Republicans called out for voting against bill condemning anti-Asian sentiment

By Greg Hugh

A deeper look: House Resolution 908 was passed Sept. 17, with a total passing vote of 243 (229 from Democrats and 14 from Republicans) while 164 — all Republicans — voted in opposition, HuffPost reported.

H.Res.908 was introduced by Democratic New York Representative Grace Meng in March, NBC News reported.

“For months, Asian Americans in my home state of New York and in communities throughout the nation have been verbally and physically attacked, spat on and shunned,” Meng said. “Enough of the demeaning usages of ‘Chinese virus,’ ‘Wuhan virus’ and ‘Kung-flu,’ especially from our nation’s leaders, such as President Trump, GOP leader McCarthy and others. Enough of the scapegoating. Enough of us-ing the Asian American community to stoke people’s fears about COVID-19.”

The resolution “calls on all public officials to condemn and denounce anti-Asian sentiment, racism, discrimination, and religious intolerance related to COVID-19” and urges federal, state and local officials to document, investigate and gather all data from the incident reports they receive.

“The bill] calls on federal officials to expeditiously investigate and document all credible reports of hate crimes and incidents and threats against the Asian-American community and prosecute perpetrators,” its summary continued.

“The House made clear that we reject this xenophobia and violence, and I thank all who joined me in standing up to bigotry and ugliness against Asian Americans,” Meng said, as reported by NBC. “Everybody deserves to feel safe in the country we call home.”

The defense for no: Some of the Republicans who voted no on the resolution defended their stance on the matter.

“There is no kitchen in America that thinks this is the priority,” House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said. Republican and representative of Georgia’s 9th congressional district, Doug Collins, claimed the bill was not “really about” racism, but “Democrats ignoring the real issues plaguing Americans just for the opportunity to criticize President Trump.”

NOW, ONLINE ONLY!
Asian Americans constitute a critical mass in several competitive states, including Arizona, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. They are likely to be influential in congressional races in Southern California, Texas and New Jersey, as well as in other states. As attention turns to the immigrant vote, it is worth noting that “immigrant voters” include about as many Asian Americans as Latinx people and that Asian Americans are the only racial group that is majority immigrant. This means that bilingual voting materials and outreach remain acute needs in Asian American communities.

The 2020 Asian American Voter Survey includes a national sample of 1,569 Asian American registered voters. It was conducted from July 4 to Sept. 10, 2020. The survey breaks out Chinese, Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese and Filipino voters and was offered in English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. The survey was co-sponsored by APIA Vote, AAPI Data, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC.

Results from the survey show strong enthusiasm about the upcoming Presidential election among Asian American registered voters. A majority (54%) of registered Asian Americans said that compared to previous elections, they are more enthusiastic than usual about voting. A majority of Asian Americans (54%) surveyed planned to vote for Biden compared to just 30% who planned to support Republican incumbent Donald Trump.

Biden was strongly favored among all national origin groups surveyed, except Vietnamese Americans. Among Vietnamese registered voters, support is higher for Trump (48%) than Biden (36%). Indian Americans are the most inclined to vote for Biden among all Asian American groups (66%). At the same time, 14% of Asian American registered voters remained undecided about their presidential vote choice, with Chinese Americans (22%) exhibiting the highest proportion of voters who said they were “undecided.”

Majorities of Asian American registered voters also said they will support Democratic over Republican candidates in House and Senate races. Again, the exception to this trend of Democratic support were Vietnamese American voters, who on the whole are more likely to support Republican candidates for House and Senate than Democratic candidates. Partisanship likely drives these group differences among Asian Americans. Vietnamese Americans were the only Asian American group surveyed that leans more Republican (38%) than Democrat (28%) with a large proportion of those who identify as non-partisan (34%).

Although enthusiastic about voting, Asian American registered voters also expressed some concerns about the upcoming election. Almost half (48%) said they often worry about the possibility of election interference in November. In addition, almost half worry about the health and safety of voting in-person at the polls due to COVID-19. Perhaps as a consequence, most Asian American registered voters (54%) said they prefer to vote by mail or vote by absentee ballot, rather than to vote in-person (26%) on Election Day.

Asian American voters exhibit tremendous diversity in terms of characteristics like national origin, geographic region, religion, and English-language proficiency. At the same time, they demonstrate remarkable cohesion when it comes to their interest in health care and opinions related to immigration, the environment, guns and education. On many of these issues, Asian Americans lean progressive, favoring a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, stronger environmental protections, gun control, and affirmative action. They are likely to believe that the Democratic Party handles most issues better than the Republican party, with the exception of taxes and “jobs and the economy.”

Political parties have yet to harness the power of the Asian American vote despite the fact that many remain persuadable. The 2020 Asian American Voter Survey shows that about half of all respondents were not contacted by either major party. With a higher than average response of voters who do not subscribe with either party, party outreach will be critical for Asian American voters.

