



# LOS ANGELES - GUANGZHOU MONITOR

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Acting Mayor Shen Baonian (first row, 5th from left) met LAGSCA Delegation at Guangzhou City Hall.

## 2004 Trip to China

By Katherine Whitman

June 25, 2004 was a banner day for the Los Angeles-Guangzhou Sister City Association. On that evening the nucleus of what would be a 23 person delegation departed on China Southern Airlines for Guangzhou. Our delegation was led by Councilman Tom Labonge and our vice chairman, David Lee. In Guangzhou to greet the delegation was our president Jeffrey Cheung and board member K.K Kwong, Fang Xiaoming, Director General of Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office, and former Lawrence Liu scholar Tang Shuming.

The delegation's first visit was to the Guangzhou Children's Place, an after school and weekend center where 6000 students have an opportunity to learn arts, music, computers and athletics. We were privileged to be entertained by over 40 members of the Choir. This group of amazingly talented performers has travel abroad and won many competitions. Councilman LaBonge and LAGSCA will be working very hard to assist the group in arranging a visit and performance in Los Angeles in 2005. After the long plane ride and an official visit the group enjoyed a beautiful stroll through the Guangzhou Yun Tai Sister City Friendship Park.

Highlights of our whirlwind visit include a visit to the Guangzhou City Hall where we were greeted by the Acting Mayor Shen Bonian, a visit to the Pearl River Piano company and a ceremony accompanying a donation of books to Jinan University

Story continues on page 2



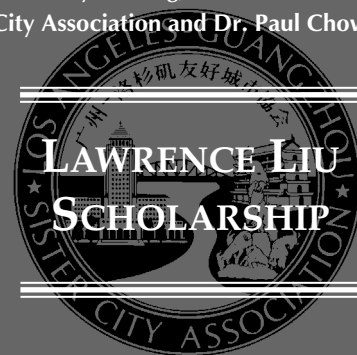
## Message From Liu Liu

Hello, everyone. I am Liu Liu (Alice) from Guangzhou, China and the recipient of the Lawrence Liu Scholarship this year. It is really my honor and pleasure to have this great opportunity to stay at CSUN as a visiting scholar from this August to next January. During that time I will update my knowledge and experience of American life.

Thanks to the help from Jeffrey Cheung, President of Los Angeles Guangzhou Sister City Association and Dr. Paul Chow, Emirate Professor of CSUN and Ms. Chow, I have already settled down in Northridge, a clean and beautiful city. Now I am attending some classes and helping the China Institute of CSUN sort survey information. I am also polishing my English proficiency and making new friends, which I believe will be very rewarding.

In Guangzhou, I am a Protocol Officer at Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office and here in this grand new environment, I am much more like an explorer of life. I am hoping to have more chances to make friends with the members of Los Angeles Guangzhou Sister City Association and am interested in knowing more about the life, culture and everything here, not only for my personal experience, but also for the stronger friendship and for the mutual communications between our two cities.

My telephone number is 818-677-8488 and email address is liuliu@csun.edu. I hope to have the chance to meet many of you soon.



# Twenty Six Years of Friendship Celebrated in Beijing Reunion

By Bee Canterbury Lavery

Climaxing 26 years working for friendship between China and the United States, we gathered in Beijing June 14, 2004 to celebrate our deep personal friendships that had developed through good times and bad for China-U.S. Relations We laughed and I cried and told stories of our long and eventful friendships.

The beautiful banquet at the Pan Xi Restaurant was arranged by my dear friends, Zhang Yan, the first correspondent from the People's Daily to be posted in the United States in 1978, and his wife, Pei. Zhang Yan and I had become friends when he came to Los Angeles to interview Mayor Tom Bradley and write a story about Los Angeles. As Chief of Protocol, it was my responsibility to guide him. He was impressed by the freeways and the number of cars so he wrote a story entitled "Los Angeles, City On Wheels." They and their children have now become family.

