What just landed?

Actually, it should be: What will land here?

Believe it or not, this copper-colored starfish is not a robot but Beijing’s new Daxing airport. Read about this amazing facility on page 3.

Arts & Culture

Minnesotan fall traditions with a Chinese twist

By Judy Hohmann, contributor

The fall season brings many Minnesota traditions, old and new. Why not make fall a reason to celebrate Chinese culture, too?

Start with the tradition of a changing Minnesota landscape, as it transforms from green to brilliant displays of red, orange, purple and yellow. Whether on-paved walkways along urban lakes or wooded trails, you will feel the magic of Mother Nature’s most colorful season. Two serene spaces at opposite ends of the metro area infuse the beauty of Chinese culture: The new St. Paul-Changsha, China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters at Phalen Regional Park — in an urban neighborhood of St. Paul; and the University of Minnesota-Shaanxi Provincial People’s Government, China Garden of Harmonious Beauty at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum — in the growing southwest community of Chanhassen, showcase distinctive interpretations of the classic Chinese garden design. Each garden prominently features gifts from Chinese government partners, ranging from a gilded pavilion to three mountainous rocks. The harmony with nature in the form of water, rocks and plants will uplift your mood and cultural pride.

Eat up the fall tradition of the harvest bounty, whether at farmers’ markets or family and friends’ gatherings. In Chinese culture, the reunion of families celebrating fall harvest are rituals dating back centuries to ancient Chinese emperors and the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Eating moon cakes has evolved with flavors of white lotus and red bean to chocolate, cream cheese,
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

Fall is upon us. It is a time to enjoy the emergence of fall colors as nature does it thing and, sad to say, prepare for winter. Because of a record rain season, the colors are expected to be exceptional, so take some time to enjoy it while you can.

Be sure to read the update on the design for the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American WWII veterans (page 4) along with how to get involved to ensure that the veterans receive the recognition they deserve.

China Insight is pleased to announce that Jackson Venjohn has joined our all-volunteer staff as an intern and will be participating in all aspects of the publication. Read more about him on page 4 also.

We are also happy to acknowledge a group of Chinese American teenagers who have chosen to volunteer for a very noble cause. Read about them on page 7.

As you will read on page 8, China Insight along with its affiliated company, Global Learning Alliance, hosted a reception for a delegation of educators from Changsha, China, who attended a training course at the University of Minnesota’s China Center, Mingda Institute.

We, at China Insight, would like to extend our condolences to the family of William Y. Chang who recently passed away at the age of 103. Chang was a Hawaiian-born journalist whose English-language newspaper for the children of Chinese immigrants in New York sought to help the children of Chinese immigrants acquire an American identity. For 17 years, he helped them adapt to life in the United States.

His monthly, Chinese-American Times, was one of the few English-language newspapers in operation in the 1950s and ‘60s that were aimed at a multigenerational Chinese-American readership. “He wanted them to feel they were American, yet still Chinese,” noted his daughter Dallas Chang, “…that they belonged to America, and that there were others like them.”

Chang closed the paper and retired in 1972 to travel with his wife. By then Chinatown was changing. According to the Museum of Chinese in America in Manhattan, Chinese-Americans were leaving the neighborhood and new waves of Chinese immigrants were moving in.

In 2000, Chang received the museum’s Legacy Award, along with the author Amy Tan and the actor Jackie Chan. We would like to thank Chang for being a pioneer in the publication of an English language newspaper to serve the Chinese American community and help to pave the way for future newspapers such as China Insight.

As, most of you know, Halloween is primarily a holiday celebrated by children in the U.S. but is not quite as popular in China. While other Western holidays like Christmas have made it over the Pacific, Halloween hasn’t caught on as a big thing to do in China but nevertheless, all of us at China Insight wish you a Happy Halloween.

Sincerely,

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

High hopes
A French man scaled up a 900-plus feet Hong Kong building, untethered, to promote political unity between Hong Kong and China. He unfurled a banner with both the Chinese and Hong Kong flags. It also showed two hands locked in a handshake and a smiling sun looking on.

Apparently, the stunt was sponsored by Dead Man’s Fingers rum he was hired to promote – his climbing attire displayed the British rum logo. He had performed a similar stunt for the rum brand in London in November 2018. However, he did put out a statement prior to his climb saying he hoped he can “lower the temperature and maybe raise a smile” regarding the ongoing anti-China protests.

High notes
An 65-year-old Tom Jones wannabe from Jiangxi Province suffered a collapsed lung while trying to hit the high notes during a 10-song karaoke session.

According to the Nanchang News, the man experienced “breathing difficulties” after singing a few songs with “very high notes.” He also chose to ignore the chest pains until they got so intense he checked himself into hospital the following day. His doctor said his injury is a result of pressure caused by hitting those high notes. How long will his achy breaky lung make him sit out marathon karaoke sessions?

High IQ
Not! The flight attendant on a flight from Wuhan to Lanzhou had just briefed the woman sitting next to the emergency door! “internal Chinese matter” and the U.S. flags and marched to the U.S. Consulate seeking Washington’s support. U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and representatives from both parties also met with Joshua Wong, one of the student leaders from the 2014 Umbrella Revolution, and a few other HK activists, student leaders from the 2014 Umbrella Movement, and China. He unfurled a banner with both the Chinese and Hong Kong flags. It also showed two hands locked in a handshake and a smiling sun looking on.

After months of investigation and diplomatic negotiation, The Chinese National Cultural Heritage Administration brought a set of eight bronze food and water vessels back to China from Japan, where the valuable relics ended up as a result of illegal trade on the international market after 2014.

The 2000-year-old bronzes were originally stolen from ancient tombs in Hubei Province. The urns held Chinese characters engraved on them, which provide researchers historical information relating to the state of Zeng, modern-day Suzhou. The bronzes are believed to have belonged to a powerhouse, is expanding its stake in the technology sector. It established Tengshi School in May to further integrate software technology skills and professional skills. Tengshi provides training, employment tips and guidance in the AI industry. Its main focus is on AI, big data, cloud computing, mobile apps development and information security.

Since 2017, Tencent has partnered with the Ministry of Education to focus on the development of new engineering talent training. The AI race is on! ♦

You’re fired!
Shane Gillis, a <i>SNL</i> cast member, was fired! Apparently, a 2018 <i>SNL</i> podcast of him using “Chinks” and other racial slurs against Asians surfaced. He also had made sexist and homophobic comments, which were not discovered in NBC’s vetting process.

In May, Gillis referred to Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang as a “Jew Chink” in another podcast. Yang did not think Gillis should be fired – a sentiment not shared by his party and surprised many. “We would benefit from being more forgiving rather than punitive. We are all human,” he tweeted. Yang even offered to meet with Gillis. As we go to print, no word Gillis had accepted the invitation.

Butt out
Hong Kong protesters waved U.S. flags and marched to the U.S. Consulate seeking Washington’s support. U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and representatives from both parties also met with Joshua Wong, one of the student leaders from the 2014 Umbrella Revolution, and a few other HK activists, on Sept. 18 in Wash., D.C. The young activists also asked the U.S. government to stop exporting American police equipment used on the protesters.

China’s foreign ministry promptly denounced the meeting, saying HK was “internal Chinese matter” and the U.S. should “stop promoting the review of relevant Hong Kong-related proposals” and that China accepts no interference in its internal affairs. In other words, MYOB.