We need your help to mobilize our communities!” Regardless of your political preference, please be sure you vote.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh
President – CEO
China Insight, Inc.
Both the U.S. and China have “weap-
onized” journalists. Washington has imposed restrictions on Chinese journalists in the U.S. and China expelled 17 journalists in the first six months of 2020.

According to The New York Times on Sept. 6, Beijing stopped renewing visas for foreign journalists working in mainland China for American news organizations such as Bloomberg, CNN, Getty Images and Wall Street Journal. These journalists are allowed to stay and work through Nov. 6, 2020. Chinese authorities also threatened it would further expel U.S. journalists if the U.S. “takes further actions against Chinese news media in the U.S.”

Australians were not spared either. Since Australia called for an inquiry into the source of COVID-19, one Australian national, anchor Cheng Lei, was arrested in August, two were questioned by police and forced to leave the country.

The Foreign Correspondent Club in Hong Kong sent letters to the Hong Kong Immigration director about the visas of journalists in the city. The letter has gone unanswered.

China’s Ministry of National Defense announced Sept. 24 that it will do “whatever it takes” to thwart any Taiwanese effort in seceding from China. “If Taiwan separatist forces dare to attempt Taiwan’s secession under any cir-
stances, we will do whatever it takes to thwart their efforts,” a spokesman said.

When asked about warplanes of the PLA Eastern Theater Command crossing the “median line” during its recent exercise near the Taiwan Straits, China’s Foreign Ministry stated that Taiwan “is an inalienable part of China and there is no such thing as a ‘median line’.”

U.S. Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.) intro-
duced a bill last week that seeks to authorize the U.S. to counter China militarily over Tai-
wan. The bill also advocates visits between top officials from the U.S. and the Taiwan. 

In an episode of a long-running TV show, a man who assaulted a pro-democracy activist as possessing “passion for society” and committed the crime because of “political disagreement.”

The senior defendant originally faced 10 years in prison under the new law. An activist who was quoted as saying, “I want my right to vote,” was arrested as well.

Passionate assailant

While the U.S. has “peaceful protest-
ers,” in Hong Kong, a magistrate credited a man who assaulted a pro-democracy activist as possessing “passion for society” and committed the crime because of “political disagreement.”

The attack took place during a protest against Beijing outside the Hong Kong Liaison Office in April. The assailant, in his 80s, stabbed the activist in the abdomen with a rusty metal chisel. He told the arrest-
ing police at the scene that, “These people are causing chaos in Hong Kong, causing chaos in China. I am teaching him so they know how many people in Hong Kong do not like him.”

Referring to the Liaison Office’s re-
peated condemnation of pro-democracy protesters in 2019, the chairman of the pro-
democracy party said, “It’s most regretful. The [Hong Kong] Liaison Office kept saying there are rioters, but there’s an attack right outside the liaison office, will they condemn these violence too?”

The senior defendant originally faced two months in jail, but ended up with a sentence of only 100 hours of community service instead.

Light sentences for lawlessness must be the trend du jour.

Offensive props

How to arrange a pair of yellow rubber gloves on TV? Properly, so no one can read any message into it.

In an episode of a long-running TV series produced in Hong Kong, eagle-eyed viewers saw the pair of “offensive” props arranged such that one had only one finger showing and the other had all five showing.

Pro-government groups suggested on social media the arrangement supported the popular protest slogan, “five demands, not one less.”

The director of the show, an eight-year employee of the station, was forced to resign while the TV station is investigating the inci-
COVID-19 pandemic - the importance of testing and contact tracing

Source: Asian Media Access

It has been 6 months since the COVID-19 outbreak began in MN. Like other communities, our Chinese American community has been hit hard physically, mentally and economically. We all need to be alert, monitor our health, test for COVID-19, and participate in the contact tracing process to better combat the virus.

According to the daily updated MN Department of Health COVID-19 data, we have 85,813 positive COVID-19 cases, as Sept 16, 2020. Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) have borne disproportional high COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalization Rate, ICU Rate and the Death Rate in MN. Source (updated Sept. 10, 2020): https://mn.gov/covid19/data-data-by-race-ethnicity/index.jsp

- Because: BIPOC communities have experienced increased exposure to COVID-19 because of work in low-paying jobs that are considered essential.
- BIPOC communities have substantially higher rates of health inequities, making them more likely to have severe outcomes of COVID-19 infection.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have experienced heightened disparities as well. Below is the Summary Chart that has shown Number of AAPIs is at 5% of total Minnesota populations, but with more than DOUBLE of its population rate at 11% of cases being put in Intensive Care Units.

