

TOP NEWS

So long, sadness!



A man shreds his note during the 14th annual Good Riddance Day in Times Square ahead of New Year's Eve in New York City on Monday. This year, people from around the world were encouraged to participate virtually by sharing their Good Riddance Day memories in advance, so they can start fresh in 2021. ANGELA WEISS / AFP

Shirley Young, ex-GM VP and patron of arts, dies at 85

By ZHAO XU in New York
zhaoxu@chinadailyusa.com

Shirley Young, a former vice-president of General Motors, has died at age 85. She is best known for her key role in the automaker's billion dollar investment in China's auto industry through the Shanghai SAIC-GM joint venture. Young had just celebrated Christmas at home with her three sons, David, William and Douglas Hsieh, before passing away at a hospital in New York City on Saturday.

In her later years, Young became an ardent supporter of the arts. As an accomplished pianist, she believed she had the power to transcend ideological boundaries.

She worked closely with internationally renowned Chinese and Chinese American artists to foster cultural ties between her ancestral and adopted homes. Artists she worked with include pianist Lang Lang, composer Tan Dun, and Shen Wei — the dance choreographer behind the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony.

Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai extended his deepest condolences to Young's family on Monday, calling her "an outstanding lady, who not only had great business achievements, but also devoted her lifetime to advocating the interests of Chinese Americans and the mutual understanding between the Chinese and American people".

Cui said the Committee of 100, which Young co-founded in 1990, has been "an important bridge for China-US political, economic, cultural and educational exchanges".

"In recent years, despite the downturn of China-US relations, she continued to call for greater understanding between our two countries," he said. "Her passing is a loss to both China and the United States, and she will be remembered forever."

Together with other prominent Chinese Americans including the late architect I.M. Pei, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and philanthropist Oscar Tang,



Shirley Young, a firm believer in the future of both the US and China, devoted her life to advocating the interests of Chinese Americans. GAO TIANPEI / CHINA DAILY

Young helped establish the Committee of 100 and remained active in the organization for the rest of her life. She was also a founding member of the Committee of 200, an international organization of leading businesswomen.

Born in Shanghai on May 25, 1935, Young was the second daughter of Juliana Young Koo, a Shanghai socialite in the 1920s and one of the first women to graduate from the renowned Fudan University, and Clarence Kuangson Young, a Princeton University graduate and diplomat who represented China in a number of postings including London, Paris and Manila.

Shirley Young came to the US with her mother and sisters at the end of World War II from the Philippines, where her father was taken away from their home and later executed by the occupying Japanese during the war.

A graduate of Abbot Academy and Wellesley College in Massachusetts, Young became a trailblazer in marketing during her three decades at Grey Advertising, pioneering the use of psychographic

research and brand character.

In the early 1990s, she became involved in GM's efforts to expand in China and was asked to move to Shanghai, where she was made vice-president for China Strategic Development and Asia Pacific counselor. Young worked to achieve GM's goals by understanding the needs of its Chinese counterparts and of the many entities that had a role in the auto industry and the joint venture approval process.

Young's business success led her to invitations to serve on the boards of many corporations, often as the first woman and the first Asian American. Corporate boards she served on include Bank of America, Bell Atlantic — now known as Verizon, and Holiday Inn/Promus/Harrah's. This included serving as the vice-chairman of the New York Stock Exchange's nominating committee.

She also served on the boards of many arts organizations including the New York Philharmonic, the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, the Lang Lang International Music

Foundation and the National Dance Institute.

In 1997, she was instrumental in organizing a major concert to commemorate the return of Hong Kong to the motherland.

In a show of love to her birthplace, Young launched Dancing Into the Future, an initiative jointly sponsored by the National Dance Institute in New York, the China Welfare Institute Children's Palace and the Shanghai Minhang school district in 2012. The project has given more than 10,000 elementary and middle school students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity to study dance.

In 2018 and 2019, Young produced an exhibition named *Wellington Koo the Diplomat — A Life in Song* in Shanghai and New York, paying tribute to her late stepfather V.K. Wellington Koo, a much revered Chinese diplomat who signed China into the United Nations on June 26, 1945, and later married Young's mother in 1959.

Speaking about her early education, Young once wrote, "... everything is connected; it ultimately doesn't matter whether it's art, or economics, or language, they're all connected. So if you can connect the dots, you really can make things happen."

A firm believer in the future of both the US and China, Young told China Daily in an interview in March, "China did a fantastic job not just for its people but for the whole world. But at the same time, I have faith in America to be able to deal with the current pandemic using its own strength."

At the time of her death, Young was completing a professional memoir titled *From an Outsider to an Insider: Getting to Win-Win*.

