



The Communiqué

PRC Consul General to address SDWAC Chinese New Year Dinner at Jasmine Restaurant

In honor of Chinese New Year – 2006 is the Year of the Dog – the San Diego World Affairs Council will hold a special dinner at the renowned Jasmine Restaurant in Kearny Mesa. Joining us in our celebration will be the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles, Mr. Zhong Jianhua.



Consul General Zhong will speak to the Council on “China’s Development: Challenges & Opportunities for China and the U.S.” China's rapid economic development will be the focus, as he examines China's energy development, the challenges it faces, the strategy China applies and its implications to the U.S. and the rest of the world. Consul General Zhong will also brief the guests on what's new with the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) disarmament talks and what he views as the key to its resolution. At the conclusion, the Consul General will entertain questions from the audience, sharing his thoughts on their issues of concern.

Mr. Zhong Jianhua, born in Jiangsu Province in December 1950, has served as the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles since

May 2002. Most recently he has served as Director General, Department of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His previous postings have included: Division Chief and then Deputy Director General, Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Third Secretary and then Second Secretary, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Britain. Mr. Zhong studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston and graduated from the Beijing Institute of Foreign Languages. Mr. Zhong is married with a daughter and son.

Thursday, February 9, 2006

6:30 p.m. (check-in begins at 6:15 p.m.)

Jasmine Chinese Restaurant, 4609 Convoy St.
(corner Convoy & Dagget, one block north of Balboa)

\$40 Members; \$45 Non-Members

Includes 9-dish meal, dessert, tea
(cash bar available; free parking)

Please call for reservations: 619.325.8200

Deadline of Feb. 7 (no refunds after that date)

Notice to All Members

The San Diego World Affairs Council is in great need of a second computer (PC) to supplement the one already in use at our downtown office. A used desktop or laptop computer in excellent operating condition is acceptable. In lieu of that, the resources with which to purchase one would be very much appreciated. Please contact the Executive Director, Mark Maestroni, if you can help at 619.325.8200 or by email at mark@sdwac.com.

New Supplementary Membership Category Voted By Board

At their October 2005 meeting, the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council voted to implement a new “Premium Member” category as a supplement to the existing plans.

Under this new option, a member may pay an additional \$100 (in cash or check *only*) to their existing membership plan to obtain free access to all non-meal events for one year. Starting in January 2006, this option is open to all non-student members. For more information, or to enroll, please contact the office at 619.325.8200.



Views From the President

Dr. Ina von Ber

Good morning, Bonjour, Buenos Dias, Guten Tag, Bongiorno, Sabaah el kheer, Jo San, Goedemorgen, Kalimera, Boker tov, Bunā dimineata.

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and that you rang in 2006 healthy and happy. We have many exciting things happening at our Council which I would like to share with you.

I am delighted to welcome Lowell Blankfort as our new Vice President and Program Chair, and Mark Maestroni as our new Executive Director. Both have been active in the San Diego World Affairs Council for many years. Lowell has held the office of President amongst other key positions and Mark has been an active member with the Council. You will see them during our events, so please stop by and introduce yourselves.

I would also like to welcome our two new interns from UCSD Adrienne Cady and Jennifer Shin. They will be with us for the next six months, helping with speakers, events, office work and fundraising.

Our Ambassadorial Round Table which we kicked off with Ambassador Boucher in July has enjoyed steady success and followers. The reception for the Philippine Ambassador in August attracted over 200 participants at the Torrey Pines Hilton. Our reception for the German Ambassador in October was sold out and the luncheon and speech by Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow was very well attended. We are looking forward to welcoming Ambassador Paul Bremer (sponsored in partnership with the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation) at the end of January, Mr. Zhong Jianhua, Consul General of the People's Republic of China on February 9, and the Syrian Ambassador, Imad Moustapha, on March 1. Please consult our website www.sdwac.com for upcoming program announcements.

For those of you who attended our December holiday celebration you know it was a BIG HIT! Superb food, entertainment and a gorgeous venue, the Darlington House, were enjoyed by all. Wendy Lucas-Meyer and her committee did a fabulous job. Our own Cy Chadley put Fred Astaire to shame with his Scottish Dancing Team in their beautiful kilts and

traditional uniforms. Again, thanks to all!

Lowell Blankfort, his wife April, and I have just returned from Washington, DC where we attended the week-long WAC National Conference. The theme this year was "The World's Rising Powers: China, India, Brazil, Russia ... and More." Ambassador John Negroponete was the Chairman's Dinner Honoree. Anne Garrels, a renowned correspondent for National Public Radio, was the winner of the 2006 WACA Distinguished Foreign Journalist Award. She shared fascinating excerpts of her life as a reporter in occupied Baghdad, the invasion and her impressions of the war. Other topics and speakers at the conference included:

- "Microenterprise Movement Worldwide" (John Hatch)
- "Intellectual Property Rights Issues" (Nancy Birdsall)
- "Democracy and Human Rights in China" (Bates Gill)
- "Can Brazil Overcome Poverty?" (Amb, Donna Hrinak)
- "What Americans Need to Know about India" (Amb. Thomas R. Pickering)
- "Where is Putin's Russia Going?" (Amb. Jack Matlock)
- "America's Opportunity to Change the Course of History" (Richard Haass)
- "International Art Crimes" (Robert Wittman)

It is my hope that next year the San Diego World Affairs Council will be represented by more members (Stamford sent 22), it truly is an incredible experience.

