 2021, the Year of the Ox proved to be very challenging, as was 2020, due to Covid.

Mel Horowitz and I, as co-chairs of the national convention, were pleased to be able to work with tech company Eventfull RVA, committees and speakers for a successful online experience on November 5-7, the first virtual USCPFA convention.

Thank you so much for your participation. We were thrilled by the many positive comments. Live-streamed speakers included Minister Counselor Yin Chengwu, Susan Brownell, Barbara Finamore, Duncan McFarland, Kenneth Yee, Judy Manton, Dodge Billingsley, Yawei Liu and Weiping Wu.

Speakers who presented via video included CPAFFC President Lin Songtian, journalist Jaime FlorCruz, Vice President Jan Berris of the National Committee on United States China Relations, Yue-Sai Kan, and Chinese students from the University of Richmond's The Hometowns Project. (The last two were courtesy of The Rose Group and Rose Chen.) Special thanks are due to Mary Sue Bissell of the US-Asia Institute.

Paul Morris, plenary chair, national board member and production coordinator of the USCR, contributed tirelessly to the nine months of convention work. Mike Revzin will be the USCR editor for the next three years and we thank him for taking on this Herculean job.

We thank outgoing members of the board: Dr. Christine Brooks, Henry Lim and Christine Aylward. We welcome the new members of the board: Dr. Cynthia Ning, Ed Krebs and Jason Wang.

Now, with less than four months to go, we are preparing for the virtual 2022 Washington Seminar. *Save the dates:* April 28 and 29, 2022. Programs will start each day at 6 p.m. EDT.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Nixon's historic trip to China. Our current and future areas of collaboration will focus on education, cultural endeavors and climate change.

Diplomacy, cooperation and peace between our two peoples and governments must continue to be foremost in our thinking. We must not let our different policy approaches to Taiwan and human rights overcome our desire to get along peacefully with each other.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana C. Greer'.

Diana C. Greer
President of USCPFA



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US-CHINA PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION A California Non-profit Corporation

*The US-China Peoples
Friendship Association is a nonprofit,
educational organization whose purpose
is to build friendship between the peoples
of China and the United States.*

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EDITOR
Mike Revzin

DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Paul Morris

SUBSCRIPTIONS
Marge Ketter

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About the cover:

*President and Mrs. Nixon on the Great Wall during his groundbreaking trip in 1972.
See coverage beginning on page 19.*

The material appearing in the *US-China Review* does not represent a consensus, nor does it reflect the views or policy of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association or its National Board. The *Review* does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed by the authors of articles, but it does accept responsibility for giving them a forum for expression and consideration. It does its best to present a variety of subjects and opinions.

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Contributions of articles and information from USCPFA members and other readers are welcome and may be submitted to pemorris07@gmail.com. General correspondence or questions should be directed to USCR, 2234 NE 25th Ave., Portland OR 97212, email: pemorris07@gmail.com. ISSN 0164-3886

USCPFA NATIONAL PRESIDENT
105 Treva Road
Sandston, VA 23150
804-737-2704
dgreer@uscpfa.org

USCR SUBSCRIPTIONS
7088 SE Rivers Edge Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
Phone 561-747-9487 Fax 561-745-6189
margeketter@bellsouth.net

Inside: Coverage of National Convention and 50th Anniversary of Nixon's Trip to China

Among the many topics covered by USCPFA's convention speakers in November were U.S.-China relations, the environment, sports, history, family ties, politics and urbanization. There were also videos available online with information about other aspects

of China. Here, on the following pages, are summaries of the convention presentations. The spring USCR will include details of other videos seen by convention participants.

February is the 50th anniversary of Pres-

ident Nixon's trip to China. Starting on page 19, we have extensive coverage of "the week that changed the world," including a behind-the-scenes look at how American journalists covered that historic journey.

28th National USCPFA Convention a Virtual Success

By Mike Revzin

The USCPFA National Convention was virtual, but the interest generated by the wide variety of speakers and videos was real.

More than 80 people registered for the convention, held November 5-7. The theme was Roots of Friendship—Finding Common Ground.

In her welcome speech, USCPFA President Diana Greer emphasized "the importance of USCPFA in the modern world that seems to place so much emphasis on negativism and conflict."

"Our committee has prepared for you opportunities to hear speeches from guest speakers, professors, journalists, professionals in their fields and students," she added.

"We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of what came to be called ping-pong diplomacy, the sport so loved by the Chinese, which helped the U.S. to see the Chinese people in a new way and made us more willing to get to know more about China," she said. "The media coverage helped Americans get to know their Chinese sports competitors and helped make Americans more accepting of the Chinese people, China and its leaders."



Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Qin Gang

Ambassador's Message

A message sent from Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Qin Gang said that China-U.S. relations are rooted in people-to-people exchanges, and that the USCPFA was one of the first groups to be involved in those activities.

Referring to ping-pong diplomacy, he said that China-U.S. relations have kept moving forward since then, have made historical achievements and have brought tangible benefits to people in both countries.

"History has proved that both sides gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation," the ambassador added. "The legacy of ping-pong diplomacy lies in the fact that, regardless of ideological differences, we can and must find common ground and advance our mutual interests."

"The China-U.S. relationship is at a critical crossroads," Qin said, adding that, "Whether we can handle our relationship well" is important for the future of the world.

Qin said that President Xi Jinping said that "getting the relationship right is not optional, but something that we must do, and must do well."

Qin mentioned that China and the U.S. have more than 200 sister cities and more than 50 similar relationships between states and provinces.

CPAFFC President's Message

President Lin Songtian of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) sent a videotaped message saying that USCPFA was a pioneer in promoting understanding and friendship.

He said that it is natural for China and the U.S. to have some disagreements, due

to their different systems, but that the two major economies need each other. He mentioned the tremendous increase in trade since the relationship began, and said there are "a thousand reasons to make it work."



Lin Songtian, president of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Lin said China does not see the U.S. as an enemy but, since 2018, he believes that the U.S. has adopted a Cold War mentality. Lin said China's goal is not to replace the U.S., but to improve the lives of the Chinese. 友

2021 Convention Committee

Diana Greer, Mel Horowitz, Co-Chairs

Eastern Region chapters: New England, New York City, NE New York, N. New Jersey, Portland, Richmond, Metro DC

Woon Chow	Barbara Harrison
Paul Morris	Robert Sanborn
David Sutor	Mike Revzin
Marge Ketter	Kathleen Trescott
Joan Gates	Joe Gao
Duncan McFarland	Peggy Roney
Kenneth Yee	Jason Zeckoski
Carolyn Bloomer	

Koji Ariyoshi Award Goes to Manton

At the plenary meeting held on Zoom November 6, Diana Greer was re-elected as USCPFA president, and Woon Chow was re-elected treasurer. Here are the awards presented at the convention.

Koji Ariyoshi Award

Judy Manton, Northern New Jersey chapter. Judy Manton has taught in China many times with the Zigen Fund's English teachers training program, which she founded in 2004.



Judy Manton

In 2019 the program trained 80 village primary English teachers. In New Jersey she serves as a bridge between American life and Chinese immigrants. She has shared her home rent-free with Chinese for many years. She also tutors Chinese adults in English. She first went to China in 1972 before President Nixon under the auspices of the Committee for a New China Policy, which her husband founded. They were received by Premier Zhou Enlai. (See article on page 16.)

Friendship Leadership Award

William (Billy) Lee of the South Bay chapter has made friends all over the world through his initiative Friendshipology. His idea has inspired people of all generations to consider what friendship really means and motivated young people in China to create a bilingual website for the cause.



Billy Lee

President's Awards

Barbara Cobb, Southern Region president and president of the Nashville chapter. Barbara Cobb has consistently given her time and energy to mentoring new and organizing chapters, assisting with financial and tax issues, and seeking solutions to tough questions that arise in the everyday work of USCPFA. Her advice has proven to be invaluable to the president and the national board.

Carolyn Bloomer, Sarasota chapter. For many years Carolyn Bloomer has present-

ed lectures at the local level as well as at seminars and conventions, contributed articles to the *US-China Review* and shared her vast knowledge of cultural anthropology, in particular on the subject of Chinese film. She was a key person in planning the convention program, including suggesting the filmmaker and documentary for the program.

National Volunteer Awards

Ralph Beha, Minnesota chapter.

As chapter president and principal organizer of the national convention in 2019, Ralph has made many contributions to our national organization.

Elizabeth Kraft, Long Beach chapter. Elizabeth is a longtime leader of her chapter, subregion and region, an indefatigable event organizer and newsletter editor.

Eastern Region Volunteer Awards

Janie Tisdale, D.C. Metro chapter. Janie Tisdale's reliability, honesty and creativity were evident in her USCPFA work, including her brief role as chapter treasurer.

Sharon Young, D.C. Metro chapter. Sharon Young is recognized for her very positive role on a committee that set out to recommend a special activity for the organization.

Southern Region Volunteer Awards

Ted and Trudy Winsberg, Southeast Florida chapter. The Winsbergs have been members and supporters of USCPFA for 40 years. They have been involved in financial assistance for Chinese students, including the chapter's scholarship program. The Winsbergs were recently elected as chapter vice presidents.

Penny Blackford, Atlanta chapter. Penny Blackford has served as Atlanta chapter treasurer for a quarter century. She also manages the chapter's Chinese New Year dinner.

Midwest Region Volunteer Awards

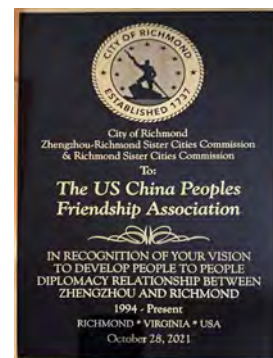
Minnie Vautrin, born in 1886, was recruited at age 26 by the Foreign Christian Missionary Society to develop a girls school in China. She later served as president of Ginling College in Nanking. During the Japanese invasion in 1937, she set up a safe haven on campus for 10,000 women and children. In 1941, back in the U.S., she took her life.

Dr. Victorio O'Yek has been a cardiologist for 50 years, as well as a long-time member of USCPFA, helping the Chicago chapter and the former Northwest Indiana chapter. As a cardiologist, he took medical teams to China to train doctors.

Western Region Volunteer Awards

Gerry Low-Sabado, South Bay chapter. She helped make the public aware of the contribution of Chinese fishermen in Monterey and built a bridge between the Chinese and non-Chinese communities. (See her obituary on page 29.)

Richmond Chapter Lauded for Help with Sister City Tie



This plaque was presented by Zhengzhou-Richmond Sister Cities Chairman My Lan Tran to Diana Greer in October in appreciation of USCPFA's work in developing the people-to-people relationship between those cities, which began in 1994.

— SAVE THE DATE —

USCPFA Washington Seminar on U.S.-China Relations Fortifying and Sustaining Friendship in U.S.-China Relations

Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29, 2022, starting at 6 p.m. EDT

The 24th USCPFA Washington Seminar, originally scheduled for 2020, will be virtual this year. You will be able to register online for just \$25. Stay tuned for updates on speakers and programs.

Carter Center Adviser Warns Against Conflict

By Mike Revzin

If the U.S.-China relationship ends in a conflict, “then what we have enjoyed so much in the last 40 or more years is going to disappear overnight,” warned Yawei Liu, the senior adviser for China at The Carter Center in Atlanta.

Liu, speaking to the convention, briefly described some of the current disagreements between the U.S. and China, as well as the way in which both countries’ domestic politics affect the situation.



Yawei Liu

The China Evergrande real estate group’s \$300 billion debt creates a difficult situation. “There is the issue of allowing this company that has borrowed recklessly to fail, but at the same time maintaining social stability,” he said, explaining that people who have paid for apartments “will not be able to recover the loss of the funds unless the government is going to pick up the slack.”

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asked China to handle the Evergrande issue very carefully because there are a lot of lenders who are from the U.S. “Is this is going to be another Lehman Brothers moment for global finance? We hope that’s not going to be the case,” Liu said.

Liu said there’s a different way of regulating in China, and mentioned some recent Chinese policies that have had a big impact on Chinese companies. In the U.S., companies can go to court to stop an executive order or an injunction. “In China, all it takes is a piece of paper from the central government...or sometimes it’s just in the form of an op-ed...and the signal is such that the companies will actually face the reality of losing hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars,” he said.

“Common Prosperity’s” Effects

Liu described the reaction in China to a current national campaign. “After

the common prosperity concept was introduced, clearly the private sector is concerned and anxious and afraid and decided...they’re all going to start donating to the government for rural poverty alleviation, for elementary education in the countryside.”

After an op-ed referred to online games as “spiritual opium,” children under 18 were barred from playing them on weekdays and limited to a few hours per weekend. China’s Tencent, the world’s largest online game marketer, saw its Hong Kong stock price plunge by 30 percent.

If these are regulatory acts, that’s understandable, Liu said. But “many people do believe something more fundamental” is occurring. “One blogger said, ‘This signifies a Cultural Revolution type of thing is unfolding in China.’ That will create so much concern, not only in China but also globally,” Liu said.

Turning to military matters, Liu said that a recent blockbuster movie in China about Chinese soldiers fighting Americans in the Korean War conveyed the message “It’s glorious to fight wars. It’s even more glorious to fight wars against America.” Commenting on the movie, a Chinese blogger who questioned China’s participation in the war was arrested.

Chinese military planes have been penetrating Taiwan’s Air Defense Identification Zone, “causing tremendous concern on the island but more so in Washington, D.C.,” Liu said.

Taiwan Policy

In October, President Biden said that the U.S. would defend Taiwan at whatever cost if China used force to try to unify Taiwan with the mainland. The White House later said there was no change in the U.S. policy, which is often referred to as strategic ambiguity. But Liu said that Biden’s statement was “potentially a huge shift” in U.S. policy. The lack of communication between the U.S. and China is very alarming, he added.

General Mark Milley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, referred to China’s new hypersonic missile as a near-Sputnik moment. “If the leaders see each other

like this, this means the two countries are probably going to enter into an arms race very soon,” Liu said.

Liu noted that China’s new ambassador to the U.S., Qin Gang, has set a different tone. Others have described some of Qin’s tweets as undiplomatic, such as, “If we cannot resolve our differences, please shut up.” But he has also tweeted, “China and the U.S. can advance coordination and cooperation on climate change, Covid-19 response and economic recovery... The U.S. side also needs to create conditions, instead of barriers, for our cooperation.”

Trade War

In 2018, President Trump launched a trade war with China. Biden has maintained most of Trump’s China policies, Liu said.

“Trump was one of the first (presidential candidates) in recent U.S. history to mean what he said (about China) during the campaign,” Liu said, adding that Trump said, “I’m going to hold China accountable,” and he delivered what he pledged, but he did this China policy by going it alone.