Visa to China

Starfish landing
With the first flight, a China Southern, taking off from the new Daxing airport in the afternoon of Sept. 25, Beijing has joined the ranks of a handful of cities such as London, New York and Tokyo, that can boast two long-haul international airports.

Designed by the late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid, Beijing’s new airport, in a single, star-shaped building, is 29 miles south of Beijing city center. It can handle 880,000 flights and 72 million passengers per year. Construction of the giant aviation hub began in 2014 and employed an army of 10,000 workers, costing approximately US$17 billion.

The airport sits on 18 square miles with a terminal that is 7.5 million square feet (world’s largest). It has 268 jet bridges, five concourses, four runways (with three more planned for phase two), two floors for arrival and departure, five traditional Chinese outdoor gardens and energy-efficient features such as rainwater collectors and a solar energy farm. Its adoption of “smart” technologies includes self check-in via facial recognition, bag-drop kiosks, and radio frequency identification for luggage tracking.

But the biggest and best feature is the robot parking service! You leave your car on a “panel” in the parking lot and it will be lifted to an empty spot by robots. To retrieve your car, scan in the parking ticket or enter the car’s license plate and information on where to collect the car will be given. This is on a trial run with two robots serving up to 148 spaces.

The visually stunning airport boasts a glass and steel interior (above and below) where travelers will need to walk no more than 2,000 feet to reach any boarding gate.

Ready, set, go!

Visa to China

Tencent Holdings Ltd., China’s tech powerhouse, is expanding its stake in the technology sector. It established Tengshi School in May to further integrate software technology skills and professional skills. Tengshi provides training, employment tips and guidance in the AI industry. Its main focus is on AI, big data, cloud computing, mobile apps development and information security.

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Home at last

After months of investigation and diplomatic negotiation, The Chinese National Cultural Heritage Administration brought a set of eight bronze food and water vessels back to China from Japan, where the valuable relics ended up as a result of illegal trading on the international market after 2014.

The 2000-year-old bronzes were originally stolen from ancient tombs in Hubei Province. The urns held Chinese characters engraved on them, which provide researchers historical information relating to the state of Zeng, modern-day Suzhou. The bronzes are believed to have belonged to a noble family of the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770 B.C.-256 B.C.). They are part of an exhibition of repatriated Chinese cultural objects at Beijing’s National Museum of China held in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China.

Home at last
Two summers in Greater-China: personal observations

By Jackson Venjohn, contributor

In 2018, I spent eight weeks in Beijing at Capital Normal University studying Mandarin in a language-intensive program. I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing Asia first in Beijing because it is the cultural and political center of China. That summer was particularly impactful because I arrived at the beginning of formal trade friction between the United States and China. I had the opportunity to discuss Sino-U.S. economics with professors, students and newly made Chinese friends in Beijing.

In July 2018, at the International Monetary Forum at Renmin University in Beijing, I heard perspectives on the current U.S.-China trade situation from Chinese and American students attending the world’s top universities. The forum was particularly thought provoking as I recognized that with the possible exception of U.S.-Japan economic friction in the 1980s, looking back on history, there are few historical examples that are appropriate to compare to the current trade situation. The lack of historical basis makes forming an opinion and siphoning out truth on the current complex and controversial trade situation difficult, yet evermore fascinating.

This summer, I was able to return to East Asia for nine weeks in Taiwan, Taipei. Before that, I spent a week in Hong Kong with the purpose of understanding the greater Guangdong region better and strengthening relationships with business professionals in Hong Kong. My weeklong stay coincided with the first week of political demonstrations in Hong Kong. At the time, the magnitude to which these demonstrations would develop was unknown. In that way, I did not consider the situation horrifying until several days after I had left.

Until arriving in Hong Kong, I had underestimated the differences between mainland China and the Special Administrative Region: language, culture, landscape, economics and politics. As Cantonese is the native dialect in Hong Kong, it felt unusual and uncomfortable being in an Asian city where I could read the characters but could not communicate verbally except through English. However, after several days in the financial center of Asia, I began to grasp just how special Hong Kong is. The vertical skyscrapers fueled by the world’s freest economy and capital markets, is extraordinary given Hong Kong’s steep, mountainous terrain. Pairing the sweltering June heat with humidity seemed to make every trip outside feel like a workout.

After Hong Kong, I arrived in Taiwan to continue working on my Mandarin proficiency at National Taiwan University. While in Taipei, I experienced Taiwan’s rich culture, enjoyed great food, learned how to surf, and appreciated many fun outdoor activities on the beautiful island of Taiwan. In addition, this summer enabled me to compare and contrast the perspectives of cross-strait relations in Taiwan with my valuable experiences from the prior summer in Beijing. Based on my discussions with individuals on both banks of the Taiwan Strait, it seemed those from the mainland generally view the shared history, language, and in some respects, culture with Taiwan as main reasons for re-unifying China. Conversely, it seemed most Taiwanese value the island’s political and economic independence paramount to other reasons for not reunifying. My experiences in mainland China and Taiwan were very positive overall. Individuals from all perspectives welcomed my interest in studying Mandarin and their East-Asian culture.

During this summer’s midterm break, I returned to the mainland briefly, spending three days in Shanghai meeting with business professionals in the financial services industry. It was interesting observing how views of the Sino-U.S. trade friction had shifted since the previous summer. Few college students have the opportunity to understand first-hand the perspectives of the different parties that constitute Greater-China. For these experiences, I am very grateful. Meeting with finance professionals who have “skin in the game” helped me understand the implications of the U.S.-China trade friction and the outlook of U.S.-China relations going forward. These experiences have been most influential and will likely leave the greatest impact on me.

At the conclusion of my summer program at National Taiwan University, I had the opportunity to present a final thesis project on the “Current Status of East-Asian Financial Markets.” As our world becomes increasingly more globalized, the rise in East-Asian economies continue to expand and develop, one area that has particularly interested me among others is cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

When a Chinese company acquires a U.S. company (or any foreign company for that matter), there are serious implications that are not necessarily present in domestic mergers or acquisitions. Among these are different legal systems, languages and cultural norms that make valuing how companies might synergize and work together among the most interesting challenges. International M&A activity continues to be a catalyst for growth and acts as the “tendons and ligaments” of cross-border relations both economically and politically. This past summer while in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, I was able to strengthen relationships with professionals in key industries, understand better the complex history and political nuances of Greater-China, solidifying my strong desire to return soon.

Jackson Venjohn is a native of Minnetonka, Minn., where his interest in China was first sparked while studying Mandarin in middle school. Years later, he found himself gravitating toward China’s people, culture and rich history as well. Venjohn is currently an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, studying finance and Chinese. He is a member of the University’s highly competitive Chinese Flagship Program, a U.S. Department of Defense-backed initiative that “trains students from diverse disciplines to achieve superior-level Mandarin proficiency and promotes their success as global professionals.” He has just begun a 12-month internship with China Insight and will participate in all aspects of the publication.

History

Design of Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American WWII veterans marches forward

Source: Jennifer Zhan, Asian American News

The Citizens Coin Advisory Committee (CCAC) has recommended a design for the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American World War II veterans, Coin World reports. On Sept. 18, the committee reviewed more than a dozen designs each for both sides of the medal before making its recommendation to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, according to Coin World.