Young recalled answering a question during one interview from potential employers about her long-term goal. And to which she answered, "Making the world a better place."

Chen Yingqun in Beijing and Xinhua contributed to this story.

Restrictions tighten for New Year holidays

Tourists urged to pay close attention to measures to prevent spread of COVID-19

By CHENG SI
chengsi@chinadaily.com.cn

China's cultural and tourism administration authorities will impose stricter measures on visitor numbers at attractions and performance sites to prevent a rebound of novel coronavirus cases during the New Year's and Spring Festival holidays.

With reports of sporadic cases in recent weeks, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism will continue to suspend trips by travel agencies that will leave or come into the Chinese mainland over the holidays, according to the ministry's senior officials at a news conference on Monday.

Tourist attractions and indoor entertainment venues including theaters, cybercafes and cinemas are allowed to admit visitors at no more than 75 percent of their maximum capacity over the holidays.

The ministry also encouraged visitors to make reservations in advance whenever possible in order to better control population flow over the holidays.

"COVID-19 is spreading fast at foreign destinations, while domestic sites face challenges handling sporadic cases," said Hou Zhengang, inspector of the ministry's market management department at the news conference. "So we recommend that travelers reduce making unnecessary trips."

He also reminded travelers to suspend unnecessary travel to overseas destinations and domestic attractions labeled high or medium risk areas during the holidays.

The tourism market has faced great pressure balancing people's desire for travel with stricter measures designed to prevent new coronavirus cases during the coming holidays.

Authorities in Beijing have shut down some popular attractions such as Nanhu Island at the Summer Palace to avoid large gatherings that have the potential to spread infection.

The city will tighten its oversight and control measures during the holidays, and has told travel agencies to suspend organizing group



We hope that travelers become familiar with the latest control measures at their destinations before going on their trips and pay attention to their own health while traveling."

Hou Zhengang, inspector at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

tours to the city for now.

The city's travel agencies will also suspend group tours to domestic destinations designated as high or medium risk areas, as well as tours to or from foreign destinations during the holidays, said Zhou Weimin, inspector of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism, during a recent news conference.

Despite facing even stricter COVID-19 measures, people's desire to travel during the holidays still remained high.

During the three-day New Year's holiday, which starts on Friday, hotel reservations saw an 80 percent increase over the same period last year, according to figures from online travel agency Qunar.

The company said that Changsha, Hunan province, has been the most popular destination on its platform for the coming holidays thanks to its great variety of food options and beautiful scenery.

"We hope that travelers become familiar with the latest control measures at their destinations before going on their trips and pay attention to their own health while traveling," said Hou, the ministry's inspector.

"We encourage travelers to wash their hands frequently and wear masks for a happy and safe holiday," he added.

Street crash



A white car has crashed into a hardware store along a street in Gangneung, South Korea. Traffic police and rescue workers later arrived to the accident scene. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Ties: The RCEP might put US at a disadvantage

From page 1

Also, while the US trade deficit with China decreased during this time period, its trade deficit with the rest of the world hit a record high.

According to a survey conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce in China for its members earlier this year, nearly 20 percent of respondents have moved or are moving their production outside of China to reduce production costs.

Overall, the trade war did not

benefit the US. Apart from the ongoing public health crisis, the US is facing an economic crisis.

In contrast, the pandemic appeared to be under control in China and its economy is experiencing a V-shaped recovery, with a remarkable growth rate in recent months.

China also captured the world spotlight on Nov 15 as China and 14 other countries formed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The RCEP will be the world's

largest trading bloc, accounting for 29 percent of the global gross domestic product, which will be bigger than both the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the European Union.

Putting regional politics aside, the RCEP can reduce trade frictions among all RCEP countries by establishing new "rules of origin". For example, as a multilateral trade pact, there will be no tariffs for importing parts or products among member nations so that more regional supply chains can flourish.

On the flip side, the RCEP can increase costs for the US to trade with its members in the future, since the US is not a party to the RCEP. Consequently, the RCEP can put the US at a disadvantage.

How should Washington retool its global trade policy? It should consider the following options:

First, the US needs to rekindle a more cordial relationship with China.

It is the third-largest market for US goods and services exports, and China is an important market for

American companies such as General Motors, McDonald's, Boeing and Tesla.

In the foreseeable future, the US is likely to continue being dependent on goods imported from China, especially when other low-cost countries will not substantially replace China as the world's manufacturing hub anytime soon.

Second, the US should revisit the Trans-Pacific Partnership that it abandoned too hastily in January 2017. After the US withdrew from the TPP, the remaining 11 countries formed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade bloc that accounts for 13.5 percent of global GDP.

Third, Washington should develop an industrial policy by strengthening its capabilities in research and development, manufacturing and engineering in certain