“President Biden decided what President Trump did was good, but it’s not good enough. For China to change its behavior, not only the pressure from the U.S. is needed.”

From the Chinese perspective, the U.S. is trying to isolate China, Liu said. U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told CNN that the U.S. “is not seeking to change the nature of the Chinese government” but is working to find ways to work together.

The European Union has joined the U.S. in imposing sanctions against China for its human rights violations in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. China, in return, has retaliated with sanctions against European countries, Liu said.

“Since President Biden became the president, we all hoped or expected that he’s not going to be as reckless as President Trump, but this is not the case,” said Liu. Who he sent to Taiwan and who he invited to the inauguration are “all clear signals to the China side that President

Biden is intending to upgrade Taiwan's representation here in the U.S." China also believes that the U.S. crossed China's "red line" by sending three military transport planes to Taiwan in 2021.

In May, the *Economist* magazine called Taiwan "the most dangerous place on Earth," Liu noted.

"China still adheres to the so-called one country, two systems," said Liu. "They want to apply that formula to resolve the Taiwan issue. But in Taiwan, basically no one believes that China is going to adhere to it because Hong Kong is an example."

Future Breakthrough?

President Xi Jinping met then-Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou in Singapore in 2015—the first top-level meeting between the two sides. Liu wondered if another such meeting could take place in 2024, when Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, from the Democratic Progressive Party will be near the end of her second term and Biden will be at the end of his term. "...maybe mainland China and Taiwan can start negotiations, kind of like the ice-breaking trip by Richard Nixon in 1972," Liu suggested.

Liu said that the U.S.-China relationship has been handled with a lot of skill and courage and vision by leaders in the past 40 years. "This relationship between the U.S. and China has been the anchor for peace and prosperity—for China, for the U.S., for the Asia-Pacific region and for the entire world."

"If this relationship gets into just competition and no cooperation, if this relationship ends in a conflict, then what we have enjoyed so much in the last 40 or more years is going to disappear overnight," Liu said.

"So it's incumbent upon all members of US-China Peoples Friendship Association, all Chinese-Americans here, all people who have benefitted from this relationship. We need to work hard to reduce the misconception of each other. We need to try to increase mutual understanding to try to stabilize, if not improve, this relationship so it's not going to deteriorate beyond any salvation."

In answer to a question, Liu said the U.S. is turning too many aspects of the China relation into national security issues.

He cited Trump administration rhetoric about every Chinese scholar and student



The November 15, 2021, virtual meeting.

in the U.S. being a potential collector of intelligence. Some students who came from universities that supposedly have close ties to the military were denied visas.

Justice Department Initiative

Liu also criticized the Department of Justice's China Initiative, which began in 2018. Liu said the program has not led to the conviction of anyone for espionage.

"So far the Biden administration has refused to even change the name of the

Obviously, there are national security issues, but I don't think everything is related to national security.

China Initiative, which I think is racial profiling which smells of the return of McCarthyism," Liu said. "Trade should not be a national security issue, but it is now being approached as a national security issue."

Statements from the DOJ website paint a different picture. An American and a Chinese were convicted of *economic* espionage in 2021. They were "accused of an egregious, premediated theft and transfer of trade secrets worth more than \$100 million for the purpose of setting up a Chinese company that would compete with the American companies from which the trade secrets were stolen," the indictment stated.

The DOJ statement said, "Unfortunately, China continues to use its national programs, like the 'Thousand Talents,' to solicit and reward the theft of our nation's trade secrets and intellectual property, but the Justice Department will continue to prioritize investigations like these, to ensure that China understands that this criminal conduct is not an acceptable business or economic development practice."

National Security Issue?

The U.S. has a lot of tools to impose sanctions on Chinese companies that may pose a national security threat to the U.S., Liu said. "Huawei is a perfect example of that."

But there's also a list of many Chinese companies that can't do business in the U.S., can't purchase U.S.-made equipment, cannot use U.S. software. "I think all these measures have nothing to do with ideology. They're all designed basically to... in the case of Huawei, to cripple a leading Chinese company in the 5G area so that China is going to be pushed far behind the U.S. and its allies in the high-tech area," Liu said.

"Obviously, there are national security issues, but I don't think everything is related to national security. China on the other hand has not singled out a U.S. company and punished that company in the name of national security."

Since the trade war started, China has lowered thresholds for foreign companies to come in to do business in the banking and insurance sectors, Liu said.

Continued on next page

Yawei Liu (continued)

Genocide Allegation

When asked about allegations of genocide in Xinjiang, Liu said, "...whenever you utter the word *genocide*, you think of the Holocaust" or the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia.

"I don't think this comes to mind when you talk about what's going on in Xinjiang," he said. "Obviously there are problems with the policy imposed by the Chinese government..." He acknowledged that China's critics say the situation in Xinjiang meets the technical definition of genocide. [Editor: The "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group."]

The Chinese government's alleged actions in Xinjiang have violated every single provision in the United Nations' Genocide Convention, according to an independent report issued in 2021 by more than 50 global experts in international law, genocide and the China region.

Liu said there is a double standard in reporting terror attacks committed by Uighurs, such as the one at the Kunming rail station in 2014 where Uighurs stabbed 29 people to death.

"The Western media, instead of saying it's a terrorist attack, would say it's the result of China's bad policy toward ethnic minorities," Liu said. "I think surely there is a double standard or even a sense of hypocrisy."

A spot check of Western news reports of the Kunming attack shows that some articles used phrases such as "a mass-terrorism spree" while most referred to it as a "knife attack," "a slashing rampage" or "a group of assailants wielding knives," and only used the words *terror* or *terrorist* when quoting Chinese officials. Some reports did include phrases such as "human rights groups say that China's policies in the (Xinjiang) region are fueling the unrest," but none of these news reports excused or justified the attacks.

"I think the U.S. and China need to basically look into the Xinjiang issue," said Liu, adding that China should be more transparent and allow experts and journalists from other countries, including Arab countries, to go to Xinjiang to see the situation.

"But I think that issue is certainly influencing any potential collaboration between the U.S. and China. U.S. leaders want to compartmentalize this China policy. They want to compete with China, but they also want to confront China, but then they also say they also want to cooperate with China on climate change and other issues. The Chinese side says if you're talking about collaboration you need to tone down your anti-China rhetoric. You need to change your policy. And you need to stop trying to undermine the rise of China and you need to stop crossing our red lines."

"I think particularly in the context of what Jake Sullivan said today, I think both sides have realized, particularly more on the U.S. side, that a compartmentalized China policy is not going to work. You've got to come to the understanding that durable coexistence is the way to go." 友

USCPFA National Directory

President

Diana Greer
105 Treva Road
Sandston, VA 23150
804-737-2704 • dgreer@uscpea.org

Treasurer

Woon Chow
11032 Ellis Meadows Lane
Glen Allen, VA 23059
804-677-2469 • mail@thewoon.com

Membership

Marge Ketter
7088 SE Rivers Edge Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
Ph 561-747-9487 • Fax 561-745-6189
margeketter@bellsouth.net

Center for Teaching About China

Kitty Trescott
909 W. Burton St.
Carbondale, IL 62901
618-203-1807 • trescott@midwest.net

US-China Review

Paul Morris
Design and Production
2234 NE 25th Ave.
Portland, OR 97212
503-249-3965 • pemorris07@gmail.com

US-China Review Subscriptions

Marge Ketter
7088 SE Rivers Edge Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
Ph 561-747-9487 • Fax 561-745-6189
margeketter@bellsouth.net

How You Can Contribute to the US-China Review

- Submit your chapter's information or newsletters.
- Suggest stories from, or about, China-related websites or organizations.
- Write about your experiences in China—even from years ago.
- Summarize China webinars, or alert us to upcoming ones. (Please check in advance to avoid duplicate submissions).
- *Be Like Billy*. Know anyone who has an interesting China story? Billy Lee of the South Bay chapter has been a remarkable source of contacts. Introductions from Billy have led to a half dozen recent articles, including this issue's "What Nixon's Trip Meant for China and My Family," by Yihua Li Tu.
- Another important contributor: Margaret Wong of the Minnesota chapter, who encouraged her students and former students to write about the joys and frustrations of learning the Chinese language.
- Winny Lin of the South Bay chapter and Judy Manton of the Northern New Jersey chapter are among the most frequent contributors to the USCR. Do you have similar stories to tell?
- Want to write a story, but don't have a specific idea? Let me know your expertise or interests and I'll try to find a topic for you.

Deadlines

From now on, I will be editing all four issues of USCR. You can submit articles and photos at any time, but here are the deadlines for the next four issues:

- Jan. 15: Spring (April) issue.
- April 15: Summer (July) issue.
- July 15: Fall (October) issue.
- Oct. 15: Winter (Jan. 2023) issue.

Send stories or ideas to:
Mike.Revzin@gmail.com

Can U.S. and China Cooperate to Save the Planet?

By Mike Revzin

USCPFA's New England chapter gave presentations on environmental challenges that China and the U.S. face, as well as areas of possible cooperation between the two countries.

Ken Yee, the chapter's vice president, began with a presentation titled, "The Loess Plateau Rehabilitation Project—and how it has turned desert into arable land." The Loess Plateau in northwest China is about the size of France and includes several provinces. The land is made of fine yellow soil known as loess and is located along the Yellow River basin, Yee explained.

By 1995, through hundreds of years of overgrazing and tree-cutting, it had turned into what some called "the most eroded place on Earth," Yee said. Without vegetation, 95 percent of water ran off the soil—therefore, there was the cycle of "flood-drought-famine," sometimes referred to as "China's sorrow."

The Loess Plateau Rehabilitation Project began in 1994 as a collaboration between China and the World Bank. It took immense collaboration between the peasants, officials and experts to reclaim the land, he said.

An article published on the World Bank site in 2007 said that, "More than 2.5 million people in four of China's poorest provinces—Shanxi, Shaanxi and Gansu, as well as the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region—were lifted out of poverty. Through the introduction of sustainable farming practices, farmers' incomes doubled, employment diversified, and the degraded environment was revitalized." The article added, "People in project households saw their incomes grow from about \$70 per year per person to about \$200 through agricultural productivity enhancement and diversification."

By 2035, 50 percent of new cars sold in China must be either electric, plug-in hybrid, or fuel cell vehicles, and 50 percent of new cars will be conventional hybrids, which still run on gasoline.

Yee said that some of the lessons learned from this program are that sheep and goats should be raised in pens, because grazing causes erosion. The program emphasized the importance of not cutting down trees, stabilizing the desert by planting grass and trees and establishing a long-term land use policy that benefits farmers. Other findings were that land should be assigned to individual families and farmers should be paid.

The project has turned desert into arable land that produces fruit and crops. In total, about a 14,000-square mile area was restored—which is bigger than the state of Massachusetts. It helped to lock in carbon and reduce climate change.

"This project has tremendous implications for other impoverished countries in the world," said Yee, including that "It is possible to turn life around, to reduce famines, to decrease the number of refugees and to slow climate change."

Yee expressed thanks to John Liu for his work documenting the Loess Plateau Rehabilitation Project. Liu's film, *China's Sorrow—Earth's Hope*, documented the remarkable rehabilitation of the plateau.

U.S.-China Cooperation?

Duncan McFarland, the chapter's president, then gave a presentation on climate change. "We chose this topic, in part, because of its importance but also because it sets a positive agenda and tone for U.S.-China cooperation, including cooperation among the peoples," he said.

"The climate change and environmental problem and crisis grows ever more urgent," he said, adding that, "Last year there were huge floods in China and gigantic wildfires out West in the U.S. The U.N. report on climate change in August sounded a note more urgent than ever, speaking of what they called 'code red for humanity.'"

"So here's part of the solution. The COP26 (U.N. climate change conference

in Glasgow, Scotland) official website says, "The goal is to unite the world to combat climate change. Well, if we're going to unite the world, U.S.-China cooperation is of very great importance."

"They're the largest economies, consumers of energy and emitters of greenhouse gases," McFarland noted. "If the two countries agree, and work on, a plan together, this would go a long way to establishing a global strategy and program on climate change. Likewise, lack of cooperation will lead to fragmentation and will be much less effective."

Since the U.S. and China agree in principle, where hasn't there been faster progress? McFarland asked. From a Chinese perspective, the reason for slow progress on U.S.-China cooperation is that the U.S. has criticized China on sensitive issues, he said. However, he said there were some hopeful signs with more high-level dialogue since President Joe Biden's September 10 phone call to President Xi Jinping.

In traditional Chinese philosophy and culture, there was a unity with nature, and social harmony, McFarland noted. But China historically was also known for floods, famines and deforestation.

The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 began a period of reconstruction. This included large-scale infrastructure projects, basic industrialization and reform of agriculture. The new government repaired and built dams and reservoirs to control floods and generate electricity. Afforestation projects were launched, which helped the environment. China increased forest cover from 12 percent in 1978 to 23 percent in 2020.

Pollution Problems Emerge

China's big pollution problems emerged in the 1980s and 1990s, McFarland said. There was a historic economic expansion and rapid industrialization and modernization, which led to great improvements in living standards. But this great expansion was mostly driven by coal, and led to major pollution problems.

"During the 1980s and '90s, pollution was considered a significant problem, but it was still not the centerpiece of Chinese

Continued on next page



Duncan McFarland

Climate Change *(continued)*

national policy,” McFarland said. A major dependency on coal has led to China becoming the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in total quantity, around 28 percent of the world’s total—but not in per capita emissions, which are less than half those of the U.S. and Western Europe.

Coal is used in China for power plants, factories and home heating. New power plants in China, however, are smaller and cleaner and China recently announced it will no longer fund the construction of coal plants overseas. “They are making significant progress in reducing the dependency on coal, but this is a big task for them over the next few years,” McFarland said.

Starting around 2005, there were major changes in Chinese policy and practice. Hu Jintao, who was China’s leader from 2002 to 2012, introduced a concept of “scientific and balanced development” that called for balancing economic growth with attention to the environment and social justice issues

By 2013, Xi Jinping had identified environmental concerns, or “ecological civilization” as a central goal of China’s national policy. China began to fund and facilitate in many ways a great expansion of renewable energy and green energy in China. “China today is the world’s largest producer and consumer of renewable energy,” he said.

“China has made tremendous progress in shifting from gasoline engines to electric vehicles. There have been a lot of government incentives to facilitate this. China has built a lot of major public transportation.” It now has the world’s most extensive high-speed rail network and many modern subway systems.