The CCAC recommended an obverse side that depicts Chinese American service-men and a nurse. The recommended reverse side sets a World War II American flag behind an Iowa-class battleship (a class of fast battleships for intercepting fast enemy ships), an M4 Sherman tank and a P-40 Warhawk from the Flying Tigers. According to the Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, Congress finds that “Chinese Americans served the United States in every conflict since the Civil War and have protected themselves in World War II, serving in every theater of war and every branch of service, earning citations for their heroism and honorable service, including the Medal of Honor.”

Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) sponsored the bill that called Congress to award this collective honor to Chinese American WWII veterans. It was introduced in the Senate in 2017 and became Public Law 115-337 in December of 2018.

OCA–Asian Pacific American Advocates President Sharon Wong said in a 2018 press release that the recognition was “very timely,” given that the law passed following the 75th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates is dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

“Over 20,000 Chinese-Americans served their nation and sacrificed their lives for the sake of our freedom. Although many of the veterans are no longer with us, it is still poignant that they have been recognized by their country for their service,” Wong added in the statement.

The law dictates that after the medal is formally awarded in honor of the veterans, it will be given to the Smithsonian Institution to be displayed and made available for research. Coin World also reports that the U.S. Mint will strike and offer 1.5-inch and 3-inch bronze duplicates of the gold medal for public sale.

Note: Go to www.cawv2.org to register known Chinese American veterans of WWII and perhaps be eligible for a free replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that is now estimated to be awarded in the Spring of 2020.
This month, we will look at ways to give simple descriptions. Since language is fluid and regional variations do creep in to daily use and can be heard in many Chinese movies, I will try to include these as well, especially those Beijing variations.

Some of the words we will be using for this month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A suffix following adjectives composed of two or more syllables. After nouns or pronouns, the word “de” indicates possession. This word is always said in the “neutral tone.”</td>
<td>的</td>
<td>de</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for books and pamphlets. See measure words and how they are used discussed below.</td>
<td>本</td>
<td>běn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for people and many common objects.</td>
<td>个</td>
<td>ge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That (In Beijing, you might hear nêi instead.)</td>
<td>那</td>
<td>nà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which (In Beijing, you might hear nêi instead.)</td>
<td>哪</td>
<td>nà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This (In Beijing, you might hear zhèi instead.)</td>
<td>这</td>
<td>zhè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A measure word for mountains, hills and many buildings</td>
<td>座</td>
<td>zuò</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When descriptions are made, the adjective precedes the noun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Mandarin Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>big mountain</td>
<td>大山</td>
<td>dà shān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good person</td>
<td>好人</td>
<td>hào rén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If an adjective is modified by an adverb, the adverb will precede the adjective. An unstressed particle 的 “de” is added and it directly precedes the noun. This “de” is uttered in the neutral tone.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very big mountain</td>
<td>很大的山</td>
<td>hěn dà de shān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very good person</td>
<td>很好的人</td>
<td>hěn hào de rén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pretty woman</td>
<td>漂亮的女人</td>
<td>piào liàng de nǚ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bored man, boring man</td>
<td>无聊的男人</td>
<td>wú liáo de nán rén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English will usually prefix these phrases with such words “a,” “an” or “the.” Technically, Chinese lacks a word for these three English adjectives. However, it is not unusual for Chinese to use an expression such as “yi” (one) — followed by a one syllable “measure word” such as “ge” (a).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a beautiful woman</td>
<td>一个漂亮的女士</td>
<td>yī ge piào liàng de nǚ rén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a boring man</td>
<td>一个无聊的男人</td>
<td>yī ge wú liáo de nán rén</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a very high mountain</td>
<td>一座很高的山</td>
<td>yī zuò hěn gāo de shān</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is especially true where you are thinking “a...”

<table>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chinese also lacks a word for “the.” Therefore, when Chinese say something like “This is the book,” in the sense of “This is the book I was talking about.”, they might say something that literally means: “It’s this book,” “It’s that book.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese characters</th>
<th>Mandarin Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s this book. (This is the book.)</td>
<td>就是这本书。</td>
<td>jiù shì zhè běn shū.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s this book.</td>
<td>就是这本书。</td>
<td>jiù shì zhè běn shū.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s that book.</td>
<td>就是那本书。</td>
<td>jiù shì nà běn shū.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pronunciation reminders

This system follows Chinese Pinyin with the exception that the letter “ü” which has two pronunciations. Sometimes it has the value of “ü” (ee) in see (as in see with rounded lips). At those times we use the symbol “ü” instead of Pinyin “u.” In making this sound, it is most important that the vowel more resembles an “ee” sound and definitely not sounding like a “oo” sound as in “moon.”

| a, an, ang                  | The “a” in these syllables sounds like the “a” in “father.” |
| ao                            | Sounds like the “ow” in “cow.” |
| da, ge                       | Here the “a” sounds much like the “a” in “above” or the “u” in “under.” |
| en, eng                      | Sounds like “ee-ehn” or “yén.” (Here “ehn” and “en” almost sounds like the word “yen.”) |
| nà                           | Sounds almost like the English word “knee” but your lips must be rounded, not spread. |
| nong                         | The “the” here sounds much like the “oo” in “ooze” or “spoon.” |
| qí                           | Sounds like an aspirated “ch;” qin sounds like “ch’em.” |
| shí                          | Sounds like “shoe” but said with rounded lips. |
| sì                           | Sounds almost like the “sh” in “shirt.” The tongue is retracted and curled up. |
| ū                             | Sounds much like the “oo” in “see” but the vowel must be uttered with rounded lips. |
| x                             | Sounds like a weak “sh;” xing sounds like “sheng.” |
| you                          | Sounds somewhat like the “y” in “yodell.” |
| yí                            | Sounds like a “irr” without any aspiration. Pronouncing this as ‘dr’ betrays American accent which will still be understood by the listener. |

Tones

Using numbers: 5 = your normal high 4 = mid-high 3 = your normal mid pitch 2 = mid low pitch 1 = your normal low pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>High level pitch (55)</td>
<td>1. when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone ã becomes tone á. Thus “hěn hāo” (very good) changes to “hén hāo”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>Mid-Rising Tone (35)</td>
<td>2. occurring directly before any other tone, Tone ã will change to a mid-falling pitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>Dipping (213)</td>
<td>Regarding Tone ã</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>High falling pitch (51)</td>
<td>When occurring before another tone Tone ã will become a mid-falling pitch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>An unstressed neutral tone. Following other syllables, syllables in this tone tend to be slightly lower that of the previous syllable. The tone exception is when it occurs after tone á when the neutral tone is often slightly higher.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next month, we will deal with asking about and identifying common objects and places. Describing these objects will be treated afterwards.

Production Editor Needed

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

• The right candidate must know InDesign Creative Suite and have graphics background.

• Reliability and ability to meet deadlines are critical.

• A strong interest in Chinese culture and business matters will be an asset.

• Must be willing to take creative initiative and be a team player.