The person who had become my very first friend was Ambassador Chai Zemin the first Ambassador to the United States. Caroline Ahmanson and I met him on his first trip to Los Angeles in the Fall, 1978, when he came to Los Angeles to meet with Mayor Bradley. During our ride to City Hall from LAX, he told us through his interpreter the date China and the United States would formally establish diplomatic relations and exchange Ambassadors. I was so thrilled because I thought I really had "inside information." Of course it was an open secret in Washington D.C. Chai Zemin who was in great form throughout the evening, surprised me with an account of my arranging an auto trip to Palm Desert for him to meet President Gerald Ford, which I had forgotten.

And here we were 26 years later celebrating our friendship in a very special way surrounded by our other diplomatic friends, Ambassador Ma Yuzhen, the first Consul General in Los Angeles, and his wife Jichun; Ambassador Ma later become Ambassador to Great Britain and following Hong Kong being reunited with China he was appointed Foreign Minister for Hong Kong. Ambassador



Left to right back row: Madame Wang, Katherine Whitman, Madame Zhang, Madame Han, Amb. Ma Yuzhen and Madame Ma, Amb. Wang Xuexian, Zhang Yan  
Front row: Amb. Chai Zemin, Bee Lavery, Madame Chai.

Wang XueXian, who was Consul General during my time at the U.S. Department of State surprised me with his gray hair. No wonder, he is now a Special Envoy to Afghanistan and has escaped bombings twice. He was joined by his wife, my dear friend. We reminisced about the ceremony when he presented me with \$1.00 as payment for the Muirfield House because I then represented the United States Department of State as Regional Director of the Office of Foreign Missions.

Most poignant was the attendance of Madame Han; the widow of our beloved Ambassador Han Xu with whom Caroline Ahmanson, David Lee, and I had climbed the Huangshan Mountain, better known as the Yellow Mountain in the Anhui Province.

I was pleased that my friend Katherine Whitman, Vice President of the Los Angeles-Guangzhou Sister City Association could share this extraordinary evening before we continued on to Guangzhou to meet our delegation from Los Angeles.

## LAGSCA Members Met the Delegation from Tibet

By Jeffrey Cheung

On May 28, 2004, I had the honor to be invited, together with other LAGSCA members to a reception at the Chinese Consulate General to welcome a very special delegation – China Delegation of Tibetologists. Led by professor Sherabnyima, Vice President of Central Nationalities University of China, this delegation consists of renowned Tibetan scholars including two living Buddhas from Tibet and Sichuan Province respectively.

We learned from Professor Sherabnyima that with the funding and support from the central government of China, the preservation and research of Tibetan culture have made tremendous progress in the recent years. Chatting with Lama Duojizaxi, the living Buddha from Sichuan Province, I was surprised by his fluent Mandarin and understanding of the western world. The Lama was from the Gatuo Monastery, one of the most distinguished temples of the Nyingmapa, which is better known as the "Red Sect". According to Tibetan history, the "Red Sect" is the oldest school of Tibetan Buddhism,

founded by Guru Padmasambawa who brought Buddhism to Tibet from India in the 8th century. Charming and sociable, Lama Duojizaxi told us stories about his temple and himself. Currently, the temple hosts over 500 lamas, and conducts Dharma meetings and ceremonies regularly. Looking at his name card, I found, much to my amazement, the Lama carries many titles

including research fellow at the Institute of Buddhist Studies of Sichuan University and visiting professor of University of Virginia.

The event was lovely and enlightening. We made new friends and from them learned the most popular sentence in Tibetan – "Zha Xi De Lai", which means "good luck" in English.

## 2004 Trip to China

Continued from page 1

(see accompanying article).

The delegation was privileged to have a preview of the new Guangzhou International Airport which officially opens in early August.

