

# 緬因州華美聯誼會

## Chinese & American Friendship Association of Maine

P. O. Box 10372 Portland ME 04104 — Website: [www.cafammaine.org](http://www.cafammaine.org)



通訊 二零一一年。一月至二月

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2011

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Thursday January 27, 5:00 - 6:45 pm. **China Business Networking roundtable.** Burnstein Shur, 100 Middle St. in Portland. (See page 6.)

Saturday, February 5, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm, CAFAM's **21st annual Chinese New Year Celebration.** McAuley High School, Stevens Ave., Portland.

Thursday, February 10, 7:00, Susan Conley book reading. Longfellow Books, Portland. (See page 5.)

Thursday, March 10, 6:30, **CAFAM Board Meeting.** 103 Hanover St., Portland. Pizza served. All welcome.

Alternate Fridays, 12:00 - 1:00 PM, **Mandarin Conversation Group.** Maine International Trade Center, 511 Congress, Portland. Intermediate/advanced Chinese. All welcome. FMI: [sfox5@maine.rr.com](mailto:sfox5@maine.rr.com).

Saturday, March 12 (tentative). **CAFAM Chinese School** first day of Spring semester.

September 16 to 18, **US China Peoples Friendship Association** national convention, Kansas City MO. (See page 6.)



### TESS GERRITSEN TO SPEAK AT NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Preparations for the twenty-first annual Chinese New Year Celebration are well under way. As in recent years, the event will take place at McAuley High School in Portland. (See page 2 and 3.)

Leading the effort is Eileen Nunley, ably assisted by many others, including Patti Oldmixon, Nancy White, Amanda Szala, Gary Libby, Melissa Lin, Mary Tennant, Roger Brodeur, Gwen Moore, Robert Rovner, Craig Dietrich, to name a few.

Song and dance performances by students from the Chinese School, "rabbit" crafts for young children to assemble, mah jongg tables, vendors, food, speakers, and more.

Best-selling novelist Tess Gerritsen will be among the presenters.



**Do drop by and enjoy the day!**

VOLUNTEER HELPERS ARE NEEDED.  
FREE ADMISSION: GIVE AN HOUR OR TWO  
AND ENJOY THE REST OF THE DAY.  
Contact Roger Brodeur  
[rogerbrodeur@ymail.com](mailto:rogerbrodeur@ymail.com) or 841-0259.

## **CAFAM'S 21st ANNUAL NEW YEAR CELEBRATION TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 10:30 AM         | Doors open   |
| 10:30 to 4:30 pm | Vendors in the gym offer gifts, cards, books, cultural objects, etc.   |
| 11:30 am         | Song and dance performances by children of the Chinese School, Hyde School Dancers, and Riverview Teen Martial Arts Exhibition.  |
| from 12:00       | There will be tables in the gym where children can assemble RABBIT crafts  |
| ongoing          | Mah jongg tables and instruction.  |
| times TBA        | Round Table: Chinese students discuss living in New England w. Suzanne Fox<br><br>Presentation: Karen Morency: "Release Negative Emotions & Beliefs with Chinese Meridians"<br><br>Presentation: Tess Gerritsen: talks about growing up Chinese-American<br><br>Martial Arts Workshops: one for adults, one for Children with Riverview School |
| Ongoing          | Chinese food available from 11:30  |
| 4:00             | CELEBRATION COMES TO AN END! HAPPY NEW YEAR!   |



### **CHINESE SCHOOL** by Kelli Pryor

CAFAM Chinese School has spent Sundays in January rehearsing for the most anticipated day of the year: Chinese New Year Celebration. This year's performance will feature the schoolchildren singing, dancing, and kicking high in martial arts demonstrations.

Karen Morency returns as creative director of the dance program. She is joined by dance teacher Liping Tao and by the Maine Lotus Troupe, who will not only perform but also lead the (perennial favorite) bathtub dance for the school's youngest dancers. Riverview Foundation's Nina Henrikson is in charge of the school's martial arts program.

The Year of the Rabbit promises to bring great new opportunities. For spring semester, the school will move

into its new Saturday-morning home at the Ocean Avenue School in Portland. Portland Public Schools is warmly welcoming our program into its new state-of-the-art green facility. All involved hope it will launch a partnership that brings greater access to Mandarin education in the city.

The spring semester is tentatively set for March 12 through April 30 (skipping spring-vacation Saturdays April 16 and 23). Registration opens in mid-February. For more information, please contact Kelli Pryor at [kellijpryor@gmail.com](mailto:kellijpryor@gmail.com). Registrar Susan Lavigne can be reached at [quinnyunyi@yahoo.com](mailto:quinnyunyi@yahoo.com).