Additionally, when individuals from Asian American communities are diagnosed with COVID-19, they are hospitalized and go to the ICU at rates higher than the overall COVID-19 population. Asian Americans are the 2nd highest percentage in hospitalization, and 2nd highest percentage in ICU. Please refer to below 2 charts for these heightened alerts.

In order to reduce the impacts from COVID-19, Asian Media Access has partnered with MN Dept of Health to urge Chinese Americans to take precautions, in order to greatly reduce spread:
- Wearing Masks
- Washing your hands at least 20 seconds
- Social Distancing - Keeping at least 6 feet from others
- Disinfecting commonly used surfaces

For more information, visit health.mn.gov
HOTLINE: 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504

For translated materials: https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html

If you have had contact with a known positive, please QUARANTINE yourself:
- Quarantine = separate

Quarantine is for those who have not tested positive but have had contact with a positive person. Quarantine is 14 days.

Contacts in quarantine can be together, they just need to be separated from others without contact in and out of the household. Within the same household they can use the same bathroom, cook together, sleep together, etc. unless they start to show symptoms.

For 14 days, 14 days are calculated from the last day there was contact with the positive person. The 1-4 days are not changed or shortened just because of a negative test. COVID can still develop.

If you cannot separate from the positive person who is in isolation, this is considered ongoing contact. If you have ongoing contact the 14 days begin once the isolation of the positive person is complete.

REMEMBER:
- 10 days = the general amount of time that MDH believes people are able to SPREAD COVID.
- 14 days = the general amount of time it can take for the virus to develop from a single contact
- 5 days = the general minimum amount of time before the virus can be detected after a contact

MN Dept. of Health offers FREE COVID-19 Community Testing at State sponsored sites

Everyone can get the testing for free, and you do not need to show insurance or ID. Lastly, please be mindful for your social activities - going to where and meeting with whom, so we can help the contact tracing and protect all of us.

For more information:
- COVID-19 Symptoms PSA: Chinese (YouTube) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Pz9BGxv0k&feature=youtu.be
- For translated materials: https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html

Thank you for reading China Insight
The 128th Canton Fair goes digital

Hot on the heels of the mid-September 7th International e-Business Expo at the Hangzhou International Expo Center is the China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair), aka “China’s No. 1 Exhibition,” and has been held continuously since 1957. This is the second time the fair had been held online. The June session was the first.

The 10-day virtual 128th session will go online from Oct. 15-24. It will leverage its digital interaction features to create new opportunities for global companies to source products and forge trade partnerships.

“With the Canton Fair online is conducive to further playing its role as an all-round open platform for foreign trade, promoting the stable and healthy development of foreign trade in a time of normalized epidemic prevention and control, and to ensuring an unimpeded foreign trade industry chain and supply chain. We will work hard to provide better and more convenient services for the exhibitors and buyers. Chinese and foreign enterprises and buyers are welcome to actively participate in the exhibition and do business,” said Gao Feng, the spokesperson of China’s Ministry of Commerce.

The 128th virtual Canton Fair will set up 50 exhibition zones featuring 16 product categories with a cross-border e-commerce zone dedicated to promoting the integrated pilot zones to expand cooperation across B2B cross-border e-commerce platforms. The digital platform of the virtual trade fair comes with enhanced functions and an optimized registration process for global buyers. This newly improved website enables easier webpage navigation to boost efficiency for both buyers and sellers through more comprehensive search features and a more intuitive interface.

Innovative cloud-based technology, online tools for services such as live-streaming product demonstration, instant-communication tools, business meeting appointment and trade matching will also be provided to facilitate business processes.

Promoting global trade through new channels

The Canton Fair is an example of China’s latest innovative contribution to stabilize global industry and supply chains. With China’s import and export continuing to show a strong momentum of recovery, the Fair is poised to promote global trade by opening up new channels to strengthen international economic and trade cooperation.

With the new consumption trend led by the stay-at-home practices, the Canton Fair will help companies adjust to a new economic normal through building a platform to debut their high-quality household products including home appliances, kitchenware and portable indoor exercise equipment.

The Canton Fair 2020 autumn session will also feature “Promotion on Cloud” events, develop new global partners, and launch supporting programs designed to help buyers better adapt to the online exhibition.

Livestreaming brings Hong Kong products closer to mainland consumers

Six thousand boxes of mooncakes sold in 30 seconds, 20,000 cases of beauty masks snapped up in several minutes ... the first sales promotion via livestreaming for products made in Hong Kong launched Friday night yielded substantial results.

The new sales mode can not only help Hong Kong’s small and medium-sized enterprises cope with the epidemic crisis, but also explore a new path for the transformation and development of Hong Kong’s traditional industries, said Jiang Zuzhong, chairman of Hong Kong Ta Kung Wen Wei Media Group, organizer of the event.