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

Send resumé to Greg Hugh at ghugh@chinainsight.info or call 612-723-4872

About Pat Welsh

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welch was asked to give a speech where he was introduced to the audience as a “pioneer of Chinese American relations” as a result of his cooperative work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, Welch has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both pro-

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result of his cooperative work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, Welch has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both pro-
Two national days: Oct. 1 and Oct. 10

By Elaine Dunn

In 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong declared on Oct. 1 the founding of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and Oct. 1 would be its National Day. That first inaugural parade was followed by a military parade, numbering 16,400 troops and thousands of cheering civilians marching along. Since 1949, National Day in China has been marked by much bigger military parades (in Beijing and Shanghai), state banquets, large political gatherings and speeches. In 1954, Beijing even sent a representative to Moscow to study how the Soviets conducted such events. The result of that trip was the addition of an “advancing forward in unison” element, where parade participants rush toward the review platform to cheer and greet the leaders present. A “living image” element was added in 1957. This consisted of thousands of people holding bouquets or colored placards facing Tiananmen Gate to form a huge visual pattern. Around the holiday, portraits of revered leaders are prominently displayed in public spaces still. With the growing economy, the Chinese government established a weekend holiday in the year 2000 for celebrating National Day, known as “Golden Week.” From Oct. 1-7, it seems like the entire population is on the move! Government statistics showed that on that first Golden Week, 59.82 million Chinese traveled during the holiday. Hotels in major tourist destinations enjoyed close to 70 percent bookings. According to WeChat, the bulk of travel by Chinese during the 2017 National Day Golden Week, which coincided with Mid-autumn Festival that year, originated from four first-tier cities: Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenzhen. Most headed to countries within Southeast Asia, with Hong Kong being the most popular destination. The most remote destination for these travelers was Greenland. To mark the 70th anniversary of the PRC, President Xi Jinping will deliver a speech to be followed by a military parade and mass pagentry. In the evening, there will be fireworks and art performances. A first for this year is the recognition of prominent figures who have “made outstanding contributions to and the development of the PRC.” Foreigners who have made significant contributions to China’s modernization also will receive Medals of Friendship. So that’s Oct. 1. What about Oct. 10, also known as Double Ten Day. What is its significance? What does it celebrate? In the early 1900s, the Han Chinese has had enough of rampant corruption within the ineffective Manchu government. They also resented foreign encroachment and losing control of their ports to the Europeans. Furthermore, they harbored deep-seated disrespect of the Europeans restoring the Manchu to power after the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864). On Oct. 10, 1911, in Wuhan, Huabei Province, revolutionaries organized the Wuchang Uprising, which brought about the eventual collapse of the Qing Dynasty in February 1912. The Wuchang Uprising also resulted in the declaration of independence from the central government by Wuchang and other provinces. In the ensuing Chinese civil war (1945-1949), the government of the Republic of China (the Kuomintang founded by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1912, and later led by Chiang Kai Shek) was defeated by Mao Zedong’s Communist Party and fled to Taiwan in 1949. Therefore, Double Ten Day is mainly celebrated only in Taiwan and in large Chinatowns by overseas Chinese. On the mainland, if Oct. 10 is recognized at all, it is recognized as the anniversary of the Wuchang Uprising. The first Double Ten National Day celebration in Taiwan took place in 1949. Tragedy struck the celebration of 1964. One of the three air force fighters doing a flyover struck a broadcasting tower. Its fuel tank separated and fell to the ground, killing three spectators, one of whom was a baby. The other two fighter pilots died mid-air while looking for the crashed one, killing both pilots. The parade was suspended until 1971, and the flyover resumed in 1975. Nowadays, Double Ten Day means a day off for the Taiwanese. Celebrations in Taipei, capital of Taiwan, begin with raising of the flag in front of the Presidential Building followed by singing of the National Anthem. The military parade has given way to a parade by civic organizations, athletes and disaster response personnel, which is followed by a speech by the president. Nowadays, the day’s celebration focuses on the nation’s uniformed service personnel, not its military. The day concludes with fireworks. Many modern Taiwanese view Oct. 10 not as “Taiwan’s birthday,” but as the birth of a new regime in China in 1911, that led to the end of the imperial Qing dynasty. They also look forward to the day when they can celebrate Taiwan as an official independent country, with membership to the United Nations.

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Edina teens co-founded Twin Cities’ Super Joey Foundation

By Matthew Cao

Teen volunteers at the 5K run fundraiser. Left to right: Lenny Chen, Steven Wang, May Tang, Joy Tang

To most, September marks the end of summer and the month school resumes. But to a group of teens in Edina, it meant a lot more. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

This past May, when most high schoolers were eagerly awaiting the start of summer vacation, this group of teens co-founded the Twin Cities’ branch of the Super Joey Foundation.

The first Super Joey Foundation was founded in Los Angeles, inspired by a 4-year-old boy from Los Angeles named Joey, who was diagnosed in 2013 with Stage-III Wilms tumor (a type of cancer that starts in the kidneys and is the most common type of kidney cancer in children). Though Joey battled and overcame many challenges, he unfortunately lost his fight against cancer in February 2016.

When a child faces a serious illness or injury, the entire family is put under intense pressure. Between medical treatments, high medical costs, and possible displacement, the parents and child all take a heavy toll.

The Super Joey Foundation was founded to alleviate some of the stress to these families through meaningful community service. It hopes to instill “a love of volunteering from an early age” and to help its volunteers “understand the needs of others.”

“Since its inception, the organization has expanded to more than 10 cities across the United States, including Boston, Seattle and, most recently, the Twin Cities.”

Melody Zhou, known for her work in the Chinese community as the president of the Minnesota International Chinese School, recruited some family friends earlier this year to start the local branch. I and some Chinese American teens at Edina High responded. We got involved with the foundation through her.

Currently, the Twin Cities team is completely run by teens. While we are still all in school, we have organized and completed a few successful events already.

We teamed up with the Ronald McDonald House to support families of those who are undergoing treatment. Ronald McDonald House provides housing and food within the hospital for little-to-no cost to the families, thereby effectively giving them one less thing to worry about.

Though the Twin Cities branch started very recently, the team had been busy. In July, we volunteered to serve brunch at the Ronald McDonald House at the Children’s Specialty Center in downtown Minneapolis. First, we contacted some local restaurants such as 98 Pound Buffet, Hawaii Poke Bowl, Golden Wok, and Blackwater Coffee & Café to donate food. Then we cooked up some scrambled eggs, sausages and pancakes on-site and served approximately 100 people staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The branch was a great success, with a huge surplus of food!

More recently, the group hosted a 5k race for families in the Twin Cities as a fundraiser. A wide range of ages came out in support of the Super Joey Foundation, and the entry fees, combined with donations, generated more than $1,000 in profit, which went towards hosting future events to benefit families at the Ronald McDonald Houses, as well as more fundraising events to benefit the community.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to help the community” says Joy Tang, chairwoman of the Twin Cities chapter. “Seeing our work make an impact makes me happy.”

We welcome and look forward to hearing from anyone interested in volunteering.

Time commitment is low. Participants will meet and work with people from a wide cross-section and develop new leadership skills. The group meets monthly to plan events every few months. For more information about the Super Joey Foundation, visit tinyurl.com/superjoeymn or email superjoeymn@gmail.com.

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ArtsCulture

Gathering: Collecting and Documenting Chinese American History

Location: Museum of Chinese in America, 215 Centre Street, New York City

Date: Oct. 17 – March 22, 2020

“Gathering: Collecting and Documenting Chinese American History” tells the story of historical societies, museums, and organized projects that document and make public the history of Chinese throughout America.