Beijing’s goals and plans include peaking emissions by 2030 and obtaining carbon neutrality by 2060. “There’s a lot of emphasis in China on not only setting

goals but implementing those goals in a practical way,” McFarland said. “This is kind of a contradictory situation. China still leads the world in total carbon emissions, but it also leads the world in developing green energy. The government is moving things in a good direction toward more green energy, less greenhouse gases. The question in my mind is will it move fast enough?”

At international meetings China has advocated for what it calls “common but differentiated responsibilities,” a concept developed in 1991. McFarland explained it as, “All countries must work on climate change, but it needs to be recognized that developed industrialized countries are historically responsible for most pollution and thus have greater tasks and responsibilities. The poorer countries have less capacity and need help with green economic development to raise living standards. So climate change is also a justice issue.”

At the Paris conference in 2015 China also called for a \$100 billion international annual fund from the developed countries to help poorer countries develop green energy. The Cop 26 climate conference in 2021 was about implementing the Paris Agreement of 2015, where just about all countries agreed to work together on dealing with global warming, climate change and environmental problems, McFarland said, adding, “The implementation of that has been quite uneven. U.S.-China cooperation will be key to moving that forward.”

“More U.S.-China cooperation is needed on climate change, pandemics and other issues. People-to-people relations have an important role to play in that,” McFarland said. He encouraged the public to learn more about environmental issues by using the vast resources available, including Chinese sources.

Expert Describes Progress

He also recommended *Will China Save the Planet?*, a book by Barbara Finamore, who then spoke to the conference. Finamore has more than four decades of experience in environmental law and clean energy policy. In 1996, she founded the China Program of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the first clean energy program launched in China by an international NGO. She helped to develop

China’s first energy codes for residential and commercial buildings, first research and development program for fuel cell vehicles, first utility-based programs for demand-side management and first nationwide emission control regulations for the shipping industry.



Barbara Finamore

She has served with the Professional Association for China’s Environment and was the co-founder and president of the China-U.S. Energy Innovation Alliance. Finamore also worked for the U.S. government, the United Nations and the Center for International Environmental Law. She is currently a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies.

Finamore said that, “The main purpose of the Paris Agreement was for countries to ratchet up their climate pledges. We’ve had a tremendous amount of progress, but we are still not where we need to be to halt dangerous climate change and temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. The International Energy Agency says we’re close, but that’s only if all these pledges are fully implemented and if the developed countries meet that pledge they made in the Paris Agreement to provide \$100 billion annually in assistance to help the poorest and most vulnerable countries to help them make that transition.”

Good News, Bad News

Finamore said that, when she talks about China and the environment and climate change, “There’s always good news and bad news. It’s very important to look at areas of U.S.-China collaboration.”

“China under-promises and over-delivers,” in its climate pledges, she said, but their new pledges are not a significant improvement from the Paris Agreement except for the 2060 net zero target. But they have enormous action plans, working documents and national guidance, she said, adding, “They are already in

A few days after the USCPFA convention, China and the U.S. issued a statement at the COP26 climate change conference that they would work together to accelerate the emissions reductions goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

the processing of over-delivering and under-promising.” The U.S. is the opposite, she said, often over-promising and under-delivering, due to resistance from Congress. Both countries face obstacles from the fossil fuel industries, she said.

In recent years China has done a tremendous job in cutting back on coal, but in the last two years China has also put three times more coal plants into operation as the rest of the world, she said.

She was asked whether power outages in China are related to putting a cap on coal use. The cap won’t go into effect until about 2030, she said. Power outages are caused by supply, demand and energy policies. China produces half the world’s coal but has cut back due to corruption investigations that caused closing of mines, accidents, floods and a trade war with Australia.

Demand has shot up because China’s economic stimulus to fight the pandemic has been heavily focused on fossil fuels, infrastructure and industry. China’s regulations have contributed to power shortages, she said. Until recently, coal-fired plants couldn’t pass the true cost on to consumers. Coal prices tripled, so some plants shut down or used their reserves. But recently announced reforms now allow utilities to pass more of the price of coal on to users. This provides a level playing field for solar and wind, which were already getting cheaper than coal.

China is ordering mines to open up, and coal plants to produce power. This will lead to more coal use in the short term. In the long run, China will see a boom in solar and wind power, she predicted, in fact, it is already seeing it.

In answer to a question, Finamore said it would be difficult for the U.S. to cooperate with China on producing more solar panels because the U.S. rejects a lot of solar panels from companies that it thinks are getting the raw materials from Xinjiang, because of the human rights violations there.

While each country is moving ahead independently with the solar sector, there could be cooperation in areas of energy efficiency, she predicted. “Last spring, the Foreign Minister of China stated that it was impossible for the U.S. and China to separate out climate change collaboration from all the other issues of tension facing the two countries. But, nonetheless, they

did issue this joint declaration in April, and it lists some very specific areas of collaboration. I’m very happy to see that many of them, if not most of those specific areas of collaboration, are included in China’s 40-page action plan for

reaching a peak of CO2 emissions before 2030,” Finamore said.

Finamore spent five years with the US-China Clean Energy Research Center, a joint program where researchers from both countries worked together in areas such as energy efficiency and electric vehicles. “Hopefully we can see more of that, even in difficult times,” she added.

China still leads the world in total carbon emissions, but it also leads the world in developing green energy.

Another possibility is that China and the U.S. can work together to fund and provide technical assistance to help energy plants in other countries move away from fossil fuel.

“China is the world’s leader by far in clean energy technologies, solar and wind. It has a lot of lessons learned about how to move that ahead, what works and what doesn’t work. And the U.S. is the center of innovation,” she said.

Electric Vehicle Leader

For many years the two countries were collaborating on electric vehicle technological issues and, under certain circumstances, they still share the joint intellectual property that they developed, Finamore said, adding, “Right now, we’re seeing more competition than collabora-



An electric vehicle assembly line in Guangxi. Photo: Xinhua

tion on electric vehicles. China is by far the world leader, not just in how many electric vehicles are on the road but how many it’s producing.” It is also the leader in producing batteries for electrical vehicles and processing the critical materials.

“What we’re seeing now is a three-way race between China, the EU and the U.S. The EU is pouring huge amounts of money, collaborating among EU countries, in a plan to develop the next generation of electric vehicle batteries that are not just cheaper and longer-lasting, but more environmentally sustainable,” she said, adding that the EU is racing ahead faster than the U.S. She called this a “healthy competition” and “a race to the top.” China’s plan calls for it to plateau its oil consumption in the next five-year plan. “So China’s electric vehicle plan is quite ambitious, and that’s why,” Finamore said.

When asked what an individual can do to help fight climate change, Finamore suggested reducing your carbon footprint, learning as much as you can about the issues and using your purchasing power for climate-friendly products. Other suggestions included using public transportation and walking more.

China has designated 100 cities to participate in a pilot program to move ahead with carbon peaking. Americans who live in cities that have sister-city relationships with those cities could explore ways of working with them, she suggested. “Every degree of warming makes such a difference. It matters,” she said. “Every person matters.” 友

Sports Connects China with the World: A Personal Account

By Mike Revzin

Susan Brownell began her convention presentation by saying she has devoted a big part of her life to being a cultural bridge between China and the U.S. As she told her story, it became clear that she had carried out that role in unique ways—including by being a star athlete on Chinese track teams.

Brownell, a professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, is an internationally recognized expert on Chinese sports, Olympic Games and World's Fairs. She talked about the history of the People's Republic of China in international sports, as well as her experience as a researcher and track team member in that country.

"Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, sports have been an important channel for building human connections between China and the outside world—maybe even the *most* important channel," she said.

"After 1949, most of the Western nations did not have diplomatic relations with China," she noted. "Official Chinese policy, for its part, prohibited China from joining any international organization of which the Republic of China on Taiwan was a member. Sports offered an alternative to the conventional diplomatic channels that were closed to China. Because of its alternative character, sport diplomacy has played a particularly important role in China's diplomatic history since 1949."

Ping-pong Diplomacy

"Ping-pong was important from the beginning because, first, the sport had achieved a high level in China, and second, the International Table Tennis Federation was the only international sport federation in which China was a member." She added, "This enabled China to compete in international competitions and even to host the World Championships in Beijing in 1961. This in turn laid the groundwork for ping-pong diplomacy in the 1970s."

Turning to the Olympics, Brownell said that the Republic of China sent Olympic delegations to the Los Angeles 1932 and Berlin 1936 Olympics.



Susan Brownell at the Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing.

The People's Republic of China sent its first Olympic delegation to the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games, but only one athlete arrived in time because of the difficulty in traveling at a time in which most countries did not have diplomatic relations with the PRC. "It would be the last time the Chinese flag was raised in the Olympic village for nearly three decades," she noted.

Sport diplomacy has played a particularly important role in China's diplomatic history since 1949.

When the International Olympic Committee (IOC) failed to expel Taiwan and admit China, in 1958 the Chinese Olympic Committee suspended all relationships with the IOC and withdrew from all international sports organizations that, in their words, "practiced 'Two Chinas,'" she said.

"China stopped taking part in international sporting events until 1971. This was when the head of the Japanese Table Tennis Federation personally persuaded Chairman Mao to send a team to the World

Cup in Table Tennis in Japan." This led to the U.S. team being invited to China in 1971, and the Chinese team visiting the U.S. the following year.

"Ping-pong diplomacy wasn't just about China-U.S. relations," Brownell said. "From 1971 to 1973, three major table tennis invitationals were held in Beijing that were attended by over 80 nations and territories... It became a launching pad for the establishment of diplomatic relations."

Last April, there was a big event in Beijing celebrating the 50th anniversary of ping-pong diplomacy. The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and China's General Administration of Sport participated. Table tennis players Liang Geliang from China and Judy Hoarfrost from the U.S., who had both taken part in ping-pong diplomacy, (See USCR's Spring 2021 issue) played a few rounds of virtual table tennis, brought together from China and America by the power of virtual reality and Zoom. Brownell also gave a short speech via Zoom.

After the normalization of U.S.-China relations in 1979, the IOC admitted the People's Republic of China under the "Olympic formula," Brownell explained.

“China is known as the ‘Olympic Committee of the People’s Republic of China’ and competes under the national anthem and flag of the PRC. Taiwan is known as the ‘Olympic Committee of Chinese Taipei’ and competes under the anthem and flag of its Olympic committee.”

Brownell described the beginning of U.S.-China academic ties. “In 1979, the U.S. and Chinese governments established an educational exchange program which was administered on the U.S. side by an organization called the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the PRC. This organization, which was under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, was the single channel by which U.S. citizens could obtain official permission to carry out research in China until the late 1980s. The first class of grantees went to China in 1979, the same year in which the PRC was readmitted to the International Olympic Committee. U.S.-China exchanges were thus restored in the realms of the mind and of the body.”

China Returns to Olympics

The Lake Placid Winter Games in 1980 marked China’s first return to Olympic competition since 1952. After that, China supported the U.S. boycott of the Moscow 1980 Summer Games. But China did not join the Soviet Union’s boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984. “Peter Ueberroth, president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, stated that China’s decision to attend ‘saved the Olympics.’ Arguably, China’s presence contributed to the end of the Cold War five years later,” Brownell said.

Brownell said that her interest in China began with stories she heard about her great-grandfather, Earl Leroy Brewer, who was governor of Mississippi. He later served as a lawyer for the Mississippi Chinese Association, representing Chinese immigrants.

“I entered the Ph.D. program at the University of California-Santa Barbara in 1982 and decided to specialize in China. My grandmother gave me a woven silk tapestry that had been a gift to her family from the Mississippi Chinese. She had kept it for over sixty years. In the fall of 1983,



Susan Brownell receives a medal at the National College Games in 1986.

I began to study beginning Mandarin Chinese.”

“I had been a nationally ranked track and field athlete in the U.S. My event was the heptathlon. I had competed in the 1980 Olympic Trials. In 1984 I was both training and working on my Ph.D. in anthropology. In the summer of 1984, I placed eleventh in the Olympic Trials heptathlon,” she said, not qualifying for the team. That year, Xu Haifeng won China’s very first Olympic gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics, in air pistol.

“I eventually wrote two master’s theses on Chinese sports. In those days there was almost no published work on Chinese sports, which made it especially challenging,” she said.

Joins Peking University Team

“I arrived at Peking University in the fall of 1985 to study Chinese. Immediately after my arrival, I approached the

head coach to inquire about joining the track team. He began by asking me for my personal best performances and, when he heard them, observed that they must be from years ago, since surely I had retired to concentrate on my studies,” Brownell said. “With some difficulty, due to my then-rudimentary Chinese and his thick Shandong accent, I told him that in fact I had just placed fifth in U.S. nationals and competed in an international meet two months previously. This was hard for him to grasp, since at that time Chinese athletes at my level were almost all state-supported, full-time athletes, and the notion of the student-athlete was novel.”

“As it happened, the second-ever National College Games were scheduled for the spring of 1986,” she continued. “In preparation, colleges nationwide had begun recruiting top athletes by lowering their admission standards, and in some cases waiving the admission requirements. Peking University, as the top liberal arts university in the nation, refused to give anything but minor concessions to athletes, and as a result the Physical Education Division was panicked that Peking University teams would do poorly in the Beijing City and national games, causing the university to ‘lose face.’ And then I appeared on the scene—a legitimate

The women’s heptathlon consists of the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200-meter sprint, long jump, javelin throw and 800-meter run.

Continued on next page

Susan Brownell (continued)

student who was capable of winning multiple medals and setting multiple records at the National Games (records as well as medals were rewarded with points toward the team championship)."

"In those days, foreign students were segregated from Chinese students. We had separate dormitories, cafeterias, and classes," she said. "I joined my teammates in their own dormitories for conversations in the evenings after practice, and I often ate with them in their own cafeterias, where the food was quite poor compared to that offered to foreigners. I hung out with my teammates and coaches during the intramural and the Beijing City track meets, where I was the only foreigner among several hundred Chinese."

"Based on my performance in the Beijing City collegiate track and field meet, I was selected to represent Beijing City at the National College Games. In preparation for those games, I joined my teammates for a two-and-a-half-month training camp, which was held at the Beijing Institute of Aeronautics and Aviation. This was a rare opportunity because foreigners were not allowed to live with Chinese people at the time. I, eight coaches, and my 28 teammates—one of whom was another American—lived in a small dormitory building."

Sets National Record

"During the opening ceremonies of the College Games, as I stood lined up with my teammates behind the Beijing City flag in the middle of the field, with 50,000 pairs of eyes converging on us, it occurred to me that I had actually become Bao Sushan (my Chinese name), 'the American girl who wants to win glory for Beijing' (as one of many newspaper headlines had described me). In the end, I fulfilled my duty, as they said in China. I won the heptathlon, setting a national college record. I ran on two silver-medal relay teams. Beijing's women placed second overall. I was given a spirit award, called a 'spiritual civilization award.'"