學而不思則罔，思而不學則殆。

One who reads but doesn't think is vacuous.  
One who thinks but doesn't read is dangerous.

Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine's  
21st Annual

# CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

## The Year of the Rabbit

**Date:** Saturday, February 5th, 2011

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Location:** Catherine McAuley High School  
631 Stevens Avenue, Portland

- Chinese crafts and games for children
- CAFAM Chinese School dance performance at 11 a.m.
- Interactive workshops, talks, and demos
- Delicious Chinese food and merchandise available



|  | General Admission | CAFAM Members |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| Adults                                 | \$6               | \$4           |
| Children (ages 2-17)                   | \$4               | \$3           |
| Children under 2                       | FREE              | FREE          |
| Family (2 adults & 3 or more children) | \$20              | \$15          |

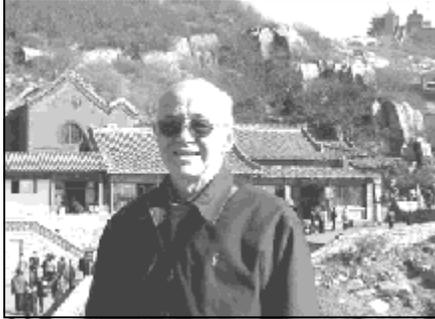
Questions? Call 207 - 797 - 4033

Or check our website for more details: [www.cafammaine.org](http://www.cafammaine.org)

## **RETURN TO CHINA** by Oliver Hanson Woshinsky

Not long ago I established a contact with an amiable Dutch-born Canadian Evert van Steenberg, who lives and works in Shanghai. Our connection is that the family history of his Chinese wife, Nini, happens to intersect with mine: her grandfather became a Christian minister at the instigation of my grandfather.

In 1903 my grandparents, Ruth and Perry Hanson, arrived in the small town of Tai'an, southwest of Beijing, to begin their long career as Methodist missionaries. They loved China--and Tai'an in particular. The town sits at the base of China's most sacred mountain, Taishan. Both Confucius and Mencius lived nearby, and pilgrims have been climbing this peak for thousands of years.



My grandparents remained in their beloved Tai'an, foregoing other assignments. Except for furloughs, they stayed until 1941, when forced out by the looming war with Japan. They converted hundreds of Chinese to Christianity and built a house, a church, and a school, largely with funds donated by American friends. They raised seven children (my mother, aunts, and uncles), eventually sending them all back to America for college.

In the nineteen-thirties, my grandfather, who was also school principal, urged one particular student to become a minister. This man is Nini's grandfather. Somehow he survived the Communist takeover, the Cultural Revolution, and much more, living until 2004. Nini and Evert often heard him speak glowingly of "Pastor Han." From that thread, Evert managed to track down the surviving Hansons, including, eventually, me, Oliver Hanson Woshinsky.

Recently, planning a trip to Malaysia, I noticed that some flights went via Shanghai. A light bulb flicked on. Why not stop over and meet Evert and Nini?

When contacted, Ev urged that I stay in China for a few days and we could go to Tai'an. I jumped at the oppor-

tunity and soon had other Hanson descendants on board. Eventually there were five of us, including 16-year-old Alexander, great-great-grandson of the original missionaries.

Our trip was a perfect success. When we arrived in late November, Evert met us and shepherded us to Tai'an. He set up meetings at the school that my grandfather had helped build in 1917, still in use! We met school officials, exchanged gifts and memories, and ate a long hot-pot lunch. We noted grandfather's photo on the school wall and found his name in the school brochure's list of past principals. We toured my grandparents' home where I once stayed as an infant. Born in China in 1939, I and my parents took refuge there in 1940-41, before we all fled the war.

This house is now the retired faculty club. There we met many elderly gentlemen who stopped their card games and tea drinking to meet us. We also visited my grandparents' church. I was amazed. Not only did the building survive, but it is in fine shape. The two ministers said that business is booming. Worshipers pack two services every Sunday. Another is held every other week day. Of all the unexpected things I learned on this trip, this return to religious practice in China is most surprising.