This is a first-of-its-kind survey exhibition in what is part of MOCA’s yearlong initiative to commemorate the contributions of Chinese railroad workers in the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad 150 years ago.

The goal of this exhibit is to showcase the breadth, depth, and investment of organized documentation and collection of Chinese history in America. It is hoped that this project will expand the dialogue, strengthen connections, and increase collaborative work among relevant organizations.

For “Gathering,” the MOCA worked closely with 1882 Foundation and its 50 Objects Project, through the Tenement Museum’s “Your Story, Our Story” digital platform.

“Gathering” will be accompanied by the exhibit “The Chinese Helped Build the Railroad – The Railroad Helped Build America,” which tells the story of the more than 12,000 Chinese laborers who built a significant part of the Transcontinental Railroad and the resulting backlash against the Chinese after its completion in 1869.

This historical exhibition traces the Chinese contribution to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Starting in 2012, photographer Li Ju visited sites along the route of the Transcontinental Railroad. This exhibition presents historical photographs alongside Li’s contemporary images of significant railroad sites to resurrect these stories and honor the achievements of the laborers.
A delegation of educators from Changsha, China visit Minnesota

By Greg Hugh

A delegation of 27 educators from Changsha, recently attended the Psychology of Education course at the University of Minnesota China Center’s Mingda Institute for Leadership Training. As part of the training program, the China Center enlists the assistance of local organizations and individuals to provide the delegates the experience of western culture including sightseeing, sporting events and other aspects of Minnesota Nice.

The delegates, comprised of K-12 principals and teachers. They arrived here on Sept. 15 and will depart on Oct. 4.

In addition to the formal course work, they visited some Minnetonka schools, Yinhua Academy, Highland Park High School, Wayzata High School and Jie Ming Academy. They also saw the governor’s mansion, the state capitol and the Xiang Jiang Pavilion at Lake Phalen. The delegation also attended a Twins game and a football game at Hamline University. A trip to Duluth was also part of their extracurricular activities.

Naturally, no trip to the U.S. and Minnesota would be complete without a shopping trip to Mall of America, which dominated most of their last Sunday here.

China Insight, along with its affiliated company Global Learning Alliance, hosted a reception later that evening for those who still had the energy. Several board members from the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society - part of a delegation from Minnesota that will be visiting Changsha, the sister city of St. Paul, the week of Oct. 5- were in attendance.

Although it was planned as an informal, social event, the hosts included a program to provide some more background on the State of Minnesota. Richard He along with Greg Hugh, founders and executives of China Insight and Global Learning Alliance, welcomed the delegation while the group enjoyed a catered dinner from Legendary Spice Restaurant. Chang Wang, a principal with the Kingsfield Law Firm, was then introduced by He to deliver a presentation that covered immigration aspects during the New Era. Following his presentation, Wang graciously held a Q & A session and presented the entire delegation with a copy of his book, “New Tales of the Twin Cities: The History, Law, and Culture of Minnesota,” which is published in Chinese. John Twohig, director of Northland Scholars Academy, then introduced by He to make the final presentation of the evening discussing the benefits of attending the academy.

China Insight, Global Learning Alliance and the China Center are pleased to have been able to provide the delegation from Changsha with a worthwhile experience. Wishes for a safe trip home along with the many good experiences and memories that have been created.
Minnesotan fall traditions with a Chinese twist

Continued from page 1

custard, green tea and fruity options. While the Autumn Moon Festival was commemorated this year on Sept. 13 with a full moon, moon cake aficionados can indulge year-round.

Fall traditions are about seasonal pairings. One pairing is food and Chinese art. While Minnesota is renowned for its expansive Chinese culinary talent, the art of Chinese culture paired with food took to the streets this year. The legendary “Eat Street” in Minneapolis, dating back five decades, is described as “the several-block stretch along Nicollet Ave. that is home to more than 50 restaurants, with cuisines representing a wide variety of places around the world: China, Germany, Greece Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Vietnam, and more.” It is here that Rainbow Chinese Restaurant, owned by chef Tammy Wong, -- a local pioneer in cooking with local and sustainable foods, and in “greening” the Eat Street landscape with plants and sidewalk gardens -- for 27+ years, first introduced a street mural featuring a family of Chinese pandas. In Fall, 2019, Wong enlisted artist Erin Sayer to reproduce a new version of the street mural. Indoors or out, Rainbow offers a tasty menu from dumplings, noodles and more—even a mocktail named after Chinese-American actress Lucy Liu.


Perhaps the most enduring Fall tradition is the spirit of learning and renewal. Paired with Chinese culture, it is that desire to explore and learn more about heritage, history and contemporary life. Get started with these:

Minneapolis Institute of Art presents a free exhibit of Chinese art, “An Art as Lyrical as Poetry,” featuring recently acquired Chinese paintings, through Nov. 24.

Theater Mu presents “Fast Company” by Carla Ching, American playwright, at Dowling Studio/Guthrie Theater, a drama about a family of swindlers hoping to pull off their best con, Nov. 8-24.

Walker Art Center presents “Five Ways In: Themes from the Collection” exhibit in Galleries 4, 5, 6 with Wing Young Huie as one of the artists, thru Sept. 26, 2021. A Duluth native and son of Chinese immigrants, Huie’s work includes Frogtown and Lake Street outdoor photo exhibits. and memoir “Chinese-ness.”

The Doctor of Chinese Medicine program allows students to gain a deeper understanding of Chinese medicine and how it provides the natural solution for today's healthcare issues.

Join us for Discovery Day! Saturday, Nov. 2 | 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. nwhealth.edu/discover
Goddess Sa worship in Dong ethnic groups in China, Part I

By Chen Na and Bu Aihua, The Center for Hunan Cultural Heritage at Huaihua University, contributors

Goddess Sa is the goddess grandmother of Dong ethnic groups and also the embodiment of everything wonderful in Dong culture. Dong people believe they are her descendants and that she protects them and blesses them for happiness, harmony and prosperity. Goddess Sa knows everything, and she created everything in the world. In Dong regions, every Dong village builds Sax dungh (祭坛) to worship Goddess Sa to worship her. The Sax dungh is usually located in an open area of the village, beside the Dong drum towers, at the entrance or end of a Dong village, or even on the edge of a cliff of a Dong village.

The practice of Goddess Sa worship has been infiltrating every aspect of the lives of Dong people. This article looks at Goddess Sa worship from two aspects: the origin of Goddess Sa worship; the practice of Goddess Sa worship in Dong ethnic groups in different Dong regions.

I. The origin of Goddess Sa worship

The mythological first Goddess Sa is originated from some folk stories in Dong regions. The most popular one is that Goddess Sa is Dong people’s great-grandmother, Samianbi, who gave birth to all things in the world. According to Dong Kuanci (款词), Samianbi hatched four eggs in the mountain to worship her. The Sax dungh is usually located in an open area of the village, beside the Dong drum towers, at the entrance or end of a Dong village, or even on the edge of a cliff of a Dong village.

The mythological first Goddess Sa is a giant spider with four hands, four feet and something good or special, they would offer to Goddess Sa first for protection and blessing. In addition, if a family member is sick, they would go to Sax dungh to pray to Goddess Sa. After recovery, they would return to Sax dungh to express their gratitude by offering a piece of meat as a sacrifice to Goddess Sa. However, there are different sacrificial rituals for Goddess Sa in different Dong regions.