“Hong Kong has many good products and the mainland has so many consumers. The livestreaming can help Hong Kong manufacturers open a new market,” said Kingdom Yuen, a Hong Kong actress who acted as a “sales assistant” in the livestreaming room.

The show started at 7:30 p.m. local time Friday on various livestreaming platforms, which drew an audience of 5 million within half an hour. Hosted by Wei Ya, an online celebrity popular among Chinese netizens, and joined by Hong Kong pop stars and celebrities from different walks of life, the online promotion instantly became a hit among mainland consumers.

"Sold out" was the buzzword of the night, which Wei Ya repeated time and time again. From Maxim’s mooncakes, Four Seasons seaweed, to Lee Kum Kee’s seasoning, customers had to be very swift in operation, or they would end up with an empty shopping cart.

Hong Kong’s businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. But the encouraging sales performance has made many people in Hong Kong realize the amazing power of e-commerce platforms and the potential of the mainland market.

Ng Kwok-on, a member of Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong, said the event has made a successful demonstration for Hong Kong brands and Hong Kong enterprises feel the power brought by e-commerce platforms.

Enterprises should seek opportunities for development and transformation under the new consumption pattern, he added.

“The retail sector needs to respond quickly to changes in consumer spending patterns and lifestyles,” said Hui Cho-kaan, chief executive officer at Best Mart 360 Holdings Ltd. Hong Kong lawmaker Junius Ho praised the event for its significance. He said the local enterprises should learn how to optimize packaging, publicity and other skills to adapt to the development of the new era, as opportunities are reserved for those who are prepared.

This event draws on the successful experience of mainland e-commerce to promote Hong Kong brands and explore a way for the transformation and development of Hong Kong’s small and medium-sized enterprises, said Bernard Chan, under secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR government, in a video clip especially recorded for the show.

Wong Ting-chung, chairman of Hong Kong Industrial and Commercial Association, said this platform enables Hong Kong’s good products to further tap into the mainland’s vast consumer market, and is an important step in helping Hong Kong’s SMEs out of the crisis.

Wong said more livestreaming events are on the way for the convenience of mainland consumers hoping to buy Hong Kong products.
California’s 2020 Proposition 16 and Asian Americans

By Elaine Dunn

On Nov. 3, Californians’ general election ballot will include Proposition 16. Voters are asked to amend the Constitution of California to overturn 1996’s Proposition 209, which banned “government institutions from discriminating of giving preferential treatment based on race, sex, or ethnicity, specifically in the areas of public employment, public contracting, and public education.

The official voters information guide summarizes the measure as follows:

[Proposition 16] Permits government decision-making policies to consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in order to address diversity by repealing constitutional provision prohibiting such policies. Fiscal Impact: No direct fiscal effect on state and local entities. The effects of the measure depend on the future choices of state and local government entities and are highly uncertain.

A YES vote on this measure means: State and local entities could consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in public education, public employment, and public contracting to the extent allowed under federal and state law.

A NO vote on this measure means: The current ban on the consideration of race, sex, color, ethnicity, and national origin in public education, public employment, and public contracting would remain in effect.

Can it be right? A ballot asking voters to overturn a law that prevents discrimination?

Proponents of the measure claim it will allow policymakers to “identify, select and train potentially qualified minorities and women.” Critics, however, argue that through Prop 16, policymakers can enact laws and programs that “will have the same effect as establishing overt quotas.”

On the “Yes” camp are editorial boards of major newspapers such as the East Bay Times and the LA Times, Mercury News and San Diego Union Tribune. Claiming passage of Prop 16 would “restore the ability for state and local governments to consider and address barriers to equal opportunities …” It’s absolutely legitimate for those [University of California] admissions officers to consider whether a cohort at least generally reflects the demographic composition of the state … It’s absolutely legitimate for law enforcement to consider the life experience of men and women it is hiring to interface with the public.”

In short, even though racial quotas are unconstitutional, Prop 16 says race may be used when serving a “compelling interest” such as diversity and will address deep-seated inequalities.

As The LA Times puts it, the U.S. is not a “singular bastion of equality where anyone can excel if they have sufficient grit and tenacity.” That’s just a nice “story” – a myth – according to the paper. It goes on to state that some Asian Americans fear affirmative action will be at their expense; however, “everyone benefits from a society in which institutions that train future leaders in business, law and the sciences are racially diverse, and we advocate a continuation of holistic admissions that take into account indicators of disadvantage.” Asian Americans disadvantaged be damned!

The “No” camp argues there are better ways than affirmative action to achieve educational and economic diversity. The National Review noted that despite 1996’s Prop 209, California higher education facilities still engage in “admissions’ algorithm” in their admissions processes.