The highlight of our trip was exploring beautiful, and historic Taishan. At 5,500 feet, it has been climbed by innumerable pilgrims, worshippers, and adventurers. Luckily, the day was sunny and warm. We didn't walk all 7,000 steps, as my grandparents did at least once a sum-



Alexander (second from rt.), Evert (fourth from rt.), Oliver (to Evert's right), standing before the school.

mer, but opted to take a bus half-way up, and a cable car from there to the famous South Gate of Heaven. That left a leisurely few hundred feet to the top. Along the way we witnessed pilgrims burning incense at Taoist temples. We admired rocks covered with bright red inscriptions, conveying Confucian and Taoist teachings. Given the glorious day, thousands of Chinese tourists swarmed the site. They made much of us, being the only Westerners, frequently pulling us aside for photographs.

Young Alexander was especially popular with the many groups of teenage girls, causing him to think about returning for the serious study of Chinese.

At one point, a group of Chinese burst into laughter. Seems that when they had said, "Look! Foreigners!"

Evert had responded in Chinese, "Foreigners? Where? I don't see any foreigners here!" To their delight.

After much temple exploring, vista photographing, souvenir buying, and dumpling eating, we headed back. Some of us (unwisely) decided to walk part way down. What could be the difficulty? Soon two thousand steep steps made the difficulty very clear. Even our younger members suffered for several days!

It was wonderful to visit the mountain of our ancestors, and in the company of Chinese of every description. As we got off our bus, we glanced back up at the beautiful scene. This gorgeous day was deeply moving, one we shall cherish always. Oliver Hanson Woshinsky Portland, January 4, 2011

*Susan Conley is a native of Maine and a writer whose work has been published in*

### **NEW MEMOIR OF LIVING IN CHINA**

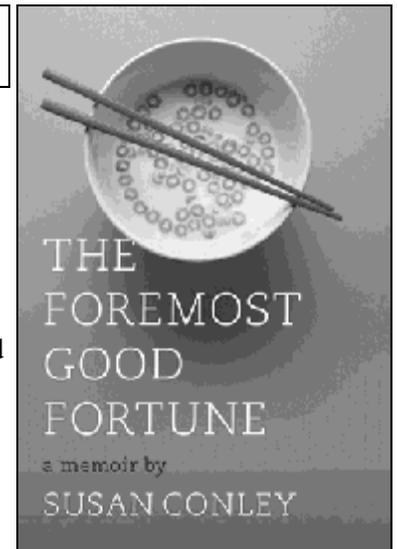
*The New York Times Magazine, The Paris Review, the Harvard Review and The North American Review. She is also an editor and teacher of creative writing. She, her husband Tony Kieffer, and two young sons lived in Beijing from 2006, when Tony took the position of opening and directing the China office of FICO. Recently returned to Portland after two and a half years, she has written a memoir which will be released by Knopf in February. Here is the publishers information.*

In Susan Conley's debut memoir, *The Foremost Good Fortune*, she and her husband and their two young sons say goodbye to their friends, family and house in Portland, Maine, for a two-year stint in a high rise apartment in Beijing, "where they're meant to grow as a family in that way you hear Americans do when they head east... to eat jiaozi and baozi and brown, pickled tea eggs and drive the crooked hutong alleys with screaming taxi drivers."

But Susan can't predict just how much their lives will change. She encounters a series of firsts in Beijing: how to buy apples at a Chinese mega-market; whether or not to bribe her little boys to ride the Beijing school bus; tracking down the faux-purse empire of the infamous Bag Lady; and getting stuck in a high-rise elevator, un-able to call for help in Mandarin.

And there's much occasion for joy: road trips to the Great Wall, bartering for a Buddha head at the local flea market, lighting fireworks in the streets for Chinese New Year and feasting on the world's best dumplings.

Then Susan learns she has breast cancer, and it's her own body in which she feels a stranger. Peggy Orenstein of the *New York Times Magazine* calls *The Foremost Good Fortune* "a treasure ...one that explores the meaning of our lives, the meaning of motherhood, the meaning of partnership." Currently Susan is completing a novel.



Susan Conley will launch her book with a public reading at Longfellow Books in Portland, on Thursday, February 10th at 7pm.

## **USCPFA KANSAS CONVENTION**

The US Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) is a national organization to which many CAFAM members also belong for an additional \$12 yearly. USCPFA will hold its national convention in Kansas City MO on September 16 thru 18, 2011.



It will be held at the Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza in the center of the city, where special rates will be available. Attractions and activities will include:

Special Tour of Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Talk: Update on China's position in the world

Talk: China's Mission Girls

Screening: Rare old Chinese film on Snow and Mao, presented by one of its actresses

Mid-Autumn celebration: including Representatives from the Chinese Embassy and Consulate and from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries ("Youxie").