Fire-picking-up ceremony to welcome Goddess Sa

In Guizhou Province, when a village is newly built, Dong people must invite their professional master Yin and Yang (尹亮)(尹亮) to help them build Sax dungh to welcome Goddess Sa to the village and their homes. The Dong masters Yin and Yang are usually middle-aged men and considered to possess great power and specially trained. They are usually in charge of offering sacrifice or connecting their ancestors and Goddess Sa, etc., to the world or Dong people, and helping build or repair Sax dungh. The Dong believe that women do not possess psychic powers for inviting Goddess Sa to come out to talk with them.

To build a Sax dungh, first dig a rectangular, square or circular “eye well”---a hearth with about 5 “chi” (尺) deep, then put an iron pot with a small silver pot inside, a bracket, a bowl, chopsticks, a cup, clothes and other daily necessities and textile tools such as spinning wheel, loom, and shuttle etc., then bury the iron pot, into a mound of approximately 15 (W) by 20 (L) and, 3(H) “chi.”

On the midnight of the day of the completion of Sax dungh, the Dongs would hold a fire-picking-up ceremony to welcome Goddess Sa to the village and their homes. On that day, the villagers would prepare a small pile of wood shavings in Sax dungh for ignition. When the fire is blazing merrily, every village would reverently come to Sax dungh to welcome the fire and to show their respect and devotion. Then each family would take the sparks of the fire home, which means they guide Goddess Sa home. Dong people believe that if the fire is bestowed from the first grandmother, she would bless their families for burning fire to cook from one generation to another. ♦

Notes:
1. Dong Kuanci, as "款词" in Chinese, is an encyclopedia of Dong ethnic groups mainly about Dong folk regulations, and it also covers Dong ethnic origin, history, geography, economy, politics, and literature etc.
2. Chi: a Chinese measure unit of length (1 Chi =1/3 meter)
President Xi Jinping has steered China into one of its most repressive periods since Mao Zedong’s rule. Those who dare step outside party line are silenced, detained, or worse. The fact that he is unencumbered by presidential term limits has empowered his pursuit of “national rejuvenation” more than ever. And reunification is only a matter of destiny and a requirement for rejuvenation.

Hong Kong, in utmost turmoil as this goes to press, knows full well the significance of Xi’s power. The extradition bill introduced earlier this year raised their antennae for trouble ahead. The current Hong Kong protesters are prepared to do whatever it takes to resist Beijing’s increasing encroachment.

Of course, there also is a different camp who would like to see an end to the protests, if not just because of the inconvenience, but because of the chaotic image projected to the world. They fear economic repercussions and abhor the violence and property damage. The violent clashes of 2019 stand in stark contrast to the mainly peaceful Occupant Central movement of 2014. But then, the stakes also are much higher today. The protesters are fighting for their freedoms and their way of life.

A Sept. 28 South China Morning Post article disclosed that Carrie Lam, Hong Kong’s chief executive, had to seek Xi’s approval to formally withdraw the infamous extradition bill despite saying it was her own decision to do so three weeks earlier. The mid-September U.S. Congressional hearing in Wash., D.C., which, amongst others, included student activist Joshua Wong, Cantonese pop star Denise Ho and Dan Garrett, a U.S. citizen and academic who had lived in and written a book on Hong Kong, told of deteriorating circumstances and increasing erosion of civil liberties facing Hong Kongers. Garrett was denied reentry to Hong Kong after his testimony in front of Congress.

Are mass arrests and martial law next? Or worse ... a repeat of Tiananmen? The mid-September U.S. Congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., which, amongst others, included student activist Joshua Wong, Cantonese pop star Denise Ho and Dan Garrett, a U.S. citizen and academic who had lived in and written a book on Hong Kong, told of deteriorating circumstances and increasing erosion of civil liberties facing Hong Kongers. Garrett was denied reentry to Hong Kong after his testimony in front of Congress.

The island of Taiwan, for all intents and purposes, has been an independent self-governing democracy since 1949 even though China has claimed sovereignty over it.

The Taiwanese are increasingly alarmed by what’s happening in Hong Kong since Xi had mentioned “One Country, Two Systems” may be a model for Taiwan after reunification, AND that “China reserved the right to use force” to that end.

Approximately 300 Taiwanese turned up in Taipei’s Central Park on Aug. 11 to spell out “Free Hong Kong.” There are efforts by private Taiwanese citizens to collect and donate to Hong Kong protesters kits of gas masks, air filters and helmets. As in Hong Kong, Lemon Walls at rally sites and coffee shops are proliferating in Taiwan as well.

Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen has also been completely resolute in her support of the Hong Kong protests. A June 17 parliamentary statement included one paragraph that said, “The legislature expresses support for the citizens of Hong Kong in their pursuit of democracy and freedom. It urges the Hong Kong government to withdraw the extradition bill.”

Tsai tweeted in June:

Tsai has defied Xi’s reunification. In her 2019 New Year speech she called on China “to face squarely the reality of the existence of the Republic of China on Taiwan” and that China should “respect the insistence of 23 million people on freedom and democracy.”

However, Tsai’s sentiment is not shared by all Taiwanese. Her political rival (for the January 2020 presidential election) Kaoshiung Mayor Han kuo-yu is pro-Beijing. He visited with senior Beijing officials in Hong Kong and Shenzhen. But fearing political backlash for his “I don’t know” comment on the Hong Kong protests, he came out with a “never one country, two systems” statement.

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While we are seeking host families in all parts the Twin Cities area, we are especially seeking families in Eden Prairie.

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“China’s Hong Kong” has the rare privilege of being a book made extremely timely due to current events. The anti-extradition bill protests that have raged for months have made Hong Kong’s governance — normally interesting only to those who live in the city — a topic of global concern.

Tim Summers — a lecturer at the City University of Hong Kong and a former British diplomat — wrote “China’s Hong Kong” before the current protests: only a small afterword deals with the extradition bill, and even this was completed before the protests took their more intense turn. But Summers’s arguments are vitally important for those who care about Hong Kong, who want to see its autonomy and strengths preserved into the future.

In a succinct retelling of events, “China’s Hong Kong” presents a more nuanced and complex picture of Hong Kong-China relations. It’s easy — possibly too easy — to look at the protests as a simple case of local governance failing against outside authoritarianism. It lends itself cleanly to moral certainty. But Summers argues that focusing exclusively on this relationship misses dynamics on both the local and global level. In other words: Hong Kong may be a mess, but not necessarily just because of Beijing. When it comes to local political dynamics, Summers notes that Hong Kong’s politics have been polarised, gridlocked and dysfunctional for much of the post-Handover period. This has meant that the city has been largely unable to tackle the major social and political issues that plague the city.

A core example is the political reform package that passed in 2010: this expanded Hong Kong’s Election Committee and the franchise for Hong Kong’s “functional constituencies” (the seats in the city’s Legislative Council reserved for certain sectors of the economy). The pan-democratic opposition argued that the package should be rejected, as it was in their view too small a step on the path towards universal suffrage. However, after intense lobbying by then-Chief Executive Donald Tsang, the Hong Kong Democratic Party chose to vote for the package. This decision backfired on Summers, was “not that building consensus could achieve progress, but that making concessions would lose them votes.” The conversation over political reform has now been stuck for over a decade.