"I returned to China in 1987–88 and spent a year at the Beijing Sport University doing research on sports in China... I earned my Ph.D. dissertation in 1990 and published *Training the Body for China: Sports in the Moral Order of the People's Republic*. If

truth be told, there wasn't much interest in Chinese sports or in my research for years after that, until China won the right to host the 2008 Olympic Games, which it did in 2001."

"In 2000 I had the opportunity to sit next to He Zhenliang at dinner at IOC headquarters in Switzerland. Mr. He was the IOC member in China, China's senior sports diplomat, and the person responsible for the success of Beijing's bid for the Olympic Games. He was known in China as 'Mr. Olympics.' As the Beijing Olympic Games approached, I felt the need to tell the story of China's 100-year relationship with the Olympic Movement from the Chinese point of view, a viewpoint that was not then reflected in any English-language publications."

"In 2002 I scheduled a meeting in Beijing with He Zhenliang to discuss this idea. As it happened, while doing my usual circuit of the bookstores the day before the meeting, I found a copy of his biography, written by his wife, Liang Lijuan. When I started reading it in my hotel room, I was pleasantly surprised: I did not know that it was possible in China for a high official to write such a candid, personal account. It was not necessary for me to do all the research to write a book about China's relationship with the IOC—it had already been written, and all I had to do was translate it."

Brownell's plan changed and, with He's permission, she translated his biography. It was published in 2007 by Beijing Foreign Languages Press as *He Zhenliang and China's Olympic Dream*, and there was a book launching ceremony in the Great Hall of the People attended by VIPs from the Chinese government and IOC.

"I received a Fulbright Research Award to conduct research on the first Chinese Olympic Games in 2008, and spent a year in Beijing, affiliated with the Olympic Studies Centre at the Beijing Sport University. I've been collaborating with my colleagues there ever since the 1980s, when it was my base for my Ph.D. dissertation research. I was surprised to find myself caught up in the media furor that swirled around those Olympic Games. During the year, I gave interviews to over 100 journalists from 23 countries. The U.S. embassy in Beijing invited me to write a blog that appeared on the 'Olympics' link of the embassy's website."

"In addition to explaining China to the journalists, I found myself mediating between the two main actors involved in organizing the Olympic Games. The Communications Department of the International Olympic Committee occasionally asked me for advice about the situation in China, and about how to talk about China to international media and audiences, and I wrote an essay about the upcoming games for the IOC's public-facing magazine."

"Together with several of my Chinese colleagues, I was invited to be a member of an Academic Experts Team working with the Beijing Municipal Education Commission to design and carry out educational programs in primary and middle schools around Beijing. I participated in ceremonies, visited schools, interviewed principals and teachers, wrote an essay for a Chinese journal, and translated into English the final report on Beijing's Olympic education programs. I was the only non-Chinese member of the team. For this work I was recognized with certificates from the Beijing Municipal Government, and the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games. During the Olympics I worked as a guest commentator for the early morning Olympic news and preview show on China Central TV's English Language Channel."

Regarding her academic work in China, she said, "I am often asked whether I encountered a lot of restrictions in my research and life in China. The answer is 'no.' Perhaps it was because sport opened doors for me."

"Cross-cultural understanding doesn't just happen," said Brownell. "World peace will only be the result of hard work. My teaching, research, and writing have been my contribution toward the work that it will take in order for China to eventually take its place as a full partner and positive contributor to global politics. Sport has given me that opportunity." 友



Speaker Describes Unique Aspects of China's Rapid Urbanization

By Mike Revzin

Weiping Wu, a professor of urban planning at Columbia University, talked about China's dramatic increase in urbanization in the past four decades. She is the author of eight books, including *The Chinese City*.

Wu described urbanization, and its effects on people, as one of the most significant changes in modern China. She began by noting that every country has its own definition of what constitutes an urban area and, even within China, the definition has changed over time—and so have policies related to urbanization.

In the U.S., for example, an area with 2,500 or more can be classified as urban, while in China an area must have at least 21,000 people just to be classified as a town. In general, the population must reach 100,000 for China to classify it as a city. She also pointed out that large Chinese cities are like metropolitan areas and you don't have to go far from city centers to see rural areas.

China's 200 million migrant workers are counted in the urban population now. But they are a type of urban population that creates a distinct challenge for China. Because they don't have a local *hukou*, or household registration, most of them are not qualified to send their children to public schools or receive other benefits in the city in which they work.

As of 2017, China had 661 cities—more than three times the number it had when reforms started. In 1980, at the start of China's reforms, about 20 percent of the population was classified as urban. In the 2010 census, that figure was 51 percent, and now it is likely close to 64 percent. The country has changed from rural to urban and industrialized. Although the U.S. is 80 percent urban, it took more than twice as long to reach that level as it took China to reach its current level.

China's east coast, by far, has the largest population—both by numbers and per-

centages. The U.S. and China are similar in physical size, but China's population is about four times greater—and is less evenly distributed. If you drew an imaginary line from northeast China to southwest China (the so-called Aihui-Tengchong line), about 40 percent of the territory and more than 90 percent of China's population would be on the east side of that line, she explained.

China's transformation to being "the factory of the world" has propelled the growth in urbanization, as well as the fact that the movement of people within China since 1983 has been the largest internal migration in world history. Internal movements and state and external investments have fueled China's economic growth and urbanization.

A unique aspect of China's urbanization is the autonomy of local governments, she pointed out. Although China is known for its one-party, centralized national government, local governments have a big role in determining where resources are allocated. Surprisingly, China's urban areas are not as densely populated as some other Asian cities. She said that, as China urbanized, its cities—with the exception of Beijing and Shanghai—grew in land area much more extensively than population growth.

In China, arable land is scarce, but increasingly urbanization is encroaching. A key reason, she explained, is that land is leased out by local governments. The more land that they lease out, the more revenue they receive. Chinese people can lease, but not own land in cities. In addition, there is no property tax, which U.S. cities rely on for revenue. China's "ghost towns," or new developments that remain largely empty, are a result of this situation. In recent years, China has recognized that this trend toward converting arable land for urban use is not sustainable, and is working on policies to change it, she said.

As China's cities experience rapid growth, they often move backward in terms of walkability. Although China has built many subways, the use of automobiles as a primary form of transportation has risen, while the role of bikes and walking has declined. The increased reliance on automobiles has led to an increase in pollution. Another challenge facing China's cities is the nation's aging population, which is a result of the now-discontinued one-child policy.

In answer to a question, Wu predicted that China will experiment with a form of property tax on a limited basis, as it did with Special Economic Zones. Another idea under experimentation is to allow local governments to raise revenue by issuing municipal bonds.

When huge new housing complexes are built, there are national standards that require a certain number of schools, child care centers, markets and retail space—based on the population, she said in answer to another question. Even so, parking lots and garages—which are a big source of profits for companies—often take up a significant amount of space.

When asked about trash disposal, Wu said that burning is still a common method. But she noted that China no longer imports trash, as it once did for revenue, and that its waste and recycling systems in cities are being modernized.

Land leases in China typically last for 50 to 75 years. The leases in Shenzhen, China's first Special Economic Zone, will be the first to expire. Wu predicted that leases will be renewed, in order to maintain social stability.

Wu commented on the recent financial difficulties faced by the Evergrande Group, the second largest property developer in China by sales. The company raised a lot of money through pre-sales, but then some customers tried to pull out. Even so, Wu said, people have been predicting a housing bubble burst in China for more than 20 years, but it hasn't happened. One key reason is that Chinese continue to see property as a major way to invest, she pointed out. 友



Weiping Wu



Wu's 2012 book, *The Chinese City*.

Manton Family Has Five Generations of Ties to China

By Mike Revzin

Judy Manton, of USCPA's Northern New Jersey chapter, gave a presentation that traced her family's five generations of ties to China. Manton's late husband, Tom, was born to missionary parents in Burma. His grandparents, William and Elizabeth Brewster, had been missionaries in China's Fujian province, starting in 1884. Tom Manton's mother was born and grew up there.

Of the six Brewster children raised in China, three returned as missionaries. Manton described the dangers that the Brewsters faced in China during the Sino-Japanese War.

During Elizabeth's 67 years there, she and her husband were instrumental in founding 150 elementary schools, a girls college, two hospitals and an orphanage. In 1907, William Brewster wrote *The Evolution of New China*, in which he predicted that China would become a great world



Elizabeth and William Brewster

power. Although he died in 1916, his family carried on the missionary work.

"Elizabeth had campaigned against foot binding and had become famous for standing up against bandits in order to protect 'her' children in the schools and orphanages," Judy Manton told the convention. One of the Brewster children, Mary, went back to Fujian in 1914 as a teacher, and later supervised the village schools her mother had founded. She wrote 11 books for young children, which were used to teach children in Methodist churches in the U.S. about life in China.

Beheaded Bodies

Manton said that one of her mother-in-law's memories was being carried

in sedan chairs with her younger sister Karis and seeing the result of banditry: beheaded bodies.

In July 1937, Karis and Mary's brother Harold Brewster, and his wife Dorothy fled to Hong Kong, and finally to the U.S., before Japanese troops arrived in Fujian. They and their four children returned to China, but, with Communist troops approaching in 1949, they were evacuated on the last U.S. Navy ship.

Mary and her husband George, who trained future ministers, and 89-year-old Elizabeth were held in detention by Communist officials during their last year in China until they were deported in 1951.

While Judy Manton was teaching in Guangzhou in 1980, Karis and her husband, Frank Manton, and Judy's husband, sons and mother-in-law visited her. They took Judy's mother-in-law back to her birthplace, Putien. Judy's supervisor in the English department, Mr. Li, was also from that village, but was initially reluctant to give Judy his parents' contact information. "Much later he explained that his hesitation had been because his parents at that time hadn't had permission to have contact with foreigners," Manton said.

Mr. Li's parents invited Manton and her relatives into their home. Karis conversed with him in the local dialect. "Soon, through her tears of joy, she told us that Mr. Li had not only been a boarding student at Guthrie School, which her parents had co-founded, but he had also recalled the names of all of the Brewster children," Manton said. "Old Mr. Li" died shortly after the visit, at age 92.

"But the two families had reunited after 51 years of separation, as my son, Alex, wrote in a composition when he was 18 years old," she said.

"Karis found two of the houses in which her family had lived.

The missionaries had developed a romanization of Chinese characters and printed portions of the Bible in this language, as it was easier to read than Chinese characters. My mother-in-law lost part of a finger in the printing press. Karis led us to the hospital where she had been born," Manton said.

Manton taught English teachers in that community in 1984 and, through Tom's travel service, led two tour groups there. In a 2015 article for USCR, Manton wrote that her roommate in 1984 was a Chinese woman who, as a baby, had been left in a basket at the door of a British Christian orphanage. She became a Christian and, because she refused to denounce the "religion of the foreigners," later was imprisoned for three years.

China's U.N. Seat

In 1970 in Washington, Tom founded the Committee for a New China Policy to influence the U.S. and European nations to vote for the People's Republic of China to replace Taiwan in the United Nations. "As there was a lot of anti-communist sentiment in the U.S. at this time, Tom really stuck his neck out," said Manton.

After the PRC received enough votes in October 1971 to replace Taiwan, Tom received an invitation for his group to send a delegation to China. The visit took place in January 1972 and included a brief



Judy and Tom Manton meet Premier Zhou Enlai at the Great Hall of the People in 1972.

meeting with Zhou Enlai, Manton recalled when writing her story in 2015.

“Xinhua announced the arrival of our delegation. In this news release, it says that Zhou Enlai and other officials ‘had a cordial and friendly conversation with American friends now visiting Peking,’” Manton said, noting that the report included their names.

The Mantons were asked by Chinese officials to suggest a gift for China to give President Nixon on his trip to China the following month. Judy suggested a pair of pandas, which was what China ended up giving the U.S. Manton later learned that Pat Nixon had made that same suggestion.

“One of the five cities we visited during our month’s visit was Shanghai. During one of our meetings, Wang Hongwen walked over and shook Tom’s hand. At this time, he ranked third in the Communist Party hierarchy. Later he emerged as a member of the Gang of Four,” Manton said.

The Mantons were asked by Chinese officials to suggest a gift for China to give President Nixon. Judy suggested a pair of pandas.

“As the Cultural Revolution was still raging in China in 1972, we visited factories, schools, hospitals and a peoples commune,” she said, adding, “Some of the people living and working there were probably intellectuals who’d been sent to the countryside to learn from the peasants.”

“Shortly after we returned home, on TV we watched President Nixon as he met with some of the same officials we had met. On one of the news reports, we glimpsed photos of Tom and me in China and our little boy, seeing Daddy on TV and Daddy next to him, cried out ‘two Daddies,’” she recalled.

In 1973 the Mantons returned to China. They were invited to *The Red Detachment of Women* ballet, which had been performed for President Nixon a year earlier.

At that time, newspapers were posted on public notice boards. The Mantons peered over the shoulders of people who



The Mantons on their 1972 trip.

were reading the paper and saw themselves in a photo taken at a U.N. reception they had attended for the new delegation from China. “Unable to speak Chinese, we excitedly pointed to the photo and then to ourselves,” she said, but couldn’t make themselves understood.

Collecting Mao Buttons

During the Mantons’ two trips to China during the Cultural Revolution, she collected political art to illustrate presentations that she would give in the U.S. She also collected 725 Mao badges, and eventually sold her collection.

After the U.S. and China established diplomatic relations in 1979, Tom was thrilled to attend the ceremony in Beijing for the opening of the U.S. Embassy. He also formed a travel service and took many Brewster descendants back to their childhood haunts in Fujian.

The National Council of Churches’ China program later hired Judy to train English teachers. Her USCPFA chapter sponsored her efforts to distribute materials to help prepare English teachers for their work in China.

Starting in 1986, through her Teaching in China Preparation Service, she sent out materials to help prepare teachers to teach English in China.

From 1980 to 1982 she was the first foreign teacher at the South China Institute of Tech-

nology in Guangzhou. One summer she taught English teachers in her mother-in-law’s hometown, another summer in Tibet, and several summers in numerous parts of China under the auspices of the Zigen Fund’s English teachers’ training program, of which she is the director.

“The six and a half years I lived in China greatly enriched my life. And I’m grateful to the USCPFA for having enabled me to experience China,” she said.

She and Tom were the third generation of his family in China. The fourth generation was their son Alex, an international commercial photographer who lives in Singapore but who has done photography projects in China.