A Sept. 11 Opinion piece by Tom Campbell (former Dean, Haas School of Business at UC-Berkley) in the San Francisco Chronicle stated, “A new study from the Center for Equal Opportunity (CEO) shows that if California were to return to racial preferences, race would not act as a mere tiebreaker between two equally qualified applicants. It would again become a major factor in discriminating against some applicants, while favoring others, on the basis of race … Should Prop. 16 pass, California will once again practice racial discrimination to achieve desired racial outcomes.”

An AAPI Data Survey from Sept. 15 shows a large percentage (more than one-third) of Asian Americans remain undecided on the ballot measure. Thirty-eight percent of Chinese Americans said they would vote against it. A Sept. 16 poll by the Public Policy Institute found only 31 percent of California voters would vote for it and 42 percent were against it, with 22 percent undecided.

The main sticking point for Asian Americans? College admission.

“Everyone knows that in the Asian community, that their kids have to be very, very good to get into a good college — that’s an open secret,” said a San Diego resident, a 2005 immigrant from China and member of the “No” campaign, “Proposition 16 will make it worse.”

Under affirmative action, the increased number of Black and Latino students admitted means a decreased number of white and Asian students admitted.

The student body of the University of California system has been accused of failing to reflect the demographics of California, but a Sept. 17 report by an economist and Distinguished Professor of Law at UCLA refutes this claim. Two key report points are:

• If we compare UC freshmen from California with a contemporaneous pool of California high school graduates, under-represented minorities (URMs) are much better represented at UC in 2017 (and any other recent year) than in 1997, the last year before Prop 209 took effect.

• If we use good available sources to examine the academic makeup of California high school graduates, and we compare the racial makeup of the top eighth of high school graduates with UC freshmen from California, we find that URMs are substantially overrepresented relative to their numbers in the pool — more overrepresented, even, than Asian Americans. Non-Hispanic Whites are by far the most underrepresented group.

But to be fair, one must not let college admission cloud Prop 16. The measure also affects, among other issues, the ethnic diversity of faculty members at public colleges and universities. Proponents point to the fact that while UC student bodies are diverse, most faculty members are white. A 2018 report by Campaign for College Opportunity showed that while 69 percent of students at California’s public institutes of higher learning are from AAPI, Native American, Latino or Black communities, 68 percent of tenured faculty are White and only one-third were women when more than half the students were women.

Backers of Prop 16 say it’s necessary to target underrepresented groups to have faculty and leaders resemble the student body they serve.

However, a co-founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles and professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State Los Angeles charged that the ban on affirmative action had been “specifically used to advance anti-blackness” as well as being used by institutions “to excuse their own anti-Black policies.”

This individual is among some Prop 16 backers who think university leaders are using it as a scapegoat “to paper over their own disinterest in diversifying the faculty.”

This is not a perfect world. Much injustice exists. Prop 16, is about leveling the playing field, about giving people the opportunity to be competitive in college entrance and the job market. And it comes down to whether that is accomplished through legalizing discrimination or by an individual’s character, skills, merit and ability; not by minority status.

Of course, as with everything else these days, proponents and opponents fall along party lines. Democrats, including Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, teachers’ unions, the ACLU and the UC Board of Regents are in one camp and two Republican state senators and several former Republican U.S. representatives, including Darrell Issa, on the other. Can you figure out which party is for and which against? ♦

Election Day is Nov. 3, 2020
In this lesson we will begin a series of lessons that will talk about coming and going. We will start with where someone comes from and move to arriving and going back. We will then discuss talking about past and future events in Chinese.

Some of the vocabulary we will use:

### Pronunciation Reminders

This system follows Chinese Pinyin with the exception that the letter “u” which has two pronunciations. Sometimes it has the value of ü (“ee” 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 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 "djir". It almost rhymes with "fur."

This is an unaspirated “ch” with the tongue retracted and lightly curled. For an American accent which will still be understood by the listener.

 Sounds like “yo” in “yodel.”

 Sounds almost like “zh” without any aspiration. Pronouncing this as ‘dz’ betrays an American accent which will still be understood by the listener.

Unaspirated tz, the vowel i is short, it is between “i” in “it” and “u” in “mut.”

This is an unspurred "ch" with the tongue retracted and lightly curled. For example, “zhong” almost sounds like “droong.”

The sound “a” in these syllables sounds like the “a” in “father.”

The “e” here sounds much like the “a” in “father.”

The “o” here sounds much like the “oo” in “ooze” or “spoon.”

Sounds like the “igh” in “high.”

The “a” in these syllables sounds like the ‘a’ in “father.”