Thus, Summers proposes a different read for Beijing’s concerns about Hong Kong: not due to worries about a free society, but rather that the current version of “Hong Kong people running Hong Kong” has not led to very good results. But while Hong Kong may have been governed poorly for decades, protests have only started to take a more intense turn in the past few years. Summers points to global dynamics: specifically, the rise in dissatisfaction with the status quo after the global financial crisis of 2008 and an economic recovery that has privileged elite interests.

Hong Kong, despite growing at a reasonable rate for an advanced economy, has significant cost-of-living and income inequality issues. It’s well known that the city has some of the world’s most expensive housing. Poverty is also stubbornly high: Summers quotes statistics that it affects one in five, while one in five children do not get enough to eat. Social mobility has become more constrained.

Summers connects Hong Kong to the “populist” reactions in the United States and the United Kingdom; one could perhaps add France’s gilet jaunes movement as a comparison as well.

The global dynamics offer an alternate, or at least an additional, explanation as to why dissatisfaction in Hong Kong has increased. Most writing about Hong Kong suggests that rising discontent is solely due to increasing Chinese interference with Hong Kong. But “China’s Hong Kong” suggests that Hong Kong is part of a pattern of discontent sweeping several advanced economies.

The danger of focusing purely on the Hong Kong-China relationship to explain the city’s discontent is that one might end up looking at the wrong place. Most discussions of “what to do” about Hong Kong focus on Beijing: namely, calling upon the Central Government to honour its commitment to Hong Kong. Instead, “China’s Hong Kong” suggests that people should focus their efforts on improving the city’s political structures.

It’s easy — possibly too easy — to look at Hong Kong as another society struggling against outside authoritarianism. It lends itself to clean depictions of right and wrong; it, ironically, also dissuades anyone from looking too closely at possible solutions.

“China’s Hong Kong” presents a more nuanced and complex view that does not lend itself cleanly to moral certainty. But it leaves open the path for positive change: change that will have to happen if the city is to survive.

About the reviewer
Nicholas Gordon has a Master of Philosophy from Oxford in International Relations and a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard. He works at a think tank in Hong Kong. His writing has also appeared in The South China Morning Post, The Diplomat, China Daily and Caixin.
French investigative journalist Roger Faligot has been writing about Chinese spying and intelligence for more than thirty years. His encyclopedic knowledge of the history of Communist China’s intelligence services is on full display in his book “Chinese Spies,” originally published in France in 2008 (and later updated in 2015) and now in an English translation by Natasha Lehrer. This book could not be more timely. Chinese President Xi Jinping’s expansion of the People’s Liberation Army and Navy, coupled with the Belt and Road Initiative’s geopolitical reach, threatens to upend the “liberal world order” established by the United States and its allies after the Second World War. China’s intelligence services, most especially the Guoanbu (Ministry of State Security), will likely play a key role in Xi’s “China Dream”.

Faligot sees the Guoanbu as the 21st-century successor to the Soviet KGB — it is both the sword and shield of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its intelligence tentacles are worldwide. Faligot traces its roots to early 1920s Shanghai where Chinese communists organized under the auspices of the Moscow-led Comintern, created by Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin, to foment world revolution. China was an early target. China in the early 1920s was a political and military battleground fought over by the CCP, the Nationalist Kuomintang, and various warlords. The Soviets established ties to both the Communists and Nationalists, and for a time oversaw the nascent intelligence services of both parties. Faligot notes that the Chinese diaspora in Paris (he calls them “Hakkas” after a Chinese ethnic group known for traveling beyond China) — including Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yi, Ye Jianying, and Zhu De — would play important roles in the formation of the CCP and the leadership of its intelligence services. In the late 1920s, Zhou Enlai created the Zhongyang Teke or Central Committee Special Branch in Shanghai and placed it under the leadership of Kang Sheng, one of the most important figures in the history of CCP intelligence. According to Faligot, the Teke was responsible for the protection of Party leaders, intelligence and counter-intelligence, the elimination of traitors, and communications. Kang Sheng used the Teke to fight a clandestine war against Chiang Kai-shek’s Kuomintang. In the 1930s and 1940s, he joined Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai to establish “an embryonic communist state” in Yan’an, Shaanxi province. Faligot describes Kang Sheng’s “reign of terror” unleashed in areas of China under communist control in 1942. He employed a diverse range of techniques of repression — that are still employed by the political police in 2019. These included forcible confessions, brainwashing, slave labor, and various means of torture. “Kang established,” Faligot writes, an inquisitorial system, utilizing techniques of punishment and interrogation inspired by the millennia-long Chinese tradition of torture, updated by twentieth-century Stalinism for the requirements of the era.

The CCP’s intelligence services helped Mao gain power in October 1949, and since then have served China’s interests in Asia and other parts of the world. Faligot describes Chinese intelligence activities in Korea, Indochina, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, Europe, and the United States. A Ministry of Public Security, or Gonganbu, was set up in 1949 and was headed by Luo Ruiqing, known as the “Chinese Dzerzhinsky” (after Felix Dzerzhinsky, the first head of the Soviet Cheka, later called the NKVD and KGB). The Gonganbu was Mao’s instrument of domestic repression, and played a role in the horrific repressions of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. Faligot shows how China’s intelligence services targeted the Soviet Union after the Sino-Soviet split and helped pave the way for the improvement of relations with the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s. China’s de facto alliance with the United States, however, did not survive the end of the Cold War. Chinese leaders rightly feared that events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the late 1980s could spill over into China. The Tiananmen Square protests were brutally repressed. There would be no Chinese Gorbachev. China’s intelligence services engaged in economic espionage in the 1990s, seeking industrial and technological secrets from the West, especially the United States. Geopolitically, China’s intelligence community focused on reunification with Hong Kong, undermining movements for formal independence on Taiwan, and challenging the economic and military primacy of the United States.

Twenty-first-century Chinese intelligence activities include cyber warfare, cultural infiltration (via the proliferation of Confucius Institutes throughout the world), and the promotion of global Chinese interests. There is also a renewed emphasis on cracking down on domestic opposition, such as the Falan Gong movement and Uyghur nationalists. Also, in 2018, Xi instructed the Guoanbu to partner with foreign intelligence services to promote and secure the Belt and Road Initiative. One of the book’s most important chapters describes the growing partnership between Chinese and Russian intelligence services in the 1990s and early 2000s. Faligot blames U.S. policymakers for failing to foresee that the end of the Cold War and increased competition between China and the U.S. could lead to a Sino-Russian rapprochement. It has happened, and the geopolitical consequences could be great. A common thread throughout the history of CCP intelligence agencies is the extent to which they are headed by family members of key CCP leaders and descendants of the survivors of the Long March. These so-called “Red Princes” also head-up state-controlled economic enterprises that also engage in intelligence and espionage work abroad. This political nepotism among the Chinese nomenklatura is an instance of guanzhi, a “special web of relationships.”

This remarkable book also includes fascinating spy stories, such as the rescue of Chinese dissidents by Western intelligence services after Tiananmen, and colorful characters, such as the female Chinese spy Gong Pusheng, a daughter of one of Sun Yat-sen’s generals, who became a confidante of Eleanor Roosevelt. It also includes a fascinating and revealing account of the Chinagate scandal in the United States during the Clinton administration, where the Democratic Party received millions in donations from groups tied to Chinese intelligence for President Clinton’s reelection campaign.