Judy’s grandson, Jordan, under the auspices of Purdue University, studied engineering at Jiao Tong University in Shanghai for one semester in 2014, thus becoming the fifth generation of the family to experience China. 友



Judy Manton’s grandson, Jordan

Filmmaker Describes Making Documentary on Helen Foster Snow

By Mike Revzin

Filmmaker Dodge Billingsley described to the convention how he made the documentary, *Helen Foster Snow: Witness to Revolution*. USCPFA members were able to watch the 56-minute film online in the days before and after the talk.

Helen Foster, born in Utah, went to China in 1931 at age 23. In search of adventure and with the goal of becoming a famous author, she planned to stay for one year. But she met and married Edgar Snow, the American journalist who later became famous for introducing Mao Zedong and the Chinese communists to the outside world in his book *Red Star Over China*.

The documentary explores the turmoil in China at that time, as well as the dangers and illnesses faced by the Snows. It also describes their rocky marriage, which ended in divorce in 1949. Edgar Snow later married Lois Wheeler.



Dodge Billingsley

One source of friction in Snow's first marriage was Helen Snow's frustration at being in her husband's shadow and not getting credit for her contributions to his work. "She was kind of haunted by the fact that her work didn't do as well as his," Billingsley said. Her book *Inside Red China* described life in Yan'an. It "became important literature to students all over China," according to Wikipedia, which added, "This book was supposed to be a companion work to Edgar's *Red Star Over China*, but it never received the acclaim that Edgar's work had." Carolyn Bloomer of USCPFA's Sarasota chapter points out that Helen Foster Snow's early works were published under the pen name of Nym Wales, making them hard to find and eclipsing her identity.

Billingsley admitted to the convention that, when he was invited to do a documentary on Helen Foster Snow, he didn't know who she was and he had never been to China. He has since been there 15 times, including to Yan'an, in northwest China, where Edgar Snow wrote about Mao and his comrades. When Chinese ask

Billingsley where he has traveled in China, they are surprised when he mentions Yan'an, he said.

As he did research on Edgar and Helen Snow, Billingsley said, "I found it incredibly fascinating." Helen Snow "really was an adventurous spirt," he said, adding that the documentary, produced in 2000, is popular in women's studies classes because of its portrayal of a strong woman. Billingsley said making the documentary "changed my life," and gave him a deeper appreciation for China.

The Snows became involved in China's student movement, and some of their friends from that period later became government officials when the People's Republic of China was established. One of those interviewed in the film was Huang Hua, who became foreign minister and vice premier. The movie, filmed in China and the U.S., includes reenactments of scenes from the Snows' life in China. Helen Snow, who spent nearly a decade there, thought that foreigners living in China did not understand Chinese society, ancient or modern, according to the documentary.

In a 1970 interview, Mao told Edgar Snow that President Nixon would be welcome to visit. Although that message helped lead to Nixon's visit, Edgar Snow died in 1972, at age 66, in Switzerland—just days before Nixon made that historic trip. Helen Snow died in the U.S. in 1997 at age 89.



The statue of Helen Foster Snow in her hometown, Cedar City, Utah.



Helen Foster Snow and Edgar Snow



Helen with Zhu De, who later became the vice chairman of the People's Republic of China, in Yan'an in 1937. Photo: China Daily

In the 1980s, Helen Foster Snow was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in China. In her memoir *My China Years*, she wrote, "The nomination was not for any particular achievement, but for the potential that my ideas and world view hold for peace and progress in the world." 友



Helen Foster Snow with then-Foreign Minister Huang Hua in 1978. (Brigham Young University, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Lee Library, Helen Foster Snow Papers)

On 50th Anniversary of Nixon's China Trip, a Look at How U.S. Journalists Covered It

The title of the documentary *The Week That Changed the World* comes from President Richard Nixon's apt description of his February 1972 trip to China. On the 50th anniversary of that historic visit, USCR summarizes that documentary, which was made 10 years ago by the University of Southern California's U.S.-China Institute (USCI). It includes historic video from that week, along with interviews with diplomats and journalists who participated in the historic trip. The video is available on the USCI website and on its YouTube channel.

Reported and narrated by U.S.-China Institute Senior Fellow Mike Chinoy, formerly CNN's Senior Asia Correspondent and Beijing Bureau Chief, the film offers a fascinating and previously untold perspective on one of the most important historical moments of the 20th century.

Richard Nixon's visit to China in February 1972 changed the course of history—reshaping the global balance of power and opening the door to the establishment of relations between the People's Republic and the United States.

It was also a milestone in the history of journalism. Since the Communist revolution of 1949, a suspicious regime in Beijing had barred virtually all U.S. reporters from China. For the Nixon trip, however, the Chinese agreed to accept nearly 100 journalists, and to allow the most dramatic events—Nixon's arrival in Beijing, Zhou Enlai's welcoming banquet, visits to the Great Wall and the Forbidden City—to be televised live.

The coverage was arguably as important as the details of the diplomacy. It profoundly transformed American and international perceptions of a long-isolated China, generated the public support Nixon needed to change U.S. policy, and laid the groundwork for Beijing's gradual move to open China to greater international media coverage.

While the outlines of the Nixon trip are familiar, the behind-the-scenes story of how that momentous event was covered



The Nixons were accompanied by reporters wherever they went. (Oliver Atkins, National Archives)

is much less well-known. The documentary focuses on journalists who went with Nixon and includes interviews with those officials who sought to shape the coverage.

The *Week that Changed the World* contains previously unreleased footage of the Nixon visit, as well as interviews with journalistic luminaries such as Dan Rather and Bernard Kalb of CBS, Ted Koppel and Tom Jarriel of ABC, Barbara Walters of NBC, Max Frankel of the *New York Times*, Stanley Karnow of the *Washington Post*, and many others.

February 21–28, 1972: The Week That Changed the World

By Mike Chinoy

“It was gloomy and cold, with snow threatening, but an arctic blizzard couldn't have dampened President Nixon's high spirits this morning,” said ABC's Sam Donaldson while watching the departure ceremony.

On a chilly day in February 1972, President Richard Nixon, the ultimate anti-communist Cold Warrior, left Washington for Beijing, the heart of Communist China.

Nixon, speaking on the South Lawn of the White House, stated, “The government of the



Mike Chinoy

People's Republic of China and the government of the United States have had great differences. We will have differences in the future. But what we must do is to find a way to see that we can have differences without being enemies in war.”

For the president, and the reporters accompanying him, the China trip was a journey into the unknown.

“I just found myself thinking ‘What is President Nixon getting into, what is the United States of America getting into, and what are we journalists getting into?’” recalled Dan Rather in an interview for this report.

The Nixon staff understood how important the press was to the success of the trip.

“We always had a purpose. The purpose would underscore a presidential initiative

and, coupled with that, would be what you would call a media plan. And we would figure out what we would want to have the headline, the picture, the story and the caption,” recalled Dwight Chapin, a Nixon staffer.

The story here was Richard Nixon, trying to counter the Soviet Union and perhaps help the U.S. extricate itself from the war in Vietnam, reversing two decades of hostility to Mao Zedong's China.

Kissinger's Secret Trip

In July 1971, Nixon sent National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger, in utmost secrecy, to Beijing at the invitation of Premier Zhou Enlai. The hope was to arrange a presidential visit.

Continued on next page

Nixon in China (continued)

Winston Lord, Kissinger's aide who later served as U.S. ambassador to China, accompanied Kissinger.

"We were in uncharted waters," said Lord. "We hadn't had any contact with the Chinese for over two decades. We had been at war in Korea, we had constant propaganda exchanges and mutual isolation. So, there was a chance that this trip would not be successful obviously."

Nixon and Kissinger were terrified that news of Kissinger's trip would leak out to reporters. "To raise expectations and have all this drama and then have it all go down the tubes would have been unfortunate," explained Lord. "But more specifically, if word got out in advance, first, in the United States, those who were fiercely against any rapprochement with the Chinese, and the pro-Taiwan lobby, would be invading the White House and pressuring us either to call it off or restraining what we could do."

But Kissinger's mission remained secret until Nixon's stunning announcement on TV on July 15, 1971 that he would visit China.

From the start, Nixon was obsessed with the press, with which he had a famously hostile relationship. He was worried that they would sabotage his China initiative. Yet as the China visit approached, the White House knew the press coverage was crucial.

The Chinese had their own doubts about the U.S. media. Yao Wei was then a young official with the Chinese Foreign Ministry's information department.

"We had the Korean War between the U.S. and China, and the animosity of the Cold War. China, of course was suspicious. A lot of people were suspicious or skeptical," he recalled.

Nixon Sought TV Coverage

Nixon and Kissinger "wanted this dramatic event to be covered as widely as possibly by the American media, not to mention the world media," said Lord. "The Chinese, of course, had been incredibly paranoid and secretive and controlling the press completely, and had never been used to having any more than one press attaché accompany a foreign leader. So, you had these two cultural and political giants clashing here."

After difficult negotiations, China agreed to visas for 87 U.S. journalists and several dozen technicians.

Ron Walker, Nixon's chief advance man, said of the Chinese knowledge of American journalists, "I don't think they had a clue. I don't think they had any idea what was about to fall upon them."

In newsrooms in the U.S. there was intense jockeying among reporters desperate to get on the historic trip. Nixon vowed to exclude reporters from the newspapers he most disliked, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Eventually, Nixon's press secretary, Ron Ziegler and White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman convinced the president he could not bar those major newspaper from the China trip.

Traveling on *Ni Hao One*

A half dozen reporters made up the White House pool, traveling with the president on Air Force One. The rest of the press corps traveled on two specially chartered planes—dubbed, *Ni Hao One* and *Ni Hao Two*—with Chinese characters and the *pinyin* words on the sides of the planes.

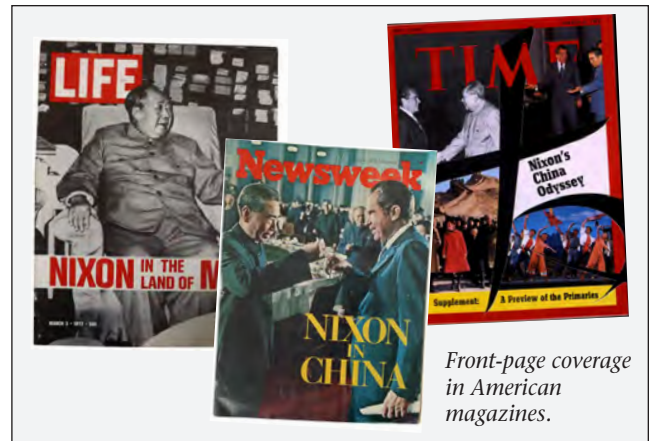
On the flight across the Pacific, the atmosphere was almost giddy. "It was pretty much a party atmosphere," said Rather. "We're going to China. China, closed for all these years. It was a little bit the feeling we're leaving Earth and going deep into the cosmos to some distant planet."

Barbara Walters, of NBC's *Today Show*, admitted, "I knew nothing about China. Nobody had any idea what it really looked like. It really was like going to the moon. What are we going to see? We had no idea what to expect."

Theodore White, who had covered China in the 1940s for *Time* magazine, was an exception. Most of the reporters knew little of China. Their perceptions were shaped by nearly a quarter century of isolation and hostility.

As Air Force One descended toward Beijing, Nixon and his staff were well aware of how crucial the first TV images would be in setting the tone for the entire trip.

"We knew the world was going to see this event and it was going to be huge," said Walker. "We were opening the door



Front-page coverage in American magazines.

to a billion people that had been isolated. Everything we did was for that camera."

Chapin, Nixon's appointment secretary, recalled, "It was very clear that, upon arrival, that we would have the president and Mrs. Nixon down those stairs and that picture with Zhou Enlai would be an incredibly important picture. That was the establishing shot in virtually every newspaper the next morning."

A Crucial Handshake

Waiting at the Beijing airport, the reporters too wondered about the moment. "I had in mind the refusal of John Foster Dulles, in the 1954 Vietnam conference, his refusal to shake Zhou Enlai's hand," said Max Frankel of the *New York Times*. "So, I was particularly straining to see Nixon shaking Zhou Enlai's hand at the airport."

The arrival was broadcast live by all of the U.S. networks. Robert Siegenthaler, who was the news pool coordinator, said he was so involved with the logistics that he didn't have time to reflect on the historic occasion.

Low-Key Reception

Apart from Premier Zhou, a handful of other officials, the Chinese army band and a guard of honor, the welcome was decidedly low-key. The band played both countries' national anthems, and Nixon reviewed the honor guard. But the reception remained low-key even as Nixon, his entourage and the press corps headed into Beijing.

Barbara Walters recalled, "There were not people lined up in the streets... there were no cheers."

For a president used to pomp, pageantry and crowds, the austere reception left Nixon's aides and a skeptical press wondering about the prospects for the visit.

Ted Koppel of ABC News commented, “When the Nixon motorcade came into Tiananmen Square, you would have expected that the sight of a big American limousine, a couple of limousines, and all the escort vehicles that were going by with the American flag flying from the fender would have attracted some attention. It did not.”

Surprise Invitation from Mao

Nixon was taken to the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. The official schedule called for a rest. But, Lord recalled, “An hour after we got to the guesthouse... to our surprise, Zhou Enlai came back and said to Kissinger. ‘The chairman would like to see the president right away.’ This caught us off guard.”

Walker said, “Zhou Enlai just came and took the president and Henry. We had one (Secret Service) agent with him, and we had no clue as to where he was going.”

The meeting with Mao lasted an hour, the two leaders talking mostly in generalities. But the mere fact it took place meant that Mao had given his blessing to a new relationship with the U.S.

Lord recalled how the U.S. officials felt at the time. “We were delighted... because this was saying to the Chinese audiences and the cadres and the world that, even not knowing how the negotiations and the communique and everything else on the trip was going to come out, he (Mao) was putting his positive stamp on it.”

After the Mao-Nixon meeting, U.S. officials would only say that the two leaders had “held serious and frank discussions.” That no American journalists were allowed to cover the meeting left the reporters furious.

For Nixon, it didn’t matter. He had the image he wanted. The first meeting with Mao by an American leader.

Made for TV

Walker said Zhou unexpectedly took Nixon to the Great Hall of the People for a meeting. As the Nixon-Zhou meeting ended, the press corps was assembled on the steps of the Great Hall to watch the president arrive for a welcoming banquet—another event designed for American TV.

Richard Solomon, a Kissinger aide, explained, “They timed events so that, because of the 12-hour time difference... there would be evening events, for exam-



Zhou Enlai greets the Nixons.

ple the banquets, that would be timed for the morning television shows.”

The obvious and surprising warmth as Nixon exchanged toasts with Zhou and other officials was evident to U.S. television viewers, and it was exactly what the White House wanted.

Chapin said, “We knew there were going to be toasts, and clicking of the glasses,

No one knows if the president has taken chopsticks lessons yet.

and that was what we were after. That was the shot.”