Some of the vocabulary we will use:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>come; (When paired with another verb, lái indicates motion towards the speaker.)</td>
<td>来</td>
<td>lái</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>where</td>
<td>哪里</td>
<td>nǎlǐ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>where (a less formal version of nàr 哪儿, often heard in Beijing and northeast China)</td>
<td>哪儿</td>
<td>nǎr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>go; (When paired with another verb, qù indicates motion away from the speaker.)</td>
<td>去</td>
<td>qù</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>when?, at what time?</td>
<td>什么时候</td>
<td>shénmé shíhào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon</td>
<td>中午</td>
<td>zhōngwǔ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The question “Where does someone comes from?” is reworded to something like “You are one who comes from where?” In less formal situations, the word is shì frequently omitted. In rapid speech, in less formal situations, the word de may also be omitted.

### Pinyin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She is driving a car.</td>
<td>她正开车。 Tā zhèng kāiche.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are running.</td>
<td>他们在跑步。 Tāmen zài pànbù.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are swimming.</td>
<td>他们在游泳。 Tāmen zài yóuyŏng.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She is driving a car.</td>
<td>她在开车。 Tā ěr zài kēchē.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Words of wisdom

“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.”

Confucius
I. Tradition of Helongyan

Dong people are usually very kind and hospitable. They keep a long tradition of “scrambling” for guests, namely each host trying to get more guests than others. On some special occasions or grand festivals, Dong people keep a tradition of visiting each other among different villages. The moment they reach their destination would throw the host villagers into a chaotic scramble for guests, presenting an extraordinarily lively and interesting scene. Some people would fail to get any guests because the number of the visitors can’t always be large enough to meet everybody’s need, and thus they would ask those getting several guests to spare one or two to them. If they failed to get any guests, they would make a request to entertain all the guests together by having a joint banquet, and every household would provide the banquet with some delicious food, connecting tables where necessary. Dong people have been keeping this tradition for hundreds of years.

Nowadays, it has become a common practice for Dongs to have a Helongyan when they entertain distinguished guests or have grand celebrations. A Helongyan consisting of long tables or wooden planks can be extended indefinitely as required, reaching tens or even hundreds of meters long if necessary. The guests and the hosts would sit opposite each other on either side of the tables, singing and dancing, drinking and laughing, full of fun and zest.

Language

Chinese Language Corner

Coming and going

Continued from page 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tones</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>à</td>
<td>High level pitch (55)</td>
<td>Regarding tone à&lt;br&gt;1. when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone à becomes tone á. Thus “hên hăo” (very good) changes to “hén hăo” (31) 2. occurring directly before any other tone, Tone à will change to a mid-falling tone&lt;br&gt;Regarding tone à&lt;br&gt;- When occurring before another tone&lt;br&gt;- The first tone à reduces its fall to 53 or 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>á</td>
<td>Mid Rising Tone (35)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ä</td>
<td>Dipping (213)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>High falling pitch (51)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ä</td>
<td>An unstressed neutral tone. Following other syllables, syllables in this tone tend to be somewhat lower that of the previous syllable. The lone exception is when it occurs after tone à when the neutral tone is often slightly higher in pitch.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next month, we will continue the topic of coming and going. ♦

About Pat Welsh

In 2009 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welsh 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, Welsh has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both professionally and personally to enhance his understanding of Chinese and Asian affairs. He uses Beijing Mandarin most frequently when meeting with senior Chinese government officials when conducting business in China. For 17 years, Welsh taught Chinese, German and Spanish in two local high schools. Now fully retired, he currently resides in Georgia where he used to lecture on China to a number of classes at Dunwoody High School.
II. Legends of Helongyan

There are a lot of interesting folk stories about Helongyan. The two following ones are most legendary:

One originates from the uprising of the Dongs in the early Ming Dynasty. From the year of 1378 to 1385, the Dongs held a large-scale armed resistance against the Ming Administration. Wu Mian, the rebel leader, was respected as a national hero by the Dong people. Wherever he went, he would be worshipped as a god by the locals. One day, he passed a Dong village with his insurrectionists and was warmly welcomed by the villagers. Everyone was eager to entertain the hero and none was willing to give up the opportunity, which caused an awkward situation. Then, a smart girl from the village came up with an idea, entertaining their hero together by holding a joint banquet. So, the villagers brought some tables and connected them with some wooden planks on an open space in the village and offered various kinds of delicious food made by themselves. As a result, the Helongyan came into being.

The other legend is about two brothers who were hurrying to take part in an annual singing gala. They were stopped by a flooding river on the way to their destination. The young men tried to cross the river by boat, but fell into the middle of the river because of the roaring waves and of their panic and inexperience. Fortunately, at the critical moment, a fisherman who happened to be on a boat nearby, rushed to their rescue and saved them from the turbulence. A few years later, the fisherman visited the village on business where the two brothers lived. However, he was busy and could only spare half a day to stay in the village, so the brothers, together with their family members and relatives, held a grand reception to reward him for saving their lives years ago. Since then, it has become a custom for the Dong people to entertain honored guests with a joint banquet.

