

会员通讯

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Features

Farewell Letter from Professor ZHAI Qiang, Immediate Past President of CHUS (January 5, 2003)

Dear CHUS members:

I am pleased to report the result of the 2002 CHUS election: **WANG Di** was elected President (2003-2005). **LIU Yawei**, **SUN Yi**, **TIAN Xiansheng**, and **YAO Ping** were elected members of the Board of Directors (2003-2005). Congratulations and best wishes to them!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the 2001-2003 Board of Directors for their support of my work. My thanks to all those who have shared their ideas on issues of our common concern.

I just returned from the AHA meeting in Chicago. I am happy to inform you that all CHUS sessions went extremely well. They attracted such prominent historians as Jonathan Spence, Roger Daniels (a specialist of immigration and Asian-American history at University of Cincinnati), Edward MaCord (George Washington University), Kristin Stapleton (University of Kentucky), Linda Cook Johnson (Michigan State University), and Samuel Chu (Ohio State University). Our four sessions represented the largest presence of the CHUS at the annual meeting of the AHA so far. They definitely increased the visibility and profile of the CHUS in the American historical community. The quality of our papers and the lively discussions they drew reflected both the scholarly strength of the CHUS and the useful purpose of our sessions at the AHA meeting.

I am sure that under the leadership of my distinguished successor WANG Di, the CHUS will continue to flourish as a vibrant academic organization.

Happy New Year to all of you.

ZHAI Qiang

Inaugural Letter from Professor WANG Di, President of CHUS (January 30, 2003)

Dear CHUS members:

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for trusting me as president of the CHUS and I will work together with the Board of Directors and do my best to serve the goals of the CHUS and our members.

After the AHA in Chicago where I took over the position, I have been thinking of the works we may focus on. At this moment, I think, several matters should be addressed here:

First, preparation and organization of 2004 AHA meeting panels. Although the deadline of the AHA is still a few months away, it is the time, I think, to consider the organization of CHUS panels at the 2004 AHA meeting. Please send me your ideas of organization of panels by March 15.

Second, the publication of *Chinese Historians*. The Board of Directors will try to get next issue of *Chinese Historians* published as soon as possible. As we have known, the journal has not been published for two years since the 2000 issue. At the CHUS business meeting in Chicago, many members showed their serious concern of it and suggested the ways to solve the problem. After I came back from Chicago, I have discussed this issue with editor LIU Yawei, who responded that that he would have the next issue published as quickly as possible. Since the journal is a major channel of our scholarly exchange and increasingly a manifestation of our scholarship, I welcome your suggestions regarding how its quality and operation might be improved. I believe it is the common wish of the CHUS members that the journal should occupy a unique and prestigious position in the historical scholarship across the Pacific. We should be confident enough to achieve that goal.

Third, the electronic version of CHUS Newsletter. We appreciate WANG Xi's agreement to continue to be the editor of the CHUS newsletter. At the Chicago business meeting, we discussed and approved the proposal that the newsletter should be published in electronic format and published on CHUS's website, which will be created. This would significantly reduce the editor's workload, as well as cut the cost of production (such as printing and mailing). After our own website is created, the newsletter, saved as a PDF file, will be sent to the webmaster, who will then put it online. Members will be given the link to the website and will have the chance, if they prefer, to print out a hardcopy for their own file.

Fourth, the creation of CHUS website. The Board of Directors has designated Professor YAO Ping the

responsibility for managing and updating our website. I am sure she will welcome your suggestions regarding this matter.

Finally let me wish each one of you a Happy Chinese New Year!

WANG Di

Report of the CHUS panels at the 2003 AHA Meeting

By

ZHAI Qiang, Stephen Averill, BAO Xiaolan, Janine M. Denomme, WANG Di

At the 2003 annual meeting of the American Historical Association (AHA) held in Chicago, the CHUS sponsored four panels. All of these sessions went extremely well. They attracted such prominent historians as Jonathan Spence, Roger Daniels (a specialist of immigration and Asian-American history at University of Cincinnati), Edward McCord (George Washington University), Kristin Stapleton (University of Kentucky), Linda Cooke Johnson (Michigan State University), and Samuel Chu (Ohio State University). The four sessions represented the largest presence of the CHUS at the annual meeting of the AHA so far. They definitely increased the visibility and profile of the CHUS in the American historical community. The quality of our papers and the lively discussions they drew reflected both the scholarly strength of the CHUS and the useful purpose of our sessions at the AHA meeting.

Defining Historical Moments of Republican China

The first session is devoted to a reassessment of some critical changes in defining moments of Republican China. It includes a diverse set of papers, ranging from the diplomatic history of the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 to state-building efforts in the Sino-Japanese War that ended in 1945; from the classically-trained intellectual teachers of Mao Zedong to a Trotskyist interpretation of the Chinese revolution.

Morris L. BIAN (Auburn University) discusses the Nanjing government's administrative rationalization efforts during the Anti-Japanese War and concludes that the wartime administrative thinking of Nationalist bureaucrats represented an important source from which the concept of *danwei* or "unit" emerged. His paper contributes to the ongoing revisionist reexamination of the state-building efforts of the Nationalist government.

In his paper entitled *The Paris Peace Conference and China's Search for a New World Order*, **XU Guoqi** (Kalamazoo College) deals with China's response to Wilsonianism at the Paris Peace Conference. He argues that the event that was a major spur to the development of Chinese nationalism and was the precipitating cause of the May 4th Movement. The predominant textbook view of the Chinese role in the Peace Conference is an overwhelmingly negative one, stressing the weakness and haplessness of the Chinese diplomats and their government. XU's study clearly acknowledges the disappointments suffered by the Chinese during the negotiations, but also makes clear the achievements—both intended and unintended—of China's diplomatic performances: the positive impression created on world leaders by the efforts of negotiators such as Wellington Koo, for example, and the impact that the injustice done to China at the conference had on deliberations over the League of Nations in the U.S. Senate.

LIU Liyan (Georgetown College) examines the influence of Yang Changji on the intellectual development of the first generation of Chinese Communists. Her explanation of Yang's role as a classically-trained but modern-school-based teacher to young revolutionaries such as Mao Zedong clearly demonstrates that the common view that Confucian-educated mentors were hostile to change needs to be revised. Her paper also sheds light on the crucial role that schools and scholars played in nurturing informal organizations such as the Xinmin xuehui and other study societies that functioned as both incubators and bases of action for the earliest revolutionaries.

CHEN Jinxin (Albertson College) discusses the influence of Harold Isaacs on the development of American Understanding of the Chinese Revolution of 1925-1927. CHEN points out that *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution* written by Harold Isaacs pioneered the studies of the Chinese Revolution of 1925-1927 and has inspired continuous scholarly inquiries. CHEN examines the course of the writing and publishing of *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution* and investigates the factors that shaped Isaacs's view of the Chinese Revolution. He argues that Isaacs's perceptions of China had been affected by his American upbringing and education, his privileged position as a foreigner in Shanghai's international community, his initial support for and later dismissal of the ideas of Leon Trotsky, and his personal relationship with Trotsky himself. And above all, CHEN concludes, Isaacs had been influenced by the opinions and materials provided by his Chinese collaborator Liu Renqing. CHEN believes that his study of Harold Isaacs helps contextualize the debate over the impact of the Stalin-Trotsky rivalry on the Chinese revolution. In addition, it highlights the multiple layers of partially-incongruent, politically-charged interpretation that are almost inevitably present in Western studies of the history of the revolution.

The Stories of How Chinese Becoming American

The second session focuses on Chinese American History in the United States. **SONG Jingyi** (State University of New York College at Old Westbury reconstructs Chinese women's activism in New York's Chinatown during World War II. Situating her study at a critical moment in the history of New York's Chinatown and examining the anti-war effort of the community in general and that of women in particular, she argues that it is inadequate to understand Chinese Americans' enthusiastic support of their home land's war effort as simply a reflection of their strong sense of nationalism, largely reinforced by the hostility they faced in their host land. As she argues, particularly for the American born Chinese, men as well as women, wartime was also an important period for them to develop their dual identities. By denouncing the U.S. for supplying oil to Japan; publicly questioning its neutrality policy; urging it to take a stand against Japanese aggression in the early years of the war, and by joining the U.S. Army and participating in all kinds of war related activities after the U.S. entered the war, they expressed their strong concern for the country where they were born and exercised their responsibilities as patriotic Americans.

LI Xiaobing (University of Central Oklahoma)'s study of the Chinese experience in Oklahoma and **Ling Z. ARENSON** (DePaul University)'s study on the Chinese communities in Chicago constitute departures from the much studied major Chinese settlements on the East and West Coasts. LI Xiaobing discusses the "underground Chinatown" in Oklahoma City. This Chinese community, discovered in 1969, was under five Chinese business shops in the downtown area. It was said to be about a mile long, covering two blocks. About 100 to 150 Chinese lived in the basements in this underground Chinese community between 1900 and 1930. By discussing this little known Chinese experience in Oklahoma, Li has argued that although the labor shortage, coupled with a lower level of prejudice and racial discrimination in Oklahoma, especially in the Indian Territory, drew a small number of Chinese from the West Coast as early as the 1880s, this Oklahoma advantage had its limitations. As early as 1890s, constrained by the limited possibility of economic advancement in the Indian Territory, more and more Chinese moved to Oklahoma City, where they lived in basements under Chinese stores and engaged in service occupations, primarily hand laundries and restaurants, as did their counterparts elsewhere. Some of them were believed to have died and were buried there, near where they had lived. Both metaphorically and factually, this underground world was powerful evidence of the wide spread hostility against Chinese during the Exclusion era. Li's study has surely added a new regional and spatial dimension to our understanding of the drudgery and hardship Chinese immigrants had to undergo during the Exclusion era (1882-1943).

Focusing on a different period, **Ling ARENSON** studies recent changes in the Chinese communities in Chicago, which is to this date a largely under-studied area of Chinese experience in America. By carefully tracing the development of the Chinese communities in different parts of the city and identifying factors that led to the differences within and between them, ARENSON has presented to us a complex picture very important for understanding recent Chinese experiences in the Midwest. Although Chicago Chinese communities are fractured by multiple centrifugal forces, shaped by their members' economic, cultural, political, educational, and generational differences, ARENSON remains optimistic about their future. As she argues, despite all the conflicts and divisions, "there is one ultimate factor that will eventually bond them together—loyalty to the land that they bet their future on." How would this "ultimate factor" help form coalitions among members of the Chinese communities, however temporal or expedient these

coalitions could be, to advance their common cause? This will be an important area for future study, not only of the under-studied Chinese experience in the Midwest but also of the much studied major Chinese settlements on the East and West Coasts, members of which also came from increasingly diverse backgrounds.

Women's Roles in Late Imperial and Modern China

The third session addresses the issue of women's roles in modern China. It explores choices made by women in modern China regarding whether or not to live within the prescribed roles defined for them by their societies. Furthermore, it also discusses how women's choices have impacted Chinese culture and society. Despite the constrictions on women's sphere of influence, Chinese women, by their daily decisions and behaviors, changed and continue to change the history, culture and politics of their society. Women in China have propelled public, political and academic discussions and policies, sometimes without stepping outside their parents' homes.

LU Weijing (Mary Washington University) discusses the debate over the Faithful Maiden and provides insight into the reasons for the female fidelity cult that swept late imperial Chinese society. She points out that the act by betrothed women stirred debate. The faithful maidens inserted themselves into public and scholarly discourse despite the restrictions placed on women to produce such discourse. Some scholars attacked the faithful maiden practice while others supported it. Often times, as Lu concludes, scholars' opinions were more determined by their own personal experience than their scholarship. A scholar whose own daughter chose to go and live with her dead finance's family, dying an early death, may have witnessed his own condemnation of the practice wither away. Faithfulness to the ancient marriage rituals established by Confucius and other sages were at the center of the scholars' debates over this practice. Furthermore, by calling into question the contemporary meaning of ancient marriage rituals, the scholars also, perhaps without intention, called into question all ancient rituals and their authority in a new day.

WANG Shou (California State University at Stanislaus) explores the choices made by many Manchu women during the Qing dynasty not to marry after returning home from their time served at the palace in Beijing. Despite the fact that these women were eligible for marriage, even if they had been gone from their homes for five years and a good deal older than most brides, many chose to remain in their parents' homes, either marrying later or not at all. WANG asks two major questions: 1) Why did these women choose not to marry; and 2) What impact did these choices have on the Chinese and Manchu acculturation process? As to the reason why these Manchu women chose not to marry, She explains that they were better off if they did not marry. Young Manchu girls were held in high esteem because of their potential to work in the palace and/or marry into the imperial family. Those girls chosen to serve in the palace were compensated with money equal to a Manchu man's annual income. Likewise, older women whose children had grown and married and whose sons' families lived under their roofs also enjoyed status, often controlling the household. However, middle-aged married women, those who were not a member of either of the above two groups and who lived with their husbands' families, had little social power or status. WANG argues that wives were more likely to be dominated by their mothers-in-law than their fathers-in-law or husbands. For these reasons, many Manchu women chose not to marry.

WANG Guanhua (University of Connecticut) deals with patterns of career choices of retired women athletes in the post-cultural revolution China. He studies three groups of women athletes: former world champions, national team members, provincial or lower level team members. WANG concludes that, in terms of women's liberation, the case of women athletes in China is at best an irony: they are liberated to perform for their country and then, more likely than not, retire to their more traditional roles both at home and in the society.

Contemporary Chinese Historiography

The fourth session discusses Chinese historiography in the post-Mao era. **CHEN Shiwei** (Lake Forest College) examines the recent development of the historiography of Chinese science. The history of Chinese science and technology is a field of study marked in crucial ways by its own history. Traditionally, Chinese historians paid great attention to the acquisition of historical texts and to their philology. They found historical materials from classics that could be used to verify the advancement of Chinese science and technology as a distinguishing

characteristic of Chinese civilization. This approach enabled Chinese historians to develop a common methodology toward the interpretation of science that is still being used by many historians. In recent years, most studies on the history of science and technology in People's Republic are still related to the traditional topics such as mathematics, astronomy, divination, military technology, and medicine. While these studies are particularly fruitful in collecting original materials and rediscovering important documentations, they did not supply a sufficient ground for addressing the more comprehensive issues such as the transmission and influence of science, interpretation of historians of science and their works, the social, institutional and regional history of science, comparison of bioethics between the East and the West, and topics that combine the domains of philosophy, metaphysics and science. Chen concludes that the traditional approaches used by Chinese scholars have not surpassed the "science-and-civilization" framework created by Joseph Needham several decades ago, in which science was conceptualized as a unified body of knowledge to provide a measure for determining the process of civilization toward modernity in both West and East.

CHENG Weikun (California State University at Chico) focuses on women in urban public space. He points out that urban women try to colonize public realm and turn the "unfamiliar" to the "familiar," a way to expand their everyday space and build supportive networks. When women use and occupy urban public spaces, they compete with men for the control of urban resources; they challenge the rules of segregation and discrimination; and they transform the exclusive habit of men and create an open-minded "public space." By studying women in urban public space, CHENG argues that we can better understand such issues as the separate spheres/spaces, redistribution of urban resources, transgressive behavior, state regulations and control, and gender politics.

CHEN Yixin (University of North Carolina at Wilmington) discusses recent Chinese scholarship on modern Chinese rural economy. He points out that China's rural reform from 1979 has imposed new issues on Chinese scholars. By redistributing land to individual farming families, China's economic reform generated a process of profound de-collectivization. The reform and its consequential problems have forced scholars to seek a new understanding of the Maoist agricultural policy programs and further into the era of pre-Maoist China. During past ten years or so, CHEN shows, at least three sets of new knowledge have emerged. The first is a study of north China's rural market towns, done by historians at the Institute of Modern History of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. By computing the number of market towns that had increased by ten times from the 1890s to 1930s, these historians reveal that rural north China had experienced a rapid commercialization in modern times rather than being a backward agricultural area. The second includes studies of Jiangnan by Cao Xingsui and other agricultural economic historians. Their works show that permanent tenancies, unlike previously assumed being exploitative of the poor peasants, actually gave incentives to tenant farmers and enabled them to make a contribution to an overall growth of agricultural production in modern Jiangnan. The third involves a collective research on modern agricultural technology by scholars at the Institute of Agricultural History of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science. Their works show that during the Republican era, the Chinese state had made great efforts to promote agricultural education, research, finance, farming extension, and technological developments. Although some of these works were interrupted by the Japanese invasion and the Civil War, many, such as improved seed varieties, played an important role in agriculture during the 1940s and continued their influence into the People's Republic.

WANG Xi (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) explores recent trends in the study of American history in China. He reports that the Chinese studies of American history have witnessed an unprecedented growth in the past two decades (1980-2000). The fields of research have expanded from the traditional political and labor history to social, economic and urban histories, reflecting the growing interest in American experience of modernization. Other subjects, such as race and ethnic studies (including Chinese-American history) and

women's history, have also been chosen as important subjects for graduate theses. The progress owes to a large degree to a much greater space for academic research, as well as to the availability of research resources-via ever-expanding translations of works by American historians, frequent exchange programs, and the increasing access to primary materials online. With this new academic environment, Chinese historians of American history are able to absorb contemporary scholarship of American history in the United States and produce a much more up-to-date, detailed and balanced writings in the field. Some of the doctoral dissertations by Chinese students begin to make ways to the English-speaking world. The field of research, however, continues to confront a number of daunting challenges, especially in mastering the vast historiography of American history as produced in the United States, creating more up-to-date syntheses on such vital subjects of American history as slavery, constitutionalism, economic development, education, state- and nation-building, and reinvigorating strong graduate training programs. All this, WANG says, is fundamental to the development of a unique and substantive Chinese interpretation of American history.

Finally, **ZHANG Xin** (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis) reflects on some new scholarship of Chinese history in China while **WANG Di** (Texas A&M University) briefly introduces latest development of historical criticism in China.

Photos from CHUS panels at the 2003 AHA annual meeting in Chicago:



From left: SONG Jinyi, BAO Xiaolan, LI Hongshan, Ling ARENSON



From Left: Janine DENOMME, WANG Guanhua, WANG Shuo, LU Weijing, YAO Ping

Members News

YANG Guocun Presents Papers on Fugitive Slaves at UK Conference

YANG Guocun, currently chair of the Social Science Department at Manchester Community College, presented a paper, "Flight for Freedom, Connecticut's Slave Escapees," at the Institute for the Study of Slavery on "5000 Years of

Slavery" in September 2002 at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, in July 2002. An earlier version of the paper was presented at the Southwest Social Science Conference in March 2002 in New Orleans, Louisiana. In July 2002, Guocun and his family enjoyed a month-long tour to several Chinese cities, including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Shenzhen. (*The editor apologizes to Professor Yang for having misfiled this piece of news, which should have appeared on the November Issue of CHUS Newsletter in 2002*).

CHEN Jian Heads Virginia's Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures

CHEN Jian, C. K. Yen Professor of Chinese-American Relations and Professor of History at the University of Virginia, recently was appointed as chair of UVA 's Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. He was also appointed as a senior associate at the Cold War International History Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D. C. He has maintained an active agenda for research, publication and other scholarly activities. Together with Chen Zhihong, he translated Odd Arne Westad's *Cold War and Revolution* into Chinese, which was recently published by Guangxi Normal University Press (广西师范大学出版社). Eleven of his articles and essays will be published in *Historical Research* (历史研究), *The China Journal*, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, *Diplomatic History*, *International History Review*, *Asia Perspectives*, and several essay collections.

Welcome New Members

CHUS welcomes two new members: **Professors WANG Shuo and CHENG Yinghong**. WANG Shuo received her B.A. from Beijing Teachers College (1982), M.A. from Beijing University (1985), and Ph.D. from Michigan State University (2002). She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of History at California State University at Stanislaus, teaching world civilization, East Asian and Chinese history. She has published articles in both China and the United States on Qing dynasty and Manchu women.

From the Board of Directors

CHUS Financial Report, January 1 2002 – February 6, 2003

Reported by SUN Yi, Treasurer of CHUS

Beginning balance on 01/02/2002	\$13,095.92
Incomes	
Membership fees	\$740.00
Interest	\$76.07
Expenditures	
Publication costs of newsletters	\$249.69
AHA annual meeting program fee (for CHUS panels)	\$175.00
Ending balance on February 6, 2003	\$13,487.30

CHUS Board of Directors, 2003-2005

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Conferences/Programs/Announcements

The International Conference on Globalization and Higher Education is to be held in Guizhou University, Guizhou, China, May 18-20, 2003. For more information, see

<<http://www.wcupa.edu/facstaff/facdev/RFP-Guizhou%20General.htm>>, or contact Dr. HONG (George) Zhaohui, Associate Vice President, Sponsored Research and Faculty Development, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, West Chester, PA 19383, USA, Tel: 610-436-3310, Fax: 610-436-2689, email: ghong@wcupa.edu (O), hong826@comcast.net (H)

The Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) is inviting papers and panels for presentation at the **9th International Conference on Social Changes and Cultural Consciousness**, to be held on October 24-26 (Friday to Sunday), 2003 at UNLV (University of Nevada-Las Vegas). Please send a paper abstract and/or panel proposal of no more than 200 words to Dr. Shuming Lu (Department of Speech Communication Arts & Sciences, The City University of New York-Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY 11210) by May 1, 2003, by e-mail at smlu@juno.com, or by fax at: (718) 951-4167.

The Third International Conference On Knowledge, Culture And Change In Organisations will be held Bayview Beach Resort, Batu Ferringhi Beach, Penang, Malaysia, 11-14 August 2003. The conference, featured with the theme of knowledge management, will be hosted by the Faculty of Business with the Globalism Institute at RMIT Melbourne,

Universiti Sains Malaysia Penang and the Singapore Institute of Management. It will include major keynote papers by internationally renowned speakers and numerous small-group workshop and paper presentation sessions. For more information, see <<http://www.ManagementConference.com>>.

2003 Summer Intensive Chinese Program At Nanjing University, China, organized by Pennsylvania Asian-Pacific Institute at Penn State University. The program offers American students 2 sessions of Summer Intensive Chinese Program in 2003, running from July 7-August 7, 2003, at Nanjing University. Class schedule includes Intensive Chinese language courses for four weeks (4 periods each day, five days each week) and 1 week study tour of Shanghai and Beijing. Send the application form and financial aids inquires to the following address: Pennsylvania Asian-Pacific Institute (PAI), 1476 Ridge Master Drive, State College, PA 16803. Tel.: 814-883-8439 Fax 814-237-9525, or Email: pai@usasiaedu.org. Application could also be sent online: <www.usasiaedu.org>. Application Deadline: April 15, 2003

M.E. Sharpe is looking for an editor of the Asian-American history volume of a multi-volume reference book. If you are interested in this project, please contact Dr. James Ciment (james.ciment@verizon.net), consulting editor, or Andrew Gyory (agyory@mesharpe.com), executive editor at M.E. Sharpe.

Editor's Notebook

For any careful reader of the Newsletter, there is at least a constant problem of inconsistency in the recent issues. The problem involves the proper order of our members' names. How should a Chinese name--in this case, our members' names--appear *properly* in publication such as this one? Should our immediate past president's name, for example, be spelt as "Zhai Qiang", or "Qiang Zhai", "ZHAI Qiang", or "Qiang ZHAI"? What about the name of Dr. Hong Zhaohui, one of our past presidents? He has an English first name, George. Should his name appear as "George Z. H. Hong", "Hong George", or simply "George Hong"? Of course, things would be much simpler if people inform me of how they would like their names to appear in print, but the problem is that naming orders are coming in all kinds of formalities. I have been trying to find a way that might offer some sort of consistency, but I must confess it is difficult to accomplish such seemingly very simple mission. For the moment, I have adopted a simple mechanism, that is, whenever a member's name appear the first time, his or her last name is capitalized and the name follows the original Chinese naming order--surname name is followed by personal name. I am not sure that this is the best way to solve the problem of confusion or whether our members would like to accept it, in either case, I need to hear from you how I should handle this issue. Any of your suggestion about this matter and other aspects of the newsletter is welcome and appreciated. Thanks.