The next day, after a brief photo opportunity, Nixon and Kissinger began negotiations with Zhou on a communique that would inform the basis of a new U.S.-China relationship. Both sides agreed on the need for secrecy.

While the content of the talks remained secret, Zhou had ensured that the official *People’s Daily* highlighted the Mao meeting and Nixon’s presence in Beijing.

Tom Jarriel, who was with ABC News, reported at the time, “Today’s edition of the Communist Party-controlled newspaper *People’s Daily* removes the question mark by coming out with full front-page coverage, including three photographs and two banner headlines on the Nixon visit.”

With the real business of the summit taking place behind closed doors, the reporters were left to cover Mrs. Nixon, or offered carefully controlled visits to various work units.

Koppel, recalling the limits, joked, “We would each be given a menu of events first thing in the morning. You could pick, quite literally, one from Column A and one from Column B. You could go to the Chinese-Korean peoples friendship commune or you could go to a hospital and observe an operation being done with nothing more than those little needles being manipulated.” Mrs. Nixon’s first foray was to the kitchen of the Beijing Hotel.

In fact, everything about China was so new to Americans, that ABC had Jim Thompson, a Harvard China expert, appear on camera in the U.S. to teach anchor Howard K. Smith how to use chopsticks. “I am told that Mr. Kissinger has improved his technique,” Thompson confided, adding “No one knows if the president has taken chopsticks lessons yet.”

Continued on next page



American viewers watched the banquet on TV.

Nixon in China *(continued)*

Revolutionary Ballet

On the second night, the president and his party were invited to the theater to see a revolutionary ballet promoted by Jiang Qing, Chairman Mao's wife, who was opposed to accommodation with the West.

The ballet, *The Red Detachment of Women*, was broadcast live by the U.S. networks. As Ted Koppel deadpanned from the scene, "This opera, as are all the operas that are currently in favor in the People's Republic of China, has a none-too-subtle political theme."

When it ended, Nixon, flanked by Zhou on one side and by Jiang Qing, Zhou's bitter political rival, on the other, clapped politely. Later, when asked by reporters, he struggled to find something positive to say. "The ballet was a, was a, of course as we all know, had its message," Nixon concluded.

The morning after the ballet, it snowed. American journalists woke up to a sight they had never seen. Said Rather, "I went to the window and just before dawn, thousands, many thousands of Chinese, men and women, with rudimentary rakes and brushes, were cleaning the streets and sidewalks of snow, by hand. I sat at the window in transfixed awe..."

All the reporters accompanying Nixon were assigned Chinese government minders. They served as translators and guides but were also there to keep the press in line. "The minders were uptight," said Rather. "Their instructions were 'Don't let them go where they're not supposed to go.'"

Koppel tried without success to get interpreters to tell him a Chinese joke. "I



Nixon received an unexpected invitation to meet Mao.

don't know any jokes," was the response.

Despite the drama, as Nixon's visit progressed, the reporters became increasingly frustrated with their inability to get beyond staged events and photo opportunities. Frankel said the press asked for an opportunity to meet some "real people." The result, the Chinese took the press on a visit to a people's commune.

"Perhaps no single aspect of life in Communist China has received more publicity and less understanding in the United States than that of the commune," Koppel reported. "The Red Star People's Commune, which is on the outskirts of Peking, is reputed to be one of the best in China which, quite obviously, is why we were brought here."

Some journalists, including Robert Keatley of the *Wall Street Journal*, were taken to Peking University, where they met the vice chairman of the revolutionary committee and an American-educated physicist.

"This was an intelligent, accomplished man who was well known in his field. And he sat there and described how, thanks to the thoughts of Chairman Mao, they had reorganized the university and let workers and peasants in. But, of course, nobody was there, the school was basically shut down. It was just all nonsense. And you just felt sorry for him because you know you couldn't believe a word he said."

Some of the reporters decided to elude their minders and strike out on their own. "I managed to shake the minders, and

there were several of them, for just a couple of minutes and got what couldn't have been more than three quarters of a block around the corner from the hotel into a small shop and the camera crew joined me there," recalled Rather.

"The minders came in just as we were starting to videotape with the camera rolling," said Rather. "They said, 'You're not supposed to be here. You've got to go back to the hotel.'"

There was also tension within the press corps. Frankel recalled, "We became factionalized because the print people wanted some real contact, wanted to really get to talk to some Chinese people...and we wanted some sense of the real diplomacy going on, whereas the TV people were transmitting pictures that were in themselves a sufficient novelty to satisfy their curiosities and their needs."

At the heart of the tension was the fact that the White House, recognizing the power of television, had designed the trip with TV coverage as a top priority.

Thousands of Chinese were cleaning the streets and sidewalks of snow, by hand.

Nowhere was the impact of television more evident than when Nixon visited the Great Wall. The images from the Great Wall were spectacular, and Nixon was left almost at a loss for words. "I think you would have to conclude that this is a great wall," Nixon said in the film clip from the documentary. [Editor: The entire quote was, "I think that you would have to conclude that this is a great wall and that it had to be built by a great people."]

The next stop was the Ming Tombs. In the documentary, Yao Wei explained that the Beijing foreign affairs bureau was led by a military representative, who arranged for school children to be there, all dressed in colorful sweaters and holding transistor radios.

Koppel recalled, "This was late February, damn cold out there, and here were all these Chinese wearing their warmest gear, but they were there taking photographs of one another, listening to the radio, having a picnic. And I thought to myself, 'This is really dumb.'"



Scene from the revolutionary ballet. (Byron Schumaker, National Archives)

In his report at the time, Koppel said, "Nixon visited the Ming Tombs today. He found an idyllic scene... the great masses sitting around in their Sunday finery. There were just a couple of things wrong with the picture though. These people were especially brought here so they could be seen by the Nixon party and photographed by the (newsmen) traveling with the president. These pictures were, in short, a put-up job."

Yao Wei admitted, "He can tell that they staged things. I felt so embarrassed."

"In fact," said Koppel, "Henry Kissinger told me later that, after our piece aired... he received an apology from Zhou Enlai who said, 'That was really ham-fisted of us and I'm sorry that we did that.'"

The next day, as the cameras rolled and the snow fell, Nixon toured the Forbidden City, another compelling photo opportunity. Nicholas Platt was on the trip as an aide to Secretary of State William Rogers.

"The White House was choreographing it, and the Chinese understood exactly what they were trying to do and were very supportive of their efforts," said Platt.

With a presidential election scheduled in the U.S. for November 1972, some correspondents began to feel they were little more than props in a giant Nixon campaign commercial.

The frustration of the press was compounded because the reporters were getting almost no details about Nixon's talks with the Chinese.

As they left Beijing to cover Nixon's next stops, the scenic area of Hangzhou, and then Shanghai, the press remained in the dark about the negotiations.

In their private meetings, Nixon and Kissinger had reached agreement with the Chinese on a communique. The sticking point had been Taiwan. The Americans and Chinese found a formula to acknowledge Beijing's claim to the island while stressing the U.S. commitment to resolving the issue peacefully. But the text of the communique wasn't shared with Rogers.

"I thought that there was difficulty in drafting the Shanghai Communique between the American delegation and the Chinese," said Stanley Karnow of the *Washington Post*. "What I didn't realize was the problem was within the American delegation when Marshall Green (Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs) who was on the trip objected to

the cavalier way that they brushed off Taiwan."

Platt recalled, "They (State Department experts) looked at it analytically. They said there's some mistakes here. And there's some wording changes that really need to be made. Some issues that need to be addressed."

The main one, which Green and Rogers raised with Nixon and Kissinger during the president's stop in Hangzhou, had to do with Taiwan. Kissinger had agreed on language reiterating Washington's mutual security treaties with Japan and South Korea, while there was no reference to U.S. treaty obligations to Taiwan. Kissinger had also accepted China's demand to include

With the exception of a president going to Mars, nobody is going to be able to do a trip like that again.

the phrase "All Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait agreed that there is one China." Green argued that not all people in Taiwan accepted this view.

Chapin described the scene: "There was significant concern and there was a lot of tension. There was tension with the president. There was tension within the staff. There was tension in terms of how it was going to be interpreted back at home among the conservatives. It was a very, very delicate several hours."

Platt said that Kissinger and Nixon were furious at the impasse.

However, the Chinese would not agree to drop the word *all*. And the Chinese refused to accept any reference to the U.S.-Taiwan defense treaty. Kissinger eventually agreed to eliminate the section on U.S. security commitments altogether. The word *all* remained in the document. The agreement was unveiled in Shanghai, Nixon's last stop. It became known as the Shanghai Communique. The president's conservative critics were bitterly opposed. One newspaper wrote, "They got Taiwan, we got eggrolls." That was a minority view.

Platt called the communique, "Eminently skillful because it finessed the whole issue. It allowed us to sidestep Taiwan and get on with the business of forming a relationship with the mainland."

Indeed, for the president and for most Americans, the power of the images was much more important than the details of the communique.

Added Jarriel, "Nixon knew he was going to get this political windfall beyond his greatest wishes. Whether they had a communique at the end of the talks was important for the diplomats and important for the political foreign affairs reporters. But, for the generalists like me, he had already hit the home run."

Like their viewers, the reporters were captivated by what they saw in China. "It was China," said Bernard Kalb of CBS. "The mystery, the dragon, the hidden kingdom, secret country. And the television was a 'wow' because everything in China, wherever you put your camera, you got exotic pictures."

Nixon and his entourage said their farewells to Zhou and other Chinese officials at the Shanghai airport. There was also a farewell banquet for the exhausted reporters.

"I literally fell asleep on my plate," Frankel recalled. "I conked over the table, and somebody had to revive me."

For old China hands like Theodore White, to the vast majority who'd never been there or covered the country, the reporters' heads were spinning as they tried to process what they had seen on the trip.

"Nixon called it the week that changed the world, and it *was* a big event," said Karnow.

"This is what's important: it changed our view of China, but it also changed China's view of the United States," said Walters.

"I think, from the pictures, it introduced the American public to almost a magic kingdom," said Jarriel.

"The impact of television on an American audience was extraordinary," said Kalb. "China had suddenly come alive, and all the rest was commentary."

Dirck Halstead, a UPI photographer, summed it up this way: "The Nixon trip to China, without any doubt, was the most important presidential trip ever. With the exception of a president going to Mars, nobody is going to be able to do a trip like that again." 友

What Nixon's Trip Meant for China and My Family

By Yihua Li Tu

When I started my university education in China in 1950, the last thing that I could have imagined was that a U.S. president would one day visit our country. I began college at Shanghai's prestigious St. John's University, which was founded in 1879 by Anglican missionaries. Most instruction was conducted in English. I chose journalism as my major, but switched to the English department after one year.

After the Korean War broke out, all the schools funded by Christian churches in China were closed down. The students were transferred to other universities. The St. John's College of Arts became part of Shanghai's Fudan University in the autumn of 1952.

In this period of hostility between China and the U.S., a nationwide "Anti-U.S. Imperialism Campaign" was carried out. Through political education, we were taught that the U.S. was China's arch enemy.

China's first five-year plan started in 1953, the year that I graduated. Because the country was in urgent need of qualified personnel for all branches of reconstruction work, our four-year college program had been condensed to three years.

All university graduates were assigned to jobs where the country needed them. I was sent to work for the Department of Cultural Exchanges of the Shanghai municipality.

In 1957 I was transferred to Beijing to work in the International Liaison Department of the All-China Journalists Association, which was affiliated with the *People's Daily*. My job was to take visiting foreign journalists to see various parts of the country. During the 1950s, China had diplomatic relations with about 25 countries. At that time, most of the journalists we received were from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe.

During the disastrous years of the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976), the All-China Journalists Association was closed down. Together with some of my colleagues I was sent to the countryside to work in the fields, off and on, for almost three years.

I remember one hot summer day in July 1971 when I and several other senior staff members in the International News Department went down to the courtyard of the office building to do cleaning work assigned to us. "We are intellectuals, but we should also do manual work," was our motto in those days.

During a break, one of the senior editors in our group said in a hushed tone, "I have big news that will shock you. U.S. President Nixon will visit China!" None of us uttered a word, but our jaws dropped and our eyes widened. We understood that no one could make such a decision except Chairman Mao. But we had to keep our mouths shut because, in China, every piece of news was a state secret until it was officially made public. The bombshell announcement of Nixon's planned visit to China was finally made public on July 16, 1971.

Nixon arrived in Beijing on February 21, 1972. It had snowed heavily in Beijing during the night. At dawn, thousands of Beijing citizens were mobilized to sweep the streets that the motorcade would take from the airport. There were no machines available, only manual labor to do this job. I remember that the Chinese and foreign press reported on this great effort.

The day that Nixon came knocking on China's door was also the first day of primary school for my elder daughter.

These events happened a half century ago, but still remain fresh in my memory.

Harry Tu and Yihua Li Tu wrote this book, *Light and Truth*, about Harry Tu's father, Dr. Y.C. Tu, who served as president of St. John's University and was imprisoned for four years for his association with that Christian institution.



Harry Tu and Yihua Li Tu in Sanya, Hainan Island, in 2020.

The year 1972 also has special meaning for my family. Dr. Y.C. Tu, my husband's father, had been president of St. John's University from 1946 to 1948. Because of his affiliation with this Christian institution, he was falsely accused during the Cultural Revolution of being a U.S. spy and was incarcerated for four years. Nixon's visit to China helped, to some degree, to relax the political situation in China, and Y.C. Tu was released in 1972.

After the Cultural Revolution ended, I was assigned to work for the International News Department of the *People's Daily*, doing translations and writing articles for the Sunday supplement pages.

In the years since Deng Xiaoping first opened China to the outside world, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of overseas visits by Chinese journalists, as well as the number of visits by foreign journalists to China. The International Liaison Department of the All-China Journalists Association reopened and has been active ever since.

I was called back to be the deputy director of the Liaison Department in 1979. I joined a Chinese journalists delegation to Australia in 1979 and to Germany in 1980. I came to the U.S. in 1982 as a visiting scholar at the University of Utah, where my husband was working on a Ph.D. degree. In 1984 I brought our two daughters over to the U.S. to study. 友

Yihua Li Tu and her husband, Harry Tu, live in Santa Clara, California.



Transcript of Nixon's Surprise Announcement of the China Breakthrough

On July 15, 1971, from an NBC television studio in Burbank, California, President Richard Nixon made the surprise announcement that he would visit China. Here is what he said:

I have requested this television time tonight to announce a major development in our efforts to build a lasting peace in the world. As I have pointed out on a number of occasions over the past three years, there can be no stable and enduring peace without the participation of the People's Republic of China and its 750 million people.



