

MOSAIC

Conversations reveal power of people-to-people exchanges

“China must be a good place, because you love it so much.” Those words from Donna, a close friend in the United States, amazed me during a recent phone conversation from a hotel room in Seattle, Washington. Over the years we’ve known each other, I had never heard her gush with such affection for the country. But there she was, speaking of China with such sweetness in her



Jocelyn Eikenburg
Second Thoughts

voice, because of what she had learned of it through talking to me and my husband Jun, who is from rural Zhejiang province. In fact, during a recent trip back to the US, I found myself delighted again and again in conversations with family and friends there about China, the country I call home. My friend Bill leaned in with rapt attention over a lunch of hummus and other Middle Eastern delights as I spoke of my positive experience working for China Daily. He told me that my report had given him a new perspective on media outlets in China. Jun and I had just met Susan, a

friend of my parents, at a party and she immediately wanted to know everything about our lives in China, as if she were an aunt I never knew I had, trying to make up for lost time. With each description of the world we inhabited in Beijing, I watched her nod her head thoughtfully and remark, with fondness, how China sounded like a wonderful place. Elena, another family friend, beamed with excitement after Jun and I helped translate into Chinese the names of everyone in her family — from hers and her husband’s to their children’s — along with a description of the meaning of each

character combination. Our brother-in-law Josh, who previously never had much to say about China, spent almost an hour raving about the advanced technology from drone-maker DJI in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, creator of three of his most beloved electronic gadgets. I then went on to share some reporting about DJI I had encountered through my work with China Daily and to introduce Shenzhen to him. His eyes lit up with great interest. For the first time, he even said he would like to visit China. When I think about all of these conversations, I’m reminded of the value of people-to-people exchanges

in helping to promote understanding of other parts of the world. Those who have had personal experience in a country — such as my husband and I — can serve as some of the most powerful ambassadors for that nation, especially among family and friends. After all, people are far more willing to listen to and trust someone in their own social sphere. And by sharing our personal stories from China, we offer a human perspective on the country while providing an alternative narrative. So, whether we’re demystifying Chinese characters or enlightening people about our neighborhood haunts in Beijing, we

touch on topics they might not commonly learn from the media in the US. Every conversation can open up a fresh understanding of what China is really like, beyond the usual headlines. And maybe then they might come to realize, as my friend Donna has, that China is a good place to live, after all.

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Candid camera:
Got his goat

Two goats fight for dominance during an annual competition in Dagong town, Jiangsu province, on Saturday.
XU JINBAI / FOR CHINA DAILY



This Day, That Year



Editor’s note: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of New China.

China successfully sent its first satellite, Dongfanghong 1, into orbit in 1970. On April 8, 1984, the country’s first communications satellite was launched, and it sent pictures back for television viewers, as seen in an item on April 19, 1984, in China Daily. After decades of development, the country has made remarkable achievements in the space program. In August 2016, for example, China

launched the world’s first quantum communications satellite. It was a major step in the country’s bid to be at the forefront of quantum research, which could lead to new, totally secure methods of transmitting information. The most advanced is Shijian 13, which was launched in April 2017. It marks the start of the country’s large-capacity communications network. China’s Beidou is one of four space-based navigation networks — along with the United States’ GPS, Russia’s Glonass and the European Union’s Galileo. It began providing positioning, navigation, timing and messaging services to civilian users in China and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region in December 2012. To date, 33 satellites — 18 in the Beidou 3 series and 15 in Beidou 2 — are

operational in several orbits. They offer a global positioning service with 10-meter accuracy and an Asia-Pacific regional service with 5-meter accuracy. In December, China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp sent up the first satellite in its ambitious Hongyun satellite constellation project, the country’s first low-orbit broadband communications satellite network. The company intends to place more than 150 Hongyun satellites into orbit by around 2023.

Satellite beams to the nation

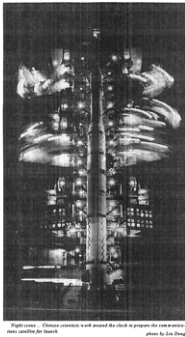
China’s first quantum communications satellite, Micius, was launched on Thursday, marking a major step in the country’s bid to be at the forefront of quantum research, which could lead to new, totally secure methods of transmitting information.