III. Activities of Helongyan

(1) Drinking “Zhuan-zhuan wine” and enjoying “Zhuan-zhuan dishes”

To show hospitality and friendship, at the beginning of the banquet, a respectable and senior man, usually head of the village, would make a welcoming speech on behalf of all the hosts. He would then lift his bowl full of wine to propose a toast to the guests. The other hosts and all the guests would follow suit by lifting their bowls to share a toast with each other. Afterwards, they would begin to drink “Zhuan-zhuan wine” (wine passed from person to person). That’s to say, instead of drinking the wine from his own, everyone drinks the wine from the bowl of the person sitting next to him and toasts each other at the same time. Then, each bowl would be passed from left to right or vice versa, until each person drinks the wine from everyone else’s bowl.

Similarly, they would enjoy “Zhuan-zhuan dishes” too; namely, every dish would also be passed in turn from person to person until everyone at the table can enjoy each of the food. The food for the feast is rich in variety; all made by the villagers themselves, mainly including pickled fish and bacon, chicken, duck, pork, mutton, beef, eggs and vegetables, etc., as well as all kinds of home-made wine, rice and glutinous rice cakes, etc.

(2) Holding a bonfire party

To show their happiness and hospitality, the villagers would have a variety of activities during the banquet, including playing Lusheng, singing folk songs, and dancing around the table. However, holding a bonfire party is the most representative and a “must.” When night falls, they would light the firewood on an open square and move around the big fire, hand-in-hand, dancing and singing. The scene is very cheerful, bringing the festival atmosphere to a climax.

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Ten years ago, a spate of suicides at Foxconn’s factories in Shenzhen thrust the company into global headlines. These workers, part of a million-strong workforce, were involved in making Apple’s iPhone, the world’s premier status symbol smartphone. While the suicides are now mainly in the past, the issues raised in “Dying for an iPhone” remain pertinent to China’s labor situation and global manufacturing generally.

The book clearly juxtaposes the enormous revenues and reputation of Apple and Foxconn and the masses of Chinese factory workers employed to make their products at low wages. The sheer gulf in status between workers employed to make their products at Foxconn and the masses of Chinese factory workers from all over China have the population of small or medium-sized towns. However, it is the repetitive and strict work conditions on the factory lines that tend to break workers, leading to suicide attempts or sending them back to their hometowns. Unsafe conditions exacerbate the problem: the most notorious accident was an explosion caused by the accumulation of aluminium dust in an air duct that killed four workers and injured dozens at Foxconn’s Chengdu plant in 2011.

From undercover research in Foxconn factories and firsthand interviews, the authors — two academics and a researcher — describe the lives and work conditions of the workers and how Foxconn, as their employer, often failed to live up to its obligations. Whether withholding wages, engaging in partnerships with colleges to force interns onto the production line, or ramping up production targets, the authors report clear instances of worker abuse, with worker protests, strikes and slowdowns being the result.

There are also fascinating insights into the structure of China’s export manufacturing economy. For instance, Foxconn has massive revenues of over US$100 billion, but it operates at very thin profit margins, which is a major factor in its worker exploitation. Meanwhile, while the iPhone is manufactured in China, the cost of labor represents only 1.8% of its retail price: reforms that would make a huge difference in workers’ lives would thus hardly register in product cost.

The book provides a general overview of Foxconn and is full of facts, statistics, and findings. As a result, it at times reads more like a report than a book. The fact that there are three authors might be a factor: many different issues and incidents are covered, which tends to dilute the focus and prevents the development of a stronger and overriding narrative.

The picture of Foxconn and Apple that the book presents is also one of the past: times have changed. Due to the US-China trade war and other economic factors, Foxconn is moving a significant part of its manufacturing out of China to other countries such as India and even the US state of Wisconsin. Nor is Apple itself as popular in China as it was in the early and mid-2010s, having made way for domestic brands like Xiaomi, Oppo and Huawei.

Workers in China nowadays are more informed, educated and less willing to work in menial factory jobs for petty wages. The issues and abuses detailed in “Dying for an iPhone” are not just confined to Foxconn nor China. Companies from tech firms to clothing giants have also been implicated in using manufacturers that engage in widespread worker abuses. The work undertaken and the findings described in “Dying for an iPhone” nevertheless still have a granular relevance for activists, workers, and the general public.

About the reviewer

Hilton Yip is a writer currently based in Hong Kong and former book editor of Taiwan’s The China Post.
Fall colors with a dash of flavor
By Judy Hohmann, contributor

It’s been a worrisome spring and summer ... more than seven months into pandemic living.