That is why I have undertaken initiatives in several areas to open the door for more normal relations between our two countries. In pursuance of that goal, I sent Dr. Kissinger, my Assistant for National Security Affairs, to Peking during his recent world trip for the purpose of having talks with Premier Zhou Enlai.

The announcement I shall now read is being issued simultaneously in Peking and in the United States:

Premier Zhou Enlai and Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's assistant for national security affairs, held talks in Peking from July 9 to 11, 1971. Knowing of President Nixon's expressed desire to visit the People's Republic of China, Premier Zhou Enlai, on behalf of the government of the People's Republic of China, has extended an invitation to President Nixon to visit China at an appropriate date before May 1972. President Nixon has accepted the invitation with pleasure.

The meeting between the leaders of China and the United States is to seek the normalization of relations between the two countries and also to exchange views on questions of concern to the two sides.

In anticipation of the inevitable speculation which will follow this announcement, I want to put our policy in the clearest possible context. Our action in seeking a new relationship with the People's Republic of China will not be at the expense of our old friends. It is not directed against any other nation. We seek friendly relations with all nations. Any nation can be our

friend without being any other nation's enemy.

I have taken this action because of my profound conviction that all nations will gain from a reduction of tensions and a better relationship between the United

States and the People's Republic of China. It is in this spirit that I will undertake what I deeply hope will become a journey for peace, not just for our generation but for future generations on this Earth we share together. 友

Interpreter Gained Fame During Nixon's Visit

By Mike Revzin

Does she look familiar? You might not know her name, but you've probably seen her face in photos or videos of President Nixon's trip to China. Or maybe you remember a caricature of her in the *Doodlesbury* comic strip.

Tang Wensheng, or Nancy Tang, was the principal English language interpreter for Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. She also translated for Nixon and Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, at a performance of the revolutionary opera *Red Detachment of Women*.

Tang was born in 1943 in New York. Her father, Tang Mingzhao, born in China, founded a Chinese-language newspaper in New York. In the 1950s the family moved to China. She later enrolled at the Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages.

China.org refers to her as one of the top English interpreters in the history of "New China's" diplomacy. In addition to her work for Mao and Zhou, she later was Deng Xiaoping's interpreter.

At the Mao-Nixon meeting, Henry Kissinger joked with Nancy Tang that she, being born in the U.S., could become the first woman president of the United States while he, born in Germany, was ineligible to run for that office.

Recollecting on Nixon's trip, Tang said, "I do think that [the Chinese delegation] respected President Nixon very much, because he was a man of courage to come to a country as the president of the United States, which was a major superpower at that time, to a country with which it had no diplomatic relations... He was bold enough to do so, and he spoke very candidly." Tang also said that the U.S. delegation initially came off as "condescending," before treating the Chinese delegation as "equals," accord-



Translator Tang Wensheng with Richard Nixon and Jiang Qing.

ing to interviews cited by Wikipedia.

In 1971, when the People's Republic of China was seated in the United Nations, Nancy Tang's father became a member of China's first official delegation to that organization.

In addition to her distinguished career in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nancy Tang served as deputy editor-in-chief of the English language *China Daily* newspaper in 1984.

She also served as a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the vice chairman of the Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese Affairs Committee, adviser to the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, and vice president of China's Soong Ching Ling Foundation.

Tang became such a familiar figure that she was even portrayed in the opera *Nixon in China*, which premiered in Houston in 1987. (See previous page.)

She is also reported to be at least part of the inspiration for the *Doodlesbury* comic strip character Honey. 友



Nixon: Trip Started the Long Process of Bridging the Gulf with China

President's Remarks Upon Returning from China

Editor: Here are excerpts from the comments President Nixon made on February 28, 1972, upon returning from his China trip.

I want to express my very deep appreciation, and the appreciation of all of us, for this wonderfully warm welcome that you have given us and for the support that we have had on the trip that we have just completed from Americans of both political parties and all walks of life across this land.

Because of the superb efforts of the hardworking members of the press who accompanied us—they got even less sleep than I did—millions of Americans in this past week have seen more of China than I did.

When I announced this trip last July, I described it as a journey for peace. In the last 30 years, Americans have in three different wars gone off by the hundreds of thousands to fight, and some to die, in Asia and in the Pacific. One of the central motives behind my journey to China was to prevent that from happening a fourth time to another generation of Americans.

As I have often said, peace means more than the mere absence of war. In a technical sense, we were at peace with the People's Republic of China before this trip, but a gulf of almost 12,000 miles and 22 years of noncommunication and hostility separated the United States of America from the 750 million people who live in the People's Republic of China, and that is one-fourth of all the people in the world.

As a result of this trip, we have started the long process of building a bridge across that gulf, and even now we have something better than the mere absence of war. We have demonstrated that nations with very deep and fundamental differences can learn to discuss those differences calmly, rationally, and frankly, without compromising their principles.

The primary goal of this trip was to reestablish communication with the People's Republic of China after a generation of hostility. We achieved that goal.

We did not bring back any written or unwritten agreements that will guarantee peace in our time. We did not bring

home any magic formula which will make unnecessary the efforts of the American people to continue to maintain the strength so that we can continue to be free.

We made some necessary and important beginnings, however, in several areas. We entered into agreements to expand cultural, educational, and journalistic contacts between the Chinese and the American people. We agreed to work to begin and broaden trade between our two countries.

Most important, we have agreed on some rules of international conduct which will reduce the risk of confrontation and war in Asia and in the Pacific.

We agreed that we are opposed to domination of the Pacific area by any one power. We agreed that international dis-

We entered into agreements to expand cultural, educational, and journalistic contacts between the Chinese and the American people.

putes should be settled without the use of the threat of force, and we agreed that we are prepared to apply this principle to our mutual relations.

With respect to Taiwan, we stated our established policy that our forces overseas will be reduced gradually as tensions ease, and that our ultimate objective is to withdraw our forces as a peaceful settlement is achieved.



President Nixon and Premier Zhou
Photo: Richard Nixon Library

We have agreed that we will not negotiate the fate of other nations behind their backs, and we did not do so at Peking. There were no secret deals of any kind. We have done all this without giving up any United States commitment to any other country.

In our talks, the talks that I had with the leaders of the People's Republic and that the Secretary of State had with the office of the government of the People's Republic in the foreign affairs area, we both realized that a bridge of understanding that spans almost 12,000 miles and 22 years of hostility can't be built in one week of discussions. But we have agreed to begin to build that bridge, recognizing that our work will require years of patient effort. We made no attempt to pretend that major differences did not exist between our two governments, because they do exist.

This communique was unique in honestly setting forth differences rather than trying to cover them up with diplomatic double-talk.

As I am sure you realize, it was a great experience for us to see the timeless wonders of ancient China, the changes that are being made in modern China. And one fact stands out, among many others, from my talks with the Chinese leaders: It is their total belief, their total dedication, to their system of government. That is their right, just as it is the right of any country to choose the kind of government it wants.

But as I return from this trip, just as has been the case on my return from other trips abroad which have taken me to over 80 countries, I come back to America with an even stronger faith in our system of government.

As I flew across America today, all the way from Alaska, over the Rockies, the Plains, and then on to Washington, I thought of the greatness of our country and, most of all, I thought of the freedom, the opportunity, the progress that 200 million Americans are privileged to enjoy. I realized again this is a beautiful country. And tonight my prayer and my hope is that as a result of this trip, our children will have a better chance to grow up in a peaceful world. 友

Historic Trip Resulted in *Nixon in China* Opera

By Mike Revzin

One of the more unusual things to come out of President Nixon's trip to China was the American opera *Nixon in China*. The three-act production debuted in Houston in 1987, was later performed by the New York Metropolitan Opera, other opera companies in North America and Europe, and on PBS TV.

The opera's action depicts real-life events, beginning with Nixon's arrival. A huge mockup of Nixon's plane fills the stage, followed by the president descending the steps and shaking hands with Zhou Enlai. Later, the audience sees U.S. and Chinese officials at banquets, Mao and Nixon holding a meeting, Mrs. Nixon visiting a glass factory and a commune, and the entourage attending a performance of *The Red Detachment of Women*.

Actors portray Nixon, Pat Nixon, Henry Kissinger, Mao Zedong, Zhou, Mao's wife Jiang Qing and Nancy Tang, China's American-born interpreter.

Nixon Dances on Table

At times, the opera dramatically departs from reality. Nixon never danced on a banquet table, as he does in the opera. Jiang Qing never burst out singing, "I am the wife of Mao Zedong," with ominous-sounding music, as she does in the opera. Many scenes show not what really happened, but what the characters might have been thinking.

At the performance of the *Red Detachment of Women*, Pat Nixon becomes so upset at the abuse of a peasant girl that she rushes onto the stage to try to protect her. When Nixon walks up to a bank of news microphones, he sings. At another point, Nixon proclaims, "Everyone listen, just let me say one thing. I opposed China. I was wrong."

In a song called "News," Nixon sings, "News has a kind of mystery: When I shook hands with Zhou Enlai on this bare field outside Peking, just now, the world was listening. Though we spoke quietly the eyes and ears of history caught every gesture."

A 2012 Xinhua story about the opera explains the fictional scene where Nixon dances on a table. "The dance reflects Nixon's enthusiasm for the momentous occasion."

The article continues, "According to internationally recognized baritone James Maddalena, who plays Nixon in the production, 'The very power of *Nixon in China* hinges on the personal insight and emotion of a political figure on a state visit.

What opera does is give you a heightened look upon any event because, unlike coverage on a network or CNN, there is artistic license, and we go inside these people and imagine what was going on in their minds. Particularly, in this production there are many moments where characters sort of step out of the reality of the situation, and we see what it is like for them and their imagination.'"

Mixed Reviews

The opera, written by John Adams, with libretto by Alice Goodman, received mixed reviews from critics, but many members of the public enjoyed it.

Program notes from the New York Metropolitan Opera's 2011 performance noted that other operas have focused on historical figures, "Yet when *Nixon in China* premiered at Houston Grand Opera almost a quarter-century ago, it set an influential precedent: Not only did the opera focus on a moment within living memory, but it presented the history of our own time as it was being self-consciously made. President Richard Nixon's trip to meet with Chairman Mao Zedong, undertaken at the height of the Cold War, unfolded as an archetypal media event... *Nixon in China*, in a sense, represents 'a media event about a media event.'"

"The nature of opera, with its blend of artistic disciplines, proves uniquely well-suited to the structure underlying *Nixon in China* as it modulates back and



The opera *Nixon in China*. Photo: San Francisco Opera

forth between grandly thrilling spectacle and introspective doubt," it added.

"Adams himself was initially resistant to the idea that a young director named Peter Sellars suggested to him when they met for the first time in 1983," according to the notes.

Wikipedia, summarizing what opera publications have written, said, "Sellars was intrigued by Nixon's decision to make the China visit, seeing it as both 'a ridiculously cynical election ploy...and a historical breakthrough.' Adams was initially skeptical, assuming that Sellars was proposing a satire. Sellars persisted, however, and Adams, who had interested himself in the origin of myths, came to believe the opera could show how mythic origins may be found in contemporary history. Both men agreed that the opera would be heroic in nature, rather than poking fun at Nixon or Mao."

Those notes summarize the opera's ending by saying, "The last evening in Peking. The pomp and public displays of the presidential visit are over, and the main players all return to the solitude of their bedrooms. The talk turns to memories of the past. Mao and his wife dance, and the Nixons recall the early days of their marriage. Zhou concludes the opera with the question of whether anything they did (during Nixon's China trip) was good."

The opera, and excerpts, can be found on YouTube.com. 友

Chapter Members Fight Anti-Asian Hate with Education, Love

By *Winny Lin*

Last March, six women of Asian descent were among eight people shot to death by a man in the Atlanta area. This sent a shock wave across the nation, and I wondered if such things could happen here in the San Francisco Bay Area. Unfortunately, our diverse city is not immune to hate. Two Asian women were stabbed as they waited for a bus in downtown San Francisco, and older Asians have been attacked in the Bay Area. Anti-Asian hate crimes were reported at an alarming rate.

I started to worry about my own safety. Last June my friends invited me to show them around Chinatown in San Francisco. At my age, I felt I would be an easy target on public transit, so I asked my son to drive us. When we walked the streets, I was very conscious about my surroundings and who was around us. How scary and nerve-racking! We have lost our sense of security and freedom.

Some people from our chapters are fighting anti-Asian hate by educating the public, increasing awareness and promoting love—not revenge. Here’s what they’re doing:

Shirley Lin Kinoshita

Shirley is on the USCPFA South Bay chapter board. She is also a member of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), San Jose branch. In a Zoom interview with the WILPF, and in an article for their newsletter, Shirley related her family’s experience with prejudice. Although her father was the third generation in his family to work in Hawaii, he had to pay a head tax to work there because he was Chinese and could not become an American citizen.

Her husband Kim’s family, of Japanese descent, also suffered discrimination. Kim spent the first four years of his life in an internment camp. He and thousands of others of Japanese descent were designated as “enemy aliens” who were deemed to be a threat. Like many other Japanese, his family lost most of its possessions.

For Shirley, it is important to educate others on the extent of discrimination Asians have faced in the United States. Shirley has also used her artistic talent to

generate an interest in Asian culture by teaching Chinese brush painting at our chapter’s Chinese New Year and Moon Festival celebrations.

Gerry Low-Sabado

Gerry, a member of the South Bay chapter, passed away in September. During her lifetime, she worked tirelessly to educate the public on the history and contributions of Chinese fishermen in the Monterey Bay area, who made up a significant minority of the population. She shared her family’s story in interviews on radio and TV and in newspapers. She said, “Don’t let people sweep our stories under the carpet.”

She also made an appearance in a video for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, talking about what Chinese fishermen contributed to the community. In 2015, I made arrangements for a group of visiting students from Anshan, Liaoning province, to meet her at the aquarium and hear the history of early Chinese immigrants and their hardships.

Details of Gerry’s work can be seen in her obituary, on page 29 of this issue.

Lily Hubbard

Lily Hubbard is the adopted daughter of Beth Hubbard, president of USCPFA’s Owensboro/Evansville chapter. Born in China, Lily has been exploring her Chinese roots since she was two and a student in my Chinese culture class. She appears each year at the annual Owensboro Multicultural Festival in Kentucky, where she demonstrates traditional Chinese singing and dancing to the tens of thousands of visitors each year. She is now a freshman at the University of Southern Indiana, where she received the Harolyn Torain Multicultural Leadership Scholarship.

This past August, she helped her mother design and manage the China booth at the festival to teach others about Chinese culture. One of the activities was to teach people how to write 爱 (love) with Chinese calligraphy brushes. Her effort to educate the public about China through love is a refreshing effort to counter the anti-Asian phenomenon.