During our stay we were hosted by the People's Congress of Guangzhou and the Municipal Foreign Affairs Office at dinner banquets. This gave our delegation an opportunity to see old acquaintances, share reminiscences and Gan Bei to friendship. The association entertained about 80 people

including Liang Lingguang, the former Mayor of Guangzhou who signed the original sister city agreement in 1981, Pan Qingzhu, Vice Director of Guangzhou People's Congress, Linda Donahue, Acting American Consul General, and governors of the American Chamber of Commerce of Guangzhou.

Among the other officers and board members who joined the delegation were Marcia Hobbs, Fred Hong, Bee Lavery, K.K. Kwong and Katherine Whitman.

After a successful official visit to Guangzhou a group of 15 journeyed to Tibet on June 29th. The following morning we went directly to the Potala Palace which is the world's largest and most intact ancient castle-style complex dating from 639.

In 1994, it was included on the World Cultural Heritage list by UNESCO. Much of the 13 story 10,000 room complex, built on the side of a mountain slope, is beautifully restored, but as we climbed up the "Red Hill" and down, we shared the paths with the singing workers, carrying various materials including roof beams. The palace and its rooms and halls were truly amazing and the morning was full of fascinating descriptions of the numerous cultural relics, fine art works, beautiful murals painted with gold, silver, and gem powders.

After a restorative lunch, the group left to explore the Jokhang Monastery in the center of old Lhasa. This is the most important temple in all of Tibet and connected with the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet. Inside the Temple is the statue of the Buddha Sakamuni brought to Tibet by a Chinese princess in the Tang Dynasty. Most of the pilgrims

who come to Lhasa come to visit this Buddha.

The final visit of the day was to the Tibet Museum, which put

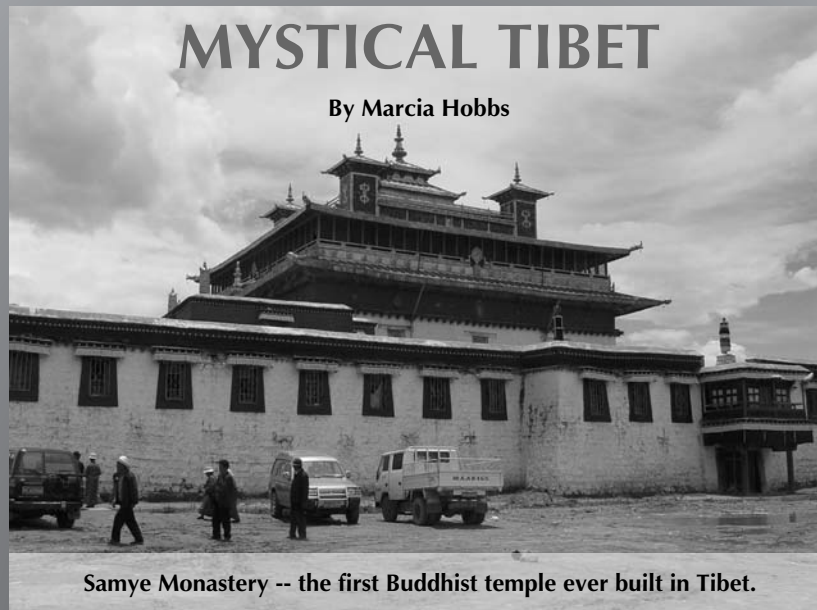
monastery, chanting and moving their prayer wheels is firmly etched in my memory.

In the afternoon we

awaited the "ferry", which more closely resembled a small sampan when it finally arrived. The group clambered on with a

entranced and felt incredibly lucky to be observers and for us, it was the highlight of our journey. There was, of course, a market as a part of the celebrations, but we were all captured by the details of the performances, the artwork, and watching the rapt enjoyment of the Buddhist pilgrims --they paid no attention to us at all! Many of the pilgrims were also dressed in grand Tibetan robes and were wearing their traditional gold and silver jewelry. We left reluctantly for our overnight in Zetang, a city being readied for tourists. As we drove through we saw the new stores, buildings, and whole section of the town with small individual homes.