Deng and Howe agree important aspects of Hongkong negotiations

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed on the basic principles for the Hong Kong negotiations on Thursday.

Customs rules set for foreign firms

The Ministry of Finance announced on Thursday that it has issued a notice to set the customs rules for foreign firms operating in China.



Upon its completion, the constellation will provide phone services and broadband internet access to users anywhere on the globe.

The newspaper and beyond

On our Sina Weibo

Villager creates Men in Black sci-fi bike

A video of a young man from rural Hebei province riding his single-wheel motorcycle — which is actually a hoop around the entire bike — has become a hit on social media, with netizens offering advice and funny critiques of his invention. The man, named Yuan, said he wanted to copy the monocycle from one of his favorite movies, *Men in Black 3*, which features secret agents chasing odd creatures from outer space.



Stray mole rescued from burning field

Firefighters found a stray mole while battling fires recently in Qinyuan county, Shanxi province. The little animal had lost its way and appeared to want to run into a blazing field. Firefighters stopped it and fed it some bread. The mole was eventually moved to a safe area and sent back to nature.

Scientists may unveil first image of black hole

European officials are expected to show the first image of a black hole at a news event scheduled for Wednesday. The conference will be held by the Event Horizon Telescope project, the European Commission and the European Research Council, presenting “a groundbreaking result” from the project, whose goal has been to capture an image of a black hole. So far, all videos and images of black holes have been simulations based on what scientists know about them. So the photo may show a dark blob surrounded by a ring of bright light, according to Yahoo. The Event Horizon Telescope is a network of eight radio observatories around the world. News briefings will be held simultaneously in cities around the world. Check more posts online.



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Society: Belt and Road Initiative projects

The Belt and Road Initiative, proposed by President Xi Jinping nearly six years ago, has made practical progress, with 125 countries and 29 international organizations having signed 173 cooperation agreements under the initiative framework as of March 27. Under the initiative’s five cooperation priorities — policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds — a number of projects, including infrastructure for transportation and industry, are in full swing or have already yielded fruitful results. Visit our website to read more about the amazing projects achieved worldwide under the initiative.

Tech: 3D printing to restore remains

A 3D printer worked beside a display cabinet filled with a variety of imitation body parts at a funeral parlor in Guangzhou, Guangdong province. The city’s funeral service center wants to introduce the technology to help rebuild human remains after violent accidents. The 3D printing service was launched earlier this month. Some people who died

in traffic accidents, fires, falls or mining mishaps were not fit for farewell ceremonies because of damaged faces or serious deformation, which heightened the grief of their families and friends, the center said.



Event: Spicy festival to lure foodies

The Hot and Spicy Festival, an annual two-day gourmet event hosted by the Beijinger magazine, will offer delicious spicy foods from around the world on April 20 and 21. The event, at Galaxy Soho in downtown Beijing, will feature live music, dancing and a hot chili pepper eating contest. Visitors will find spicy food from China, Mexico, the United States, the Philippines, Peru, Morocco and India offered by more than 40 vendors.

Food: Smelly dishes need courage to try
Many people hesitate when coming across foods that give

off pungent odors: To eat or not to eat, that is the question. However, there has always been a segment of the population that is obsessed with smelly foods. China, which is a heaven for food lovers, has its own obsession with delicacies such as stinky tofu. While some of these dishes may shock the olfactory senses at first, our advice is to keep an open mind and not judge a dish by its scent. Visit our website to find out more about China’s stinky food.