We need volunteers for: Worldquest (including donations to the silent auction), Membership Recruitment/Retention, and Fundraising/PR. If you'd like to participate, please contact Mark at 619.325.8200.

So much for me, hope to see all of you at our upcoming events, take good care.

Good-bye, Adieu, Ciao, Adios, Farvel, Vaarwel, À bientôt, Tschüß, Parahi, Larevedere.



Our new interns, Jennifer and Adrienne

Flashpoints to return with “The Party Line: Who’s Listening to *Your* Calls?”

Back by popular demand, SDWAC is reintroducing the Flashpoints series on February 16.

Joining us as co-sponsors of this series is International House on the campus of UC San Diego. Their striking Great Hall will serve as the venue for our programs.

For those who may not be familiar with them, Flashpoints programs address the “hot” topics of the day in which, typically, a panel of two or more speakers present opposing viewpoints.

Our first topic of discussion is “The Party Line: Who’s Listening to *Your* Calls?” which will explore the Constitutional and statutory legality of the Bush Administration’s warrantless tapping of international phone calls made by U.S. residents.

Debating the issue will be Michael D. Ramsey, a professor of law at the University of San Diego, and Professor Marjorie Cohn, of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Both are Constitutional scholars well-versed in first amendment rights.

To inaugurate a new era of the Flashpoints series, SDWAC would like to rename the program. To that end, we throw this out to you, the membership, in the form of a contest: the best name received by March 1 receives a free pair of tickets to a future Flashpoints (of course renamed) event! Don’t be shy ... phone 619.325.8200 or email in your suggestions to mark@sdwac.com.

For our March program, we hope to feature a presentation on the Iranian nuclear issue. If you have a suggestion for a future Flashpoints topic, let us know.

Thursday, February 16, 2006

6:30 p.m. (check-in begins at 6:15 p.m.)

International House, UCSD Campus

(\$3 permit parking across the street in parking garage)

\$15 Members; \$20 Non-Members

Free for UCSD Students

Please call for reservations: 619.325.8200

Deadline of Feb. 14 (no refunds after that date)

Memorial Service For World Affairs Council Member Virginia Laird



Ian & Virginia Laird

A service is scheduled February 18 to remember Virginia Laird, a longtime supporter and member of the San Diego World Affairs Council. Mrs. Laird died late last year at the age of 91 at the White Sands retirement community in La Jolla.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Mrs. Laird studied drama throughout her youth. After graduating from Northwestern University, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. Throughout her life she worked in radio and theater, often while teaching acting and public speaking. After retirement, Mrs. Laird continued to stay active continuing her education through summer classes, teaching, and directing and acting in reader’s theater productions.

Mrs. Laird has been a part of the community in San Diego since she moved here with her husband, Ian Laird, upon his retirement as a captain after 28 years in the Navy, though they had lived briefly in the area before. The couple had met during World War II, when the young naval ensign noticed Virginia performing in a Pasadena Playhouse, and various deployments took them throughout the United States and the world.

An active member of the Council since the 1960s, Mrs. Laird donated much of her time, enthusiasm, and skill to its members. She planned and organized meetings and served several terms on the Council’s board. With her husband and other board members, she traveled to India to meet the Dalai Lama at the exiled Tibetan leader’s Himalayan home. She later recalled an anecdote from that encounter: Unsure of how to introduce herself, she timidly said, “I’m Virginia from San Diego.”

The Dalai Lama, Mrs. Laird remembered, simply clasped her hand and said, “Welcome, Virginia from San Diego.”

Survivors include her daughter, Tori Sepulveda of Ventura; son, Marshall Laird of Orinda; and three grandchildren.

The memorial service is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on February 18 at White Sands of La Jolla, 7450 Olivetas Avenue.

SAN DIEGO WAC CALENDAR

Thursday, February 2

“Hiroshima to Geneva: Reflections of a Nuclear Physicist” an interview with Dr. Herbert York

Dr. York, founding chancellor of UCSD and Director Emeritus of the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, will be interviewed by Donald Gragg, president of the Continuing Education Center at Rancho Bernardo and a Past President of the San Diego World Affairs Council. Co-sponsored by the San Diego World Affairs Council and the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice.

7:00 p.m. *The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, University of San Diego. Free to the public.*

**Thursday, February 9
Chinese New Years Dinner**

In honor of Chinese New Year the San Diego World Affairs Council will hold a special dinner at the renowned Jasmine Restaurant in Kearny Mesa. Joining us in our celebration will be the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Los Angeles, Mr. Zhong Jianhua who will address the guests on “China's Development: Challenges & Opportunities for China and the U.S.”