Faligot ends the book with a warning. Chinese intelligence services, he writes, are the world’s largest. They are competent and effective. They are “involved in the massive siphoning of economic, scientific, and technological intelligence” from other countries. President Xi has amassed more individual power than any Chinese leader since Mao, and he is committed to use the intelligence services and all the other pillars of Chinese power to advance China’s global economic and geopolitical interests.

About the reviewer
Francis P. Sempa is the author of “Geopolitics: From the Cold War to the 21st Century” and “America’s Global Role: Essays and Reviews on National Security, Geopolitics and War.” His writings appear in The Diplomat, Joint Force Quarterly, the University Bookman and other publications. He is an attorney and an adjunct professor of political science at Wilkes University.
Leading Chinese-Americans highlight impact of U.S.-China tensions on American science, technology, business, and education

The Committee of 100 (C100) convenes nearly 300 leaders in science, technology, government, business, education, and civil rights to address the human impacts of geopolitics.

Melissa K. Smith had returned to Ningxia after she got a Ph.D. in education in 2004, determined to improve the English language education in the region. She believed that she would come back to Ningxia when she first came to China.

But the years in Ningxia left her many friends. Smith returned to Ningxia after she got a Ph.D. in education in 2004, determined to improve the English language education in the region. Smith returned to Ningxia after she got a Ph.D. in education in 2004, determined to improve the English language education in the region. Smith returned to Ningxia after she got a Ph.D. in education in 2004, determined to improve the English language education in the region.

"It's my second hometown, and it feels like I have grown up here," Smith said.


Education

American teacher sows seeds of love in NW China

Source: Xinhua, Sept. 25, 2019

Melissa K. Smith had replaced several mobile phones over the past 26 years. However, the American English teacher always keeps a black-and-white photo on her phone that was taken in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in 1993.

The old photo depicts the busiest street in the city of Guyuan, where there were only gravel paths and shabby dwellings. It was taken by Smith 26 years ago when she first came to China.

When she was 26 years old, she worked at Ningxia University, training teachers and teaching English for three years. Born in Indiana of America, she had never been to such a poor place before. She did not expect that the English language teaching level in the hinterland would be so far behind the times.

But the years in Ningxia left her many unforgettable memories, which made her believe that she would come back to Ningxia again.

"It's my second hometown, and it feels like I have grown up here," Smith said.

Smith returned to Ningxia after she got a Ph.D. in education in 2004, determined to improve the English language education in the region.

"Most English teachers in the university had never spoken to foreigners at that time. They could hardly speak fluent English," said Li Yuhong, a professor, who was then an English teacher with the university.

To help teachers improve their English and teaching methods, Smith set up an English corner at her apartment, making use of her spare time to teach the teachers.

Teachers were afraid of being asked questions in her training class at first, Li recalled. "However, she spoke slowly and always encouraged us," said Li, adding that Smith's patience and encouragement inspired her to attend the English corner for 16 years.

As teachers had no idea about "student-centered teaching," spoon-feeding education was prevalent in the classes. "Students often got sleepy, and they often gave the same answer to every question," Li said.

Noticing these problems, Smith taught teachers to guide students to participate in the class and learn to think independently.

"It's a real revolution in teaching," Li said.

With the help of Smith, Li has now become one of the most popular English teachers in the university.

Apart from her own work, Smith also cares about children in rural areas.

"They didn't have heaters or even toothbrushes and sometimes had to attend classes with empty stomachs," Smith said. She often visits villages schools, together with other foreign teachers, reading stories to the children and teaching them to brush their teeth.

She also launched fund-raising activities at the campus and raised money to purchase books for schools in poverty-stricken areas.

"When I saw books sent to them become dirty and dog-eared, I was so happy. They got very excited each time we came. I really hope these lovely and innocent children could enjoy learning like this for their whole life," Smith said.

The 52-year-old said she saw the improvements in education that the Chinese government has achieved over the past years, with more new schoolhouses, free meals and good teachers in the western regions.

In 2014, Smith received the Friendship Award, given annually by the Chinese government to honor outstanding foreign experts in China, but Smith only said she did what she should do as an ordinary person.

Smith hopes to postpone her retirement until 70, devoting herself and her time and energy to English language teaching in the region.
The Minnesota Chapter of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association will host the 27th National Convention

**Forty Years and Beyond: Friendship, Successes, and Challenges**

October 18–20, 2019
Airport Hilton
3900 American Blvd., Bloomington

Convention attendees will participate in national USCPFA business meetings, attend lectures, presentations, and a gala dinner (watch "40 Videos for 40 Years" project), and a field trip to the newly constructed St. Paul–Changsha Chinese Friendship Garden as well as the world-class Asian art collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. A delegation from Minneapolis' Sister City, Harbin, China, is expected to attend along with other local, state and international guests.

The convention is for USCPFA members only. Not a member yet? Join in now and be eligible. Immediately A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For complete detail visit https://uscpfa-mn.org/ or scan bar code

Event is presented in collaboration with the Midwest Region and the national leadership of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association.

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Minnesota China Business Council presents

**Global Trade: Crisis and Opportunity**

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019
7:30-9:30 a.m.
Fredrikson & Byron
200 South 6th St., #4000, Minneapolis

Cost: $35 (includes light breakfast)

Register at minnesotachinabusinesscouncil.org/eventregistration

Speakers will address the current U.S.-China trade environment and will help business leaders devise global trade strategies accordingly. Attendees will have an opportunity to network before and after the presentation.

The event is presented in collaboration with Fredrikson & Byron.
Mid-Autumn Moon Festival celebrated at Mall of America

By Greg Hugh

The local Chinese American community recently gathered for a day of music and cultural performances at Mall of America to celebrate China’s Mid-Autumn Festival. The daylong event was free and open to the public.

This festival is one of the most popular holidays in China. Much like America’s Thanksgiving, it is celebrated by the entire country where everyone travels to visit family.

The rotunda at Mall of America was decorated with many red lanterns suspended from the ceiling, providing a festive setting for the main stage where performances took place throughout the day. Unfortunately, seating was limited, as was the ability to view the performances from the edge of the rotunda owing to the placement of many posters extolling the virtues of the city of Chongqing, one of the event’s primary sponsors.

The event began with a cultural and tourist video by Chongqing, followed by performances that included the Chongqing Jaio Ayi Art Troupe that had traveled from China to participate in this event. More than 15 local members of the Chinese and Hmong communities presented 30-plus performances throughout the day.

The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival has been celebrated since the Zhou Dynasty (1045-221 B.C.). It started as a celebration of the moon. The Emperor believed that by giving gifts to the moon after the fall harvest would help guarantee a good harvest the following year. These offerings were usually placed on an outdoor altar for the moon to “see,” and consisted of various foods and drinks, like tea. The practice of celebrating the moon spread from just the Emperor through the upper class and into the masses during the Tong Dynasty (A.D. 618-907). It wasn’t until the Song Dynasty (A.D. 960-1279) that a formal festival was established and celebrated by the entire country. It is to occur on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar corresponding with a full moon, which means it can occur anywhere between the middle of August through early October in the Gregorian calendar.

All photos by Will Ahern