Banquet and Concert: New Ear's "China Rising" - Chinese Influence in Western Classical Music

Pre-convention and Post Convention Tours (to be announced). Election of National Officers and other National USCPFA business.

More information about the convention will be published in USCPFA's quarterly review and <http://uscpfa.org/>. To join USCPFA go to [www.cafammaine.org](http://www.cafammaine.org); membership.

## **CONFUCIUS CLASSROOMS**

Don Reutershan of the Maine Department of Education has informed Maine schools at all levels that the Asia Society in New York is accepting applications for its "Confucius Classrooms" network of exemplary Chinese language programs. There are already 60 of these across the country, and the Asia Society aims to create 40 more.

The program seeks to support schools that can become exemplary Chinese language programs. Each Confucius Classroom will be linked with a partner school in China, giving opportunities for exchanges and joint projects.

The Network also features online communities, targeted professional development for Chinese language teachers in the network, and annual Confucius Classrooms Network conference.

The Asia Society's goal is to establish high-quality, sustainable Chinese language programs across the United States as a step toward strengthening Americans' understanding of China and building bridges between students in both countries.

The deadline for application is March 15, 2011. More information and application materials are at <http://asiasociety.org/education-learning/chinese-language-initiatives/asia-society-confucius-classrooms-network>

Mr. Reutershan is World Languages Specialist, Kennebec Valley Regional Representative, at the Maine Department of Education. He can be contacted at (207) 624-6826 or [don.reutershan@maine.gov](mailto:don.reutershan@maine.gov).

## **BUSINESS ROUND TABLE**

The China Business Networking roundtable, organized by Suzanne Fox, will meet on Thursday January 27 from 5:00 to 6:45 PM at Burnstein Shur, 100 Middle St. in Portland. The discussion will feature Stuart Eunson, Managing Director Arabica Coffee Roasters (Beijing) Co., Ltd. Stuart will discuss his 18 years of living and working in China and what he predicts for 2011.

The program will also include an update on Maine-China business and educational ties and possibilities for creating a Confucius Institute in Maine.

There is a fee of \$35 per person. For more information contact Suzanne Fox at 207.781.3767 or [suzannefox@foxintercultural.net](mailto:suzannefox@foxintercultural.net)

## **CHINA BUSINESS INSIGHTS**

Those interested in business in China or merely in China's current economic situation find interesting pieces in the e-newsletter – "China Focus" of LJL Group.

The September 2010 issue, for example, discussed China's emerging human resources dilemma. Despite a huge educational system turning out millions of graduates, the demand for capable employees is growing extremely fast. Qualified people find themselves in a sellers' market and command high wages. "These people can get 100 percent or more pay raises when switching jobs, and they even can do it two or three times within a few years. Very soon, China may be at a stage where local mainland senior management will make more than their counterparts in Hong Kong and Taiwan."

Another interesting trend is the rapid advancement of younger people into senior management. This has come about in part at least because "education standards have improved drastically over the past years. This has resulted in a great disparity in knowledge and capabilities between the young and old, especially in terms of English competency levels."

As LJL points out, this development has big implications for foreign international and small and medium sized enterprises doing business in China.

Another interesting subject was taken up in the September 2010 e-newsletter, namely, the growing prosperity and economic importance of so-called "tier-2" cities, that is to say, those just below the Beijings and Shanghais in population. Such places, as for example Suzhou with a population of over 6 million, offer both huge markets and lower cost locations for operating businesses. Development of these places is currently being pushed by the central government. However they are quite diverse in nature and require careful planning for foreign businesses to operate in.

Individuals may subscribe to this complimentary e-newsletter at <http://www.jljgroup.com/us>

***Is your membership current?  
Remember CAFAM relies on your support.  
Please check mailing label for expiration.  
Thanks.***



This is the character "fu" ("happiness") hung upside-down ("dao"). A new year symbol, it means "Happiness Arrives!" since "to arrive" is also pronounced "dao".

The Newsletter is edited by Craig Dietrich and is published five times a year. Contributions and comments are welcome. Please contact the editor at 688-4826 or [dietrich@maine.rr.com](mailto:dietrich@maine.rr.com). The next issue will appear in mid-March. Deadline for submissions: early March.

**\$ HOLIDAY SAVINGS FOR YOU \$**  
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**HAPPY Chinese New Year of the RABBIT!**

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**USCPFA, Portland, ME Chapter**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership & Subscrip. to "US-China Review" \$12

**COMMITTEES:** Would you like to help out on a committee?  
We will put you in contact with the appropriate chairperson.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Program and education
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Please send your check and this application to:

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