Yet, the coning of fall marks harvest season and for the Chinese-ness in us (regardless of generation or heritage) — a time for joy as the Mid-Autumn Festival or Moon Festival approaches. This year, it falls on Oct. 1.

In this year of coronavirus, we can find joy in the beauty of nature and celebrate festival traditions with tastes of mooncake on the trail. Let’s get started:

1. Ooh and ahh Mother Nature’s fall colors
Find joy with a change of scenery - with fall color. Warm sunny days and cool, but not freezing, nighttime temperatures break down the chlorophyll process in leaves, masking their green color and revealing brighter colors. Yellow leaves are in white birch. Scarlet red leaves are in oaks, red maples and red sumac. Orange leaves are in sugar maple. Golden yellow leaves are in beech, asp, aspen, some oaks.

Where to go to check out the colors? Try these colorful short and easy hikes* ...

Lake Harriet (Bde Unma in Dakota) and Lyndale Park — Minneapolis— 2.8 miles paved tree-lined loop trail, with native grasses and perennials, annual gardens and wetlands. At the northeast side of the lake is Lyndale Park gardens — in fall, hundreds of wild flowers and pollinator-friendly plants; Roberts bird sanctuary; Peace Garden showcasing Japanese bridge, rocks, crane sculpture.

Como Regional Park — St. Paul— 2.3 miles paved trails, 1.67 miles loop trail at Como Lake. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory features 64’-tall palm house and ferns, 50,000 plants in six indoor (one acre under glass) gardens. Fall chrysanthemums sunken garden, bonsai collection. Three outdoor annuals gardens. Como Zoo, Historic Carvers’ Jamboree, picnic area, streetcar station.

Note: Watch for Judy Hohmann’s new book in 2021 on Top 10 city nature trails and their back stories, including the Lake Harriet and Como Park hikes PLUS three bonus trails (one is a North Shore favorite)!

2. Experience two Chinese gardens
By design, Chinese gardens are places for reflection and escape from the outside world — fitting in our current pandemic life. Garden elements feature water (symbolizing living, changing nature), stones or rocks (representing strength and stability) and plants (showing beauty and meaning).

Changsha Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters at Lake Phalen Park in St. Paul

Enter the garden through the Liu Ming Yuan Archway (translation- Willow/Bright Minnesota/ Garden). The breathtaking Xiang Jiang Pavilion (a replica of Aiwa pavilion in sister city Changsha, China) is stone with red pillars and insets, jade green glazed tiles, golden Chinese calligraphy, yellow and white garden rocks. A Hmong Heritage Wall features carvings from Minnesota and Hunan Hmong in pink granite - reflecting the ancestral home of Changsha for St. Paul’s Hmong community. Bonus: Do an easy three-mile hike on loop trail around Lake Phalen.

3. Honor Mid-Autumn Festival with treats on the trail: mooncakes, pumpkins

Gathering with family and friends is a no-no to staying healthy this year. Instead, say “YES” to the Mid-Autumn Festival tradition of mooncakes ... as drop-off gifts — and bite-size snacks for your trail adventures. Discover a galaxy of mooncake flavors — including classic egg yolk to walnut-date mochi, almond-lotus seed, pineapple-yolk and red bean, egg yolk to white lotus paste and lava egg custard.

Support local businesses, order from Keefer’s Mandarin Kitchen, Pagoda and more (flavors vary by location). OR pumpkin is another festival treat — shop garden and grocery stores for tiny to giant, colors galore and types to roast, bake, stuff, or purée to suit your taste.

*Note: No masks on trail. Let’s get outside and make sure we are safe, healthy & having fun with each other.

For more information, check out Judy’s new book on Top 10 city nature trails and their back stories. Contact Judy at JudyHohmann@chpnet.org or by phone at 612-885-4990.

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ANCIENT MEDICINE
Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen is time and development, rather than war. So, the real challenge for the Tsai administration is how to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait without provoking military conflicts and maintain- ing peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait for many years. But, as Beijing said on Monday, there has never been a “median line” in the Straits as the island is an inseparable part of Chi- nese territory. Despite the wishful thinking of Tsai and like-minded secessionists, the island will never be separated from the motherland.

China’s reunification is a historical inevitability. It is a matter of when, not if. As such, no matter how often and how frequently America and Taipei continue to play with fire by touching Beijing’s red line, they will be closing the window of possibility for a peaceful reunification.

A member of the Tsai administration, commenting on Chinese air force planes crossing the line midway between the main- land and the island which he referred to as the median line, said it has been a symbol preventing military conflicts and maintain- ing peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits for many years. But, as Beijing said on Monday, there has never been a “median line” in the Straits as the island is an inseparable part of Chi- nese territory. Despite the wishful thinking of Tsai and like-minded secessionists, the island will never be separated from the motherland.

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