We climbed back onto a plane for Chengdu the next morning and there the group divided in different directions. Some were going onto to other parts of China and some of us were returning to Los Angeles. We had a magical few days and a congenial traveling group --- and I, for one, consider this trip just an appetizer for a longer visit to this fascinating area. I will return to explore the religion, the culture and the gorgeous natural landscape. The view of the spectacular lakes and silvery peaks that surge high into the sky as one flies to Tibet are never to be forgotten.



## MYSTICAL TIBET

By Marcia Hobbs

Samye Monastery -- the first Buddhist temple ever built in Tibet.

all the history in context for us. The museum has a wonderful collection that is well organized and visitor friendly. We staggered back to the hotel for dinner--and in my case, a much needed foot massage!

Friday morning we left for the Drepung Monastery---home to the early Dalai Lamas and the largest monastery in Tibet. It is built along the mountains and covers over 200,000 square meters. This was a particularly rewarding visit as we could wander among the halls, colleges, courtyards, and living quarters freely and get a very accurate picture of life for all who live there. The amazing sight of hundreds of pilgrims circumnavigating the steep terrain around the

were fortunate that Katherine Whitman had found that the School for Handicapped Children had a store where they sold traditional Tibetan handicrafts made by the students, so we attacked with abandon---and good conscience!

On Saturday we left early for our trek to the Samye monastery, which was built at the foot of the Harbort Mountains near the bank of the Yarlung Zangbo River-----midway between Lhasa and Zetang. This was the first monastery with Buddhist sutras and lamas in Tibetan history and is also famous for it's combination of Tibetan, Han, and Indian architecture. We drove to the river and

few pilgrims and had to follow the current to arrive on the other side despite our out-board engine. A local bus was waiting for us on the other side for the drive to the base of the mountains---and we wondered how they ever decided on this location for the monastery as there were no houses or villages to be seen. Fortunately, we arrived on the opening day of their Ongkor(bumper harvest) festival and we found thousands of pilgrims gathered to watch the lamas perform their centuries old traditional dances, plays, and Tibetan opera. The customs and masks were incredibly beautiful and well preserved. The performers used the antique musical instruments. We were



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## China Book Donation Program

### By Peter Antoniou

LAGSCA has initiated a book donation program to China. In January 2004 LAGSCA board members met with officials of the Education Department of Guangdong Province to arrange for this program. Since then, books have been collected from local colleges, universities, libraries and individuals to be given to university libraries in Guangzhou and surrounding areas.

On June 29th, the 2004 LAGSCA delegation to Guangzhou presented the first donation of fifteen cartons to Jinan University. Professor Liu Renhuai, President of Jinan University, along with Mr. Li Shaobai from Guangdong Department of Education received the books in a formal ceremony. After the presentation, the group was hosted a luncheon banquet.

The success of this project is attributed to the support and assistance provided by many organizations and individuals. Cal State University San Marcos and Mount St.Mary's College helped

collect books; Dr. Kern Kwong and Dr. Catherine Levitt at Cal State University LA organized student volunteers to help with packing and categorizing; Dr. and Mrs. Jordan Phillips from Medical Books for China contributed cartons, and China Southern Airlines, our corporate member, graciously arranged the transportation of the books to Guangzhou.



**President Liu Renhuai of Jinan University presented gift to Jeffrey Cheung, LAGSCA President.**

LAGSCA looks forward to continuing this project. The association needs help with floor space to store and repackage the books, plastic pallets appropriate for export, boxes, packing labels, funding for storing, categorizing, stamping, boxing, palletizing, containerizing and shipping.

If you know of anyone interested in helping with this project please contact us at [lagsca@prodigy.net](mailto:lagsca@prodigy.net)

LAGSCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations will be acknowledged with a letter and fully tax deductible.