Travel: Macao records surging passengers

Macao International Airport reported handling more than 2.33 million passengers in the first quarter — 17 percent year-on-year growth. The airport said daily average traffic reached 25,000 passengers and 205 flight movements. It added that with the steady increase of air routes and new airlines, the air travel markets of China and Southeast Asia recorded year-on-year increases of 28 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

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What’s on

The Merchant of Venice

When: April 9-14, 7:30 pm
Where: Beijing Comedy Theater
Bassanio intends to borrow money from his friend Antonio to romantically pursue the wealthy heiress Portia. But Antonio’s money has been spent funding merchant ships, so he has to ask for a loan from Shylock. The loan is granted on condition that if Antonio fails to repay the debt in due course, Shylock has the right to cut out a pound of Antonio’s flesh. When Bassanio learns that Antonio has been arrested because he cannot repay the debt, he returns to Venice to help his friend. However, Shylock turns a deaf ear to all appeals from Bassanio. The climax of the play is set in the court of the Duke of Venice. Shylock refuses Bassanio’s offer of 6,000 ducats, twice the amount of the original loan. He demands his pound of flesh from Antonio.

work, which was written by dramatist Gao Lian from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It tells the tale of a young scholar Pan Bizheng falling in love with Taoist nun Chen Miaochang, who comes from a wealthy family but seeks shelter from war in the nunnery. As Pan is living in his aunt’s monastery, he falls in love with Chen at first sight. The two send messages of love through the melodies of the *guqin* (Chinese zither) and poems. When Pan’s aunt finds out, she is enraged and forces Pan to leave and take the imperial examination. Chen runs after Pan to say farewell and gives him a jade hairpin. Later, Pan becomes the No 1 scholar in the examination, and he returns to marry Chen.

Over the Wall

When: April 11, 7:30 pm
Where: National Center for the Performing Arts, Beijing
The Shanghai Kunqu Opera Troupe will perform the romantic comedy, which was originally written by dramatist Bai Pu from the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

The story revolves around Pei Shaojun, the son of a high-ranking official. When he goes to Luoyang to buy seedlings of flowers and trees, he passes a garden on a horse and accidentally sees Li Qianjin, the daughter of the city’s chief supervisor.

They fall in love at first sight and meet each other in the garden at night. Li agrees to marry Pei and accompanies him to his home. She hides in the backyard for seven years and gives birth to a son and a daughter. One day, she is discovered by Pei’s father, who forces his son to divorce her. She moves to a Taoist Temple and Pei becomes the No 1 scholar in the imperial examination.

Eventually, they live happily together, with good wishes from their parents.

A Masked Ball

When: April 10-14, 7 pm
Where: National Center for the Performing Arts, Beijing
Giuseppe Verdi’s masterpiece is based on the story of the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden in the 18th century. He was shot in a political conspiracy while attending a masked ball and died of his wounds days later. The opera centers on court intrigue and extramarital love, and reveals the indulgences of the time.

With classic arias, it’s one of Verdi’s most comprehensive works and places the genre of Romantic opera firmly within the realm of respectable art.

Midnight Diner

When: April 11-14, 16, 7:30 pm; April 13-14, 2 pm
Where: Shanghai PG Theater
It’s a Mandarin musical based on *Midnight Diner*, a Japanese TV series adapted from the manga of the same name by Yaro Abe. The show focuses on a midnight diner, the chef, known only as The Master, and his involvement with his customers.

The setting of *Midnight Diner* is a small 12-seat izakaya — a type of informal Japanese pub, in Shinjuku, a commercial area in Tokyo. Despite the restaurant’s strange opening hours, 12 am to 7 am, it is popular with the busy nightlife in Shinjuku. The show has been a success in Japan over four seasons and with two movies produced.

The Story of the Jade Hairpin

When: April 12, 7:30 pm
Where: National Center for the Performing Arts, Beijing
The Northern Kunqu Opera Theater will present the classic



Tom Green Live in Shanghai
When: April 19, 8:30 pm
Where: Cages Bar and Sports, Shanghai

Acclaimed comedian Tom Green comes to Shanghai on his debut Asia tour this month, with his excellent original comedy that makes for nonstop laughter. He became popular through *The Tom Green Show*. He has been on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine, hosted *Saturday Night Live*, guest-hosted Letterman and appeared on talk shows such as *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The success of the *Tom Green Show* has landed him roles in mainstream Hollywood films such as *Road Trip*, *Freddy Got Fingered* and *Stealing Harvard*.