Since May was Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Henderson, Kentucky held a rally to bring awareness to the problem of anti-Asian Hate Crime. Lily spoke at the rally.

“I’ve always experienced racism, whether it was derogatory terms, or things that have been said to me,” she said. She felt that the rally was the perfect way to honor her heritage, even though it took a lot of courage to speak in public.

Winny Lin

I had been substitute teaching at East Bay public schools when the schools closed because of Covid. I felt lost until my daughter introduced me to Outschool, an online teaching platform. At first, I didn’t know how to design my own classes and handle the video technology.

Now I am an independent contractor and teach Mandarin and Chinese culture to hundreds of students, ages 3–16, all over the world, including the U.S., Russia, Israel, Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, Ireland and Chile.

I have taught the older group, 11- to 16-year-olds, about the legend of Chinese dragons, the impact of China’s massive population, China’s high-speed railroads, the nation’s 56 ethnic groups, Chinese songs, the Great Wall and the Yangtze and Yellow rivers.

Recently, I presented a two-week lesson on the Chinese Moon Festival, teaching the story of Chang’e and Houyi. Students drew the image of “Chang’e flying to moon” (嫦娥奔月), did a paper folding of “jade rabbit” (玉兔), or recited “Quiet Night” by Li Bai, the number-one poet of the Tang dynasty. As a result, many families shopped at local Asian grocery stores and bought moon cakes.

All these students love Chinese culture and language. They come to my class week after week with curiosity and open hearts and minds. I believe that, if I teach them when they are young, they will not be fearful of something different or have hatred toward Chinese. 友

Winny Lin is a board member of USCPFA’s South Bay chapter.

Gerry Low-Sabado Told History of Chinese on Monterey Peninsula

By Jana McBurney-Lin

Gerry Low-Sabado, a member of the USCPFA's South Bay chapter who researched and publicized the history of Chinese immigrants on the Monterey Peninsula, died in September at age 71.

I first met Gerry in 2013, as we were leaving an Asian Pacific leadership awards ceremony. She asked if I would photograph her group. That was all it took. When I returned the camera, we got to chatting, and I was suddenly part of Gerry's world.

I quickly realized that I had seen her once before when a group of us from the South Bay chapter attended her annual Walk of Remembrance, which honors her Chinese ancestors' village in Pacific Grove, California, next to Monterey.

She invited me to come back to Monterey to learn more of the history she had discovered. Soon after, I made the trip, thinking we'd only be together for a couple of hours. But, I soon discovered that being with Gerry was an event. It was like an evolving party, with her reaching out and talking to everyone on the street as if they were old friends, sharing the story of the Chinese village.

"I can't be on a tight schedule," she said. "Life just happens. I don't do, 'Sorry I can't talk to you. I have an appointment.' I just succumb to the now."

Why Study a Boring Subject?

Gerry, a fifth-generation Chinese American, was born in Monterey, where she was one of a handful of Chinese Americans. She attended Cal State Hayward, where she studied early childhood development. That's where she met her future husband, Randy Sabado, a history major, who remembered her commenting, "Why are you studying such a boring subject?"

Gerry went on to become the director of The Learning Tree childcare, as well as having their two children: Amber and Brandon. When she retired in 2001, she started dabbling in *that boring subject*, and began looking into her family's history.

She discovered her great-great grandparents had come from southern China in 1851, escaping the civil unrest around the Taiping Rebellion. "They came over on a junk with a sail and no engine," she said.

She also learned that her great-grandmother, Quock Mui, born in 1859 in one of the cabins in Point Lobos, was believed to have been the first Chinese girl born in the Monterey area.

Village Burned Down

Most surprising (and distressing) of all, however, Gerry discovered that the village where her grandfather lived in Monterey was burned down in 1906. Arson was highly suspected. Gerry had never heard any of this growing up.

"I thought that there's a truth here that's not being told. That didn't sit well with me," Gerry said on the day she took me all over Monterey. Correcting history quickly became Gerry's mission.

"Some of my relatives thought, 'It's old history. Leave it alone.' Other people thought, 'What are you doing? Trying to cause trouble?' I wasn't sure what I should do. There's part of me that's a fighter that wants to do what I think is right. But, in the long run, the relatives who still live on the Monterey Peninsula might suffer. So I had to consider that," she added. In the end, she decided to fight—but to do so with kindness. She spoke to groups all over, correcting inaccuracies where she could.

In 2004, she appeared in the California State University, Monterey Bay historical documentary, *By Light of Lanterns*, which tells the history of Monterey's early Chinese commercial fishermen, and the discrimination they faced. Gerry's grandfather and other Chinese fishermen had to go out in Monterey Bay at 2 a.m. to fish, because of hostility from other fishermen.

In 2014, she spoke to our South Bay chapter of USCPFA, and immediately became an active member. In 2015, she began participating in an annual re-enactment of history at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Thanks to her tireless persistence in shining a light on the past, many changes occurred in the Monterey/Pacific Grove area. These include getting the board to change the name of an organization in the area (from The Oriental Art Society of Monterey to The Asian Art Society of Monterey) and insisting that the Point Lobos park correct a photo caption of her great-grandmother to reflect the true photographer (her cousin,



Gerry at the Whalers Cabin at Point Lobos, California.

Mary Chin Lee). And her efforts brought about the plaque that commemorates the former fishing village.

ACLU Award

In 2016 Gerry received the ACLU Monterey County chapter's Ralph B. Atkinson Award for Civil Liberties for her efforts in sharing the Chinese history of Pacific Grove/Monterey. "I have visualized and hoped for change with kindness for so long, and now it has been embraced by us all. I am joyous," she said.

Last spring Gerry learned she had a brain tumor. She passed away at home, surrounded by her family on September 7, 2021.

Gerry was a bridge between the Monterey community and the Chinese American Heritage Foundation.

She was a historian who helped others become aware of the contributions of early Chinese immigrants. She was a community and cultural icon, a friendly, positive person, a wise woman. She was a good friend. Her energy, passion, and enthusiasm in telling the story of the Chinese on the Monterey Peninsula will live on in the many interviews, videos and stories written about her, as well as our cherished memories. 友

Jana McBurney-Lin is a member of USCPFA's South Bay chapter.

Atlanta Holds Virtual Memorial for Two Members

By Ed Krebs, chapter president

The Atlanta chapter's major activity of the fall season was a virtual memorial on October 16 to remember two of our long-time leaders. Doug Reynolds, who was chapter co-president, died in March 2020 and my wife, Sylvia Krebs, died in January 2021. Family, friends, former students and colleagues reminded our audience of Doug's great personal qualities—enthusiasm, candor, love of life. Always an enthusiastic traveler, Doug rode the Trans-Siberian railroad, visited the homeplace of the Buddha, and explored Beijing and other Chinese cities. Born of missionary parents who originally worked in China, Doug spent his early years in Wuhu, Anhui, then grew up in the Philippines after they were no longer allowed to continue in China. He came back to the U.S. for college at Colgate University.

Doug was proud that his advanced degrees came from Columbia University. His doctoral dissertation subject was on the "Indusco" (Industrial Cooperative

movement). This presents a nice coincidence with our 2021 convention that featured the documentary film on Helen Foster Snow, a leading founder of that movement. Doug carried on an intensive correspondence with Helen as he pursued his study. He intended to carry through on this subject with a book on Indusco, but he turned to other interests. Doug produced two important books on cultural relations between China and Japan. The first was *China, 1898–1912: The Xinzheng Revolution and Japan* (1993), in which he showed the importance of Japanese example and assistance to the late Manchu government's reforms that actually helped to stimulate the Revolution of 1911.

Doug's second book was perhaps even more ambitious in its purpose to demonstrate the role of lower-ranking diplomats and other Chinese sojourners in Japan during the late 19th century. *East Meets East* (2014) is its apt title; the experiences and writings of those "lesser" Chinese intellectuals were far more perceptive than the policies of high-ranking government

leaders, and helped to pave the way for the later Xinzheng revolution as the Qing dynasty faded.

The summer issue of USCR included much on Sylvia Krebs, so I will be brief. I presented an overview of Sylvia's early years, with photos. Other speakers included friends of various backgrounds—former teaching colleagues, neighbors, and fellow participants in a peace vigil that began in 2002 and continues to the present. All talked about their relationships with Sylvia and told stories to show their love and appreciation for her as a strong, thoughtful, caring person.

Many who attended commented that they thought the Zoom nature of this memorial was almost an advantage in bringing together a variety of people from places far and wide—besides Atlanta, this included Washington, New York state and Japan. We were grateful for this positive way to evade the Covid virus and share treasured memories of our beloved family members and friends. 友

Peter Hessler's Teaching Contract in China Not Renewed

By Ed Krebs

When Peter Hessler returned to China to teach nonfiction writing in 2019, he hoped to stay for five years. But the author of *River Town* and three other books on China learned at the end of the spring semester in 2021 that his annual contract at the Sichuan University-Pittsburgh Institute (SUPI) in Chengdu would not be renewed.

There was little publicity about the matter, and a posting on a Chinese site by one of Hessler's friends was quickly removed. The dean at SUPI noted that such contract situations occur regularly "in the academic community worldwide."

Hessler accepted the situation graciously, saying only "I want to emphasize that I have greatly enjoyed being back in the classroom after more than twenty years." This comment reflects his long experience in China—and likely also indicates his hope that he might someday be able to

return. He first left China in 2007, after about a decade there.

He and his wife, Leslie Chang, returned to China in 2019 to teach at the institute. Chang is a journalist and author of *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. The institute was formally launched in 2015, when such joint efforts could be done with relative ease.

A Reuters article of May 31, 2021—source of the quoted material here—provides context on Hessler's non-renewal. He had participated in a high-profile government-fostered discussion on China's response to Covid-19. But there, and in other comments on that subject, Hessler had not criticized China's response to the virus. He had also written several articles for the *New Yorker* from Chengdu, perhaps a more likely concern to authorities in China.

"China has increasingly curbed foreign influence in its education system in recent

years, and (in 2020) introduced draft rules that would see foreign teachers fired for 'words and deeds' considered harmful to the country's sovereignty," Reuters reported.

Sadly, the experience of Hessler and Chang is just an example—differing largely in their prominence—of what has happened to other journalists from both China and the U.S.

China expelled more than a dozen journalists working for U.S. media organizations in 2020, and the U.S. reduced the number of journalists permitted to work in the U.S. from four major Chinese state-owned media outlets.

The tragic downward spiral in relations only indicates the urgent need to turn toward understanding and openness. 友

Editor's note: In November 2021 China and the U.S. agreed to ease some visa restrictions on each other's journalists amid a slight relaxation of tensions.

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Mel Horowitz
200 VanRensselaer Blvd.
Menands, NY 12204
melschinafriends@yahoo.com

New England

Duncan McFarland
28 William St.
West Newton, MA 02465
mcfarland13@gmail.com

New York City

Valerie Stern
229 W. 60th St., #12P
New York, NY 10023
valeriejstern@yahoo.com

Northeastern New York

Kirk Huang
25 Mulberry Drive
Albany, NY 12205
kkhbravo@yahoo.com

Northern New Jersey

Dr. Jim H. Lee
24 Gordon Circle
Parsippany, NJ 07054
leejimmap@gmail.com

Portland, Maine

Martin Connelly
33 Caldwell Street
Portland, ME 04103
martin.a.connelly@gmail.com

Richmond VA

Diana Greer
105 Treva Road
Sandston, VA 23150
uscparichmond30@yahoo.com

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1834 Belmont Road NW
Washington, DC 20009-5162
cdbrooks@rcn.com

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212 Sabin St.
Sycamore IL 60178
kkrasema@gmail.com

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Kitty Trescott
909 W. Burton St.
Carbondale, IL 62901
trescott@midwest.net

Chicagoland

Michael Zhao
7140 N. Odell Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
USCPFAChicago@gmail.com

Minnesota

Ralph Beha
5040 1st Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55419
ralphbeha@comcast.net

Owensboro, KY/Evansville, IN

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1419 Wright Street
Henderson, KY 42420
thecakelady2012@gmail.com

SOUTHERN REGION

Barbara Cobb
Box 111927
Nashville, TN 37222
bcobb14@gmail.com

Atlanta

Ed Krebs
3240 McKown Road
Douglasville, GA 30134
edkrebs@hotmail.com

Chattanooga

Bob and Jan (Chang) Edwards
#12 North Lyncrest Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37411
aidehua@hotmail.com
edwardsjan@gmail.com

Houston

Casey Chen
6200 Savoy Dr., Unit 328
Houston, TX 77036
uscpcfcasey@gmail.com

Houston-Galleria

A. Cresali Lawell
2600 Wonder Hill Road
Brenham, TX 77833
cresali@cresali.com

Nashville

Barbara Cobb
Box 111927
Nashville, TN 37222
bcobb14@gmail.com

Sarasota

Duane Finger
401 27th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205
gduanef@aol.com

Southeast Florida

Marge Ketter
7088 SE Rivers Edge St.
Jupiter, FL 33458
margeketter@bellsouth.net

WESTERN REGION

Frances H. Goo
1645-B 10th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816
francesgoo@gmail.com

**Northern California/
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John Marienthal
1502 Rhinecliff Way
San Jose, CA 95126
marienthal@hotmail.com

Portland, Oregon

Paul Morris
2234 NE 25th Avenue
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pemorris07@gmail.com

San Francisco

David Ewing
822 Clay St.
San Francisco, CA 94108-1612
ewinglaw@hotmail.com

South Bay

•John Marienthal
1502 Rhinecliff Way
San Jose, CA 95126
marienthal@hotmail.com
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4201 Lancelot Drive
Concord, CA 94521
suhwa.w.lin@gmail.com

**Southern California
Subregion**

Henry Fung
2725 Monogram St.
Long Beach, CA 90815
igg_igg@yahoo.com

Long Beach

Joe Lau
1332 Via Romero
Palos Verdes Estates, CA
90274
joelau41@aol.com

Los Angeles/San Gabriel

Jason J. Lee
440 E. Huntington Dr. #300
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jason@leelawla.com

**South Los Angeles (OC)
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Utah

Val Chin / Shirley Smith
2890 Hackney Court
Park City, UT 84060
shirley@meanderadventures.com

Hawai'i Subregion

Vernon Ching
2735 Tantalus Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96813
vwching@hotmail.com

O'ahu

Chu Lan Schubert-Kwock
1181 Wanaka St
Honolulu HI 96818
clskwock@gmail.com

Honolulu

Vernon Ching
2735 Tantalus Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96813
vwching@hotmail.com

Kauai

Phyllis Tokita
PO Box 1783
Lihue, HI 96766-5783
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