6:30 p.m., *Jasmine Restaurant, 4609 Convoy Street*
\$40 Members; \$45 Non-Members. Reservations required by February 7. Call 619.325.8200

Thursday, February 16

Flashpoints:

“The Party Line: Who’s Listening to Your Calls?”

Learn more about the Constitutional and statutory legality of the Bush Administration’s warrantless tapping of international phone calls made by U.S. residents. Debating the issue will be Michael D. Ramsey, a professor of law at the University of San Diego, and Professor Marjorie Cohn, of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Co-sponsored by International House.

6:30 p.m., *International House, UCSD Campus*
\$15 Members; \$20 Non-Members (\$3 permit parking). Reservations required by February 14. Call 619.325.8200

Wednesday, March 1

**“A Syrian Perspective on U.S. - Syrian Relations”
with Ambassador Imad Moustapha of Syria**

Ambassador Moustapha will speak at a luncheon hosted by the SD World Affairs Council. Time and location to be announced.

NORTH COUNTY CALENDAR

Thursday Morning Programs (free to the public), 10:00 a.m., Remington Club, Phase II, 2nd floor meeting room, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo (park behind Vons)

February 2: Rajish Singh and Irsani Darma, Deputy Directors of Project Concern International for India and Indonesia respectively: “One Year after Tsunami in India and Indonesia”.

February 9: Prof. Hamou Amirouche, University of California San Marcos: “Clash of Civilizations: Is Political Islam on a Collision Course with the West?”

February 16: Lois Rublelj, Member: “Saudi Women”.

February 23: Dr. Aaron Hock, Retired History Professor: “The War with Mexico: Causes and Consequences”.

February 14: Professor Dennis Rohatyn, “For Love of the World: Mythology, Technology & the Future of Democracy.” Professor Rohatyn will discuss “Democracy,” employing a philosophical point of view to discuss a subject that is especially relevant to the world’s problems today. *Free to the public.*

7:00 p.m. *Coffee, 7:30 p.m. Program; Rancho Bernardo Swim & Tennis Club, 16955 Bernardo Oaks Drive.*

February 27: David D. Edick, Jr., “The Russian Far East: Life at the Edge of the World” discusses how changes over the past 15 years have influenced the lives of the many residents of Eastern Siberia. *Free.*

10:05 a.m. *La Vida Del Mar retirement community, 2nd floor activities room, 850 Del Mar Downs Road, Solana Beach.*

Please welcome the following new members who have joined the San Diego World Affairs Council since our last Communiqué in May 2005.

Libby Amos
Dr. Richard E. Barrister
Dennis Bussey
Clement Chin
Peter & Elaine Chortek
Jennifer Cornelius
Dennis Dickerson
Elliott Edelstein
Jill & Norbert Elsner
Deborah Flores
Freida Frazer
Christopher Groth
Bill Hanan
Carol A. Harter
John Hill
Ruth Hochman
Aaron & Mildred Hock
Ruth Hockman
Robert & Margaret Hulter
Jonathan Hwang
Gordon Jackson
Marilyn Kalabsa
Lawrence Kamm
Frank H. Knight
Morton & Betty Lichtman
Douglas Loney
Ladean Lore
Millie McAuley
Vincent & Helene McCarren
Mary McKenzie
Raymond Mercado
Mahnaz Morgan
Jennifer Mueller
Tim Nader
Lisa Norton
James J. Plant
Lois Ruble
Charles Seigel
David Gaddis Smith
William Smith
Christy Soto
Julia Speer
Eileen Surdez
Carolyn Taylor
Stefan Whitney
William Wijaya

Caroleen Williams
Ralph and Dorit Yates
Daniel Zinder

A special thank-you is due our Contributing Members

Corporate Level

Dr. Dov Zakheim with Booz, Allen, Hamilton Inc.

Ambassador Level

Lowell and April Blankfort
James M. and Phyllis Davis
Audrey Geisel
Leonard J. & Barbara Gosink
Don and Charlotte Gragg

Consular Level

Joan E. Bowes
Richard & Vickie Butcher
Kaikobad K. & Piki K Dastur
Ms. Cheryl Fisher, Esq.
Joshua Funk
Chitha Hulugalle
William A. Jordan
Dr. Sanford and Evelyn Lakoff
Barry and Yang Ja Lamont
Wendy Lucas-Meyer
Amb. & Mrs. Richard Matheron
John B. McNeece III
Edward J.G. Mracek
Alfredo Paredes
Richard and Brigitte Phillips
Alice Reinig & Norman Schoenfeld
RADM Joseph P. Rizza
Kathleen Roche-Tansey
Sam Sampson
Alex V. Sher
Abbe Wolfsheimer Stutz
Irmgard Valenta
Cal & Fran Watson

The Communiqué is the quarterly newsletter of the
San Diego World Affairs Council
1250 Sixth Avenue, Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: 619.325.8200
email: sdwac@sdwac.com
website: www.sdwac.com