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Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

US China Peoples Friendship Association records

1974-2013 [bulk 1976-1989]

MssCol 6176

Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2010.

Summary

Creator: U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association

Title: US China Peoples Friendship Association records

Date: 1974-2013 [bulk 1976-1989]

Size: 12.81 linear feet (31 boxes)

Source: Donated by the US China Peoples Friendship Association, 2004, 2006, and 2013.

Revision History: Additions from 2013 were incorporated into the collection by Kit Fluker in 2017.
Sound recordings added to finding aid.

Abstract: The US China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), established in 1974, is a nonprofit organization that seeks to maintain a lasting friendship between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Through educational and cultural exchange, tours, publications, seminars, and exhibitions, the USCPFA works to spread the understanding of both nations. The collection, dated 1974 to 2013, contains administrative files and subject files consisting of correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records, memoranda, reports, photographs, and printed matter.

Preferred citation: US China Peoples Friendship Association records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2010.

Creator History

The United States China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), established in 1974, is a nonprofit organization that seeks to maintain a lasting friendship with the Peoples Republic of China. Once the United States established diplomatic relations with China in 1979, the USCPFA was in an excellent position to further its goals. Americans were curious about China and wanted to learn about this distant nation. The USCPFA was ready to meet this need. It sponsored technical, cultural, commercial, and educational exchanges and tours, arranged speakers programs and photo exhibits, offered study

classes, and published newsletters, pamphlets and other literature.

The individual who had the vision for the creation of the USCPFA was Unita Blackwell (1933-). Blackwell was a veteran civil rights activist and the first African-American woman to be elected mayor in Mississippi. She made numerous trips to China, including as a member of Shirley MacLaine's groundbreaking 1973 Women's Delegation.

With the support of her colleagues, the USCPFA developed into a formidable organization that reached across the four corners of the country. To achieve a balance for the organization, the USCPFA divided into four regions (Eastern, Midwest, Southern and Western), sub-regional and local units. Each semiautonomous geographic region elected a president to represent its interests within the USCPFA.

The USCPFA's funds and membership peaked in the 1980s and dropped in the 1990s as the organization face competition from tour companies offering travel to China. However, the organization still has 50 chapters throughout the United States, maintains the Center for Teaching About China (CTAC), sponsors an annual two-day seminar, and conducts educational tours of China.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the US China Peoples Friendship Association document its activities from the 1970s to the 2000s. The records are divided into administrative files and subject files consisting of correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records, memoranda, reports, photographs, and printed matter. Administrative records include the National Board minutes, 1978-1991. The subject files include records of the regional branches, materials on the annual conventions, on tours and special events arranged by the USCPFA, and membership files.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

China -- Cultural relations -- United States

United States -- Cultural relations -- China

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Sound recordings

Video recordings

Container List

Series I. Administrative records 1970s, 1980-2007 (7 boxes)

These files consist chiefly of minutes of the National Board. The National Board (known as the National Steering Committee until Oct. 1979) met periodically in different cities throughout the United States. The Board's responsibility was to act as the governing body of the organization. The minutes document relationship of the national organization to its semiautonomous regional groups. The official minutes contains budgets, committee, membership, and regional reports, resolutions passed, reports from committees, agreements with tour companies/travel agencies and convention planning.

- b. 1 f. 1-4 Bylaws 1980s-1990s
- b. 1 f. 5 Constitution amendment
- National Board minutes 1978-1991
 - b. 1 f. 6-11 1974, 1977
 - b. 2 f. 1-10 1977-1979
 - b. 3 f. 1-10 1979
 - b. 4 f. 1-9 1979-1980
 - b. 5 f. 1-8 1980-1982
 - b. 6 f. 1-5 1983-1991
- b. 6 f. 6-7 National Tour Committee minutes 1982-1985
- b. 7 f. 1-3 National Tour Committee minutes 1982-1985
 - b. 7 f. 4 Executive Director Jane C. Leiper chron file 1985
 - b. 7 f. 5 Organizational chart 1984
- b. 7 f. 6-7 Reports to the Board from the National Office 1988-1989
- b. 31 f. 1 National Board miscellany 1989-2007

Series II. Subject files 1970s-2013 (23 boxes)

The Subject files, represents the bulk of the collection. The documents span a wide spectrum of USCPFA activities throughout the United States. A brief overview of the USCPFA may be seen in "Memorandums/Reports and Internal Correspondence" that includes bylaws, committee reports, correspondence, drafts, financial, and minutes. Topics include committee information, beginning an official publication, memoranda for forming a national organization, tour information, statements by candidates running for office in the USCPFA, and related issues of interests. Whereas, these files focus on the internal operations, the files of general correspondence contain letters received from outside the organization.

Of the four regional groups, the Eastern Region files are the most extensive and include sound recordings from a 1989 Eastern Region conference. The Midwest Region is documented mainly through a sampling of newsletters from the Chicago and Detroit chapters. The Southern Region and the Western Region are represented by only a few file in this collection.

The membership files contain minutes of the membership committee, requests for membership, correspondence with the local groups regarding membership, dues, and statistical data collected. National convention files include sound recordings from the 1985 National Convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Files of officers of the USCPFA include those of Director Robert Leeds, President Fred Ptashne, Executive Director Jane C. Leiper, and Treasurer Irving Zuckerman.

One of the most important events in USCPFA history was the visit of Premier Zhao Ziyang (1919-2005) to the United States. The USCPFA cosponsored a dinner on January 11, 1984, with the National Association of Chinese Americans (NACA). The files document preparation for the Zhao dinner including correspondence with interested parties, public relations, and the evaluation of the dinner. The files contain two original menus from the event.

Audiovisual materials in this series include videotapes of the Washington seminar in 1994 and sound recordings of presentations at the 1995 national convention in Minneapolis, the Eastern Regional conference in 1989, and at other USCPFA meetings. Sound and video recordings are unavailable for use at this time pending preservation transfer.

- b. 8 f. 1 Ariyoshi, Koji. Photographs circa 1975
- b. 8 f. 2 Australia-China Friendship Society 1983
- b. 8 f. 3 Bao, Lee 1988
USCPFA National Treasurer
- b. 8 f. 4 Canada-China Friendship Association circa 1985
Center for Teaching About China (CTAC) USCPFA
- b. 8 f. 5 circa 1977-1985
- b. 8 f. 6 1986
- b. 8 f. 7 1987-1989
- b. 8 f. 8 Resources 1984-1983
- b. 8 f. 9 China Books & Periodicals, Inc circa 1983
- b. 9 f. 1-2 China, photographs of
- b. 31 f. 2 Chinese & American Friendship Association of Maine newsletters 2009, 2013
- b. 9 f. 3 Chinese Health Care 1970s
- b. 9 f. 4 Cui-Heng. Documentary film 1991
- b. 9 f. 4 CUNY agreement 1984
- b. 9 f. 5 Daily Journals. Leaders' Delegation 1991
- b. 9 f. 6 Discussion Papers/Reports USCPFA 1980s
- b. 9 f. 7 Donations 1980s
Eastern Region
Correspondence, Memorandum, and Reports

Series II. Subject files (cont.)

Eastern Region (cont.)

Correspondence, Memorandum, and Reports (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 8 1970s
- b. 9 f. 9 1970s
- b. 9 f. 10 1983
- b. 9 f. 11 1984-1985
- b. 10 f. 1 1986-1987
- b. 10 f. 2 1987-1989
- b. 10 f. 3 1990s, n.d.
- b. 10 f. 4-5 Newsletters 1970s-1980s
- New York Chapter
- b. 10 f. 6 1974-1979
- b. 10 f. 7 1980s
- b. 10 f. 8 1990s
- b. 10 f. 9 n.d.
- b. 11 f. 1-2 Newsletters 1970s, 1990s
- b. 30 f. 7-8 Operating funds 1980-1987
- b. 11 f. 3 Richmond Chapter 1980s
- Employees/Employer
- b. 11 f. 4 General Information circa 1980
- b. 11 f. 5-6 Manual 1980-1981
- b. 11 f. 7 Endowment Fund 1985, 1990
- b. 11 f. 8-9 Financial correspondence circa 1979-1981
- b. 11 f. 10 Funding 1989
- b. 12 f. 1-2 Gang of Four 1980-1981
- General Correspondence/Files
- b. 12 f. 3 1970s
- b. 12 f. 4 1980s
- b. 12 f. 5 1990s
- b. 12 f. 6 Hooks, Benjamin (NAACP) 1982-1983
- Job descriptions
- b. 12 f. 7 Executive Director 1980s
- b. 12 f. 8 General 1980s
- Leadership Delegation. USCPFA visit to China
- b. 12 f. 9 1985
- b. 12 f. 10 1986
- b. 12 f. 11 1987
- b. 12 f. 12 Leeds, Robert 1986-1989
- USCPFA Director
- b. 12 f. 13 Legal Issues. USCPFA contributions to Foreign Charity 1984
- b. 13 f. 1-2 Long Range Planning Committee packet 1984
- Membership
- b. 13 f. 3 Eastern Region 1983-1990

Series II. Subject files (cont.)
Membership (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 4-6 General Information 1978, 1980s
- b. 13 f. 6-8 General Information 1990s
 - b. 31 f. 3 Midwest Region 1985-1986
 - b. 14 f. 1 Midwest Region 1989-1994
 - b. 14 f. 2 Southern Region 1989-1990
 - b. 14 f. 3 Western Region 1980s-1990s
- Memoranda/Reports/Internal correspondence
 - b. 14 f. 4-9 1970s-1989
 - b. 15 f. 1-2 1990-2000, n.d.
 - b. 15 f. 3 Miami Chapter circa 1976-1979
mostly printed matter
 - Midwest Region
 - b. 15 f. 4 1970s
 - b. 15 f. 5 1980s
 - b. 15 f. 6 1990s
 - Midwest newsletters
 - b. 15 f. 7 Chicago 1970s
 - b. 15 f. 8-10 Detroit 1974, 1975-1979
 - b. 15 f. 11 sample issues from other regions
 - b. 16 f. 1 National Committee on US-China Relations 1980s
 - National Convention
 - b. 16 f. 2-9 1975-1983
 - b. 17 f. 1-9 1983-1987
Sound recordings, 1985 are unavailable until duplicated
 - b. 18 f. 1-4 1987-1999
 - b. 18 f. 5-6 Resolutions 1974-1983, 1989
 - b. 18 f. 7-8 National Directory 1980s-1990s
 - b. 18 f. 9 National Office Interim Reports 1990
 - b. 18 f. 10 National Plan 1978-79
 - National Program Committee
 - b. 18 f. 11 1985
 - b. 19 f. 1-3 1985-1987
 - b. 31 f. 4 1986-1988
 - b. 19 f. 4 National publication discussions 1973-1974
 - b. 19 f. 5 Notes circa 1980s
 - b. 19 f. 6-7 Officer's Delegation Briefing Books circa 1983
 - b. 19 f. 8 Palm Beach County Chapter 1988-1989
 - b. 20 f. 1 Papers 1973-1984
 - b. 20 f. 2 Petrus, Shirley. Legal Case 1980s
 - b. 20 f. 3 Pittsburgh Chapter. Establishment of 1985
 - b. 20 f. 4-9 Policy statements 1982-1984, 1987
 - b. 20 f. 10 Policy statements. Committees 1980s

Series II. Subject files (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 11 Posters n.d.
Premier Zhao Ziyang dinner and visit
- b. 21 f. 1 Completed tasks 1983-1984
- b. 21 f. 2 Correspondence 1983-1984
- b. 21 f. 3 Financial reports 1984
- b. 21 f. 4 Invitations/graphics
- b. 21 f. 5 Menu
- b. 21 f. 6 Public relations. Articles 1984
- b. 21 f. 7-8 RSVPs
- b. 21 f. 9 Speech 1984
- b. 21 f. 10 Table information
- b. 21 f. 11 Working committee 1983
- b. 21 f. 12 Promotion information 1989
- b. 21 f. 13-14 Publications circa 1980
Ptashne, Fred
President USCPFA
- b. 22 f. 1 Board issues, circa 1987
- b. 22 f. 2 Correspondence and memoranda 1978-1989
- b. 22 f. 3 Qi Gong 1988
Chinese Mind/Healing Arts
- b. 22 f. 4-5 Report. Leadership Delegation 1986
- b. 22 f. 6-7 Reports 1973-1974, circa 1984
- b. 22 f. 8 San Francisco chapter 1988-1989
- b. 22 f. 9 Sha, Qing circa 1989
- b. 22 f. 10 Sino-American relations 1983
Sound Recordings
- 216668 Ambassador Han Xu 1985
- 216669 China the Billionaire-Population and Prosperity Mei-ling Hsu 1985
- 216663 China-Educational and Scientific Ties The Cutting Edge of the Sino-American Relationship David Lampton 1985
- 216666 China's Crash Program in Science and Technology Development-How is it Faring? Otto Schnepf 1985
- 216662 China's Energy Crisis Trev Su-A-Quan 1985
- 216673 China's Long March-The Old and the New Harrison Salisbury 1985
- 216665 China's New Legal System-How It Works for All the People Frank Pestana 1985
- 216667 Chinese Cities-the Fifth Modernization? Barbara Lukermann 1985
- 216670 Dramatic Changes in our American Chinese Experience Chinese Scholars 1985
- 216664 Misperceptions of Chinese Foreign Policy Edward Friedman 1985
- 216671 Post-Mao Rural Reforms: Is Socialism Dead? 1985
- 216672 Xi'an-China's Cultural Heartland Robert Jacobsen 1985
- 216655 Women in China and China Soviet Reform Policies [1] 1989 Feb 9

Series II. Subject files (cont.)
Sound Recordings (cont.)

- 216656 China Soviet Reform Policies part 2 [2] 1989 Feb 9
- 216657 Marty Rivlin and Zhou en Lai 1989 May 20
- 216653 CPA discussion of situation in China 1989 Jun 17
- 216658 Eastern Region Conference #1 1989 Jul 15
- 216659 Eastern Region Conference #2 1989 Jul 15
- 216660 Eastern Region Conference #3 1989 Jul 15
- 216661 Eastern Region Conference #4 1989 Jul 15
- 216654 Soaring Crane Qigong
- Southern Region
 - b. 22 f. 11 Correspondence and memoranda 1970s-1980s
 - b. 23 f. 1-2 Newsletters 1970-1980s
 - b. 31 f. 5 1990-2004
 - b. 23 f. 3 South West Sub Region 1975-1991
 - b. 23 f. 4 Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, Washington, DC 1983
 - b. 23 f. 5 Suyin, Han 1982-1984
 - b. 23 f. 6 Tabulation of votes to move to NY 1990
 - b. 23 f. 7 Taiwan 1983-1984
 - Tours
 - b. 23 f. 8 Audits 1988, 1991
 - b. 23 f. 9 China's Ancient Capitals 1988-1990
 - b. 23 f. 10 Costs, expenses circa 1987
 - General Information
 - b. 23 f. 11-12 1978-1985
 - b. 24 f. 1-8 1985-1987
 - b. 25 f. 1-7 1987-1990
 - b. 26 f. 1-3 1990-1993, n.d.
 - b. 26 f. 4 Leader manual 1985, 1989 ed.
 - b. 26 f. 5 Leaders circa 1989
 - b. 26 f. 6 Legal Issue 1987
 - b. 26 f. 7 National Tour Committee (NTA) 1982-1986
 - b. 26 f. 8 NTA Policy statements 1985-1989
 - b. 26 f. 9 Orientation Program for China Tours 1985
 - b. 26 f. 10-11 Printed matter 1970s-1980s
 - b. 27 f. 1 Questionnaires information 1980s
 - b. 27 f. 2 Status reports 1987-1988
 - b. 27 f. 3 US-China Business Council 1989
 - b. 27 f. 4 USCPFA reception for opening of national office 1982
 - b. 27 f. 5 US-China Policy Seminar 1983, 1985
 - b. 27 f. 6-7 US-China Review 1985-1987
 - b. 27 f. 8 US Dept. of State 1988-1989
 - b. 27 f. 9 US Policy Towards China 1982

Series II. Subject files (cont.)

Western Region

- b. 27 f. 10-11 1978, 1984-1987
- b. 28 f. 1-3 1988-1990s
- b. 28 f. 4-6 Newsletters 1970s-1990s
 - b. 28 f. 7 Woo, Joseph 1985
The Chinese-Speaking Student
 - b. 28 f. 8 World Wildlife Fund circa 1988
 - b. 28 f. 9 Xiannien 1985
President Li Xiannien
- Zuckerman, Irving
Treasurer
 - b. 28 f. 10 1979-1988
- b. 29 f. 1-7 1989-1992
 - b. 30 f. 1 1992
 - b. 30 f. 2 Notes, related material 1990s
 - b. 30 f. 3 Notebook n.d.

Other Material

- b. 30 f. 4-6 USCPFA Assorted Publications
- b. 30 f. 7 Non USCPFA Publications
- b. 30 f. 8 Photographs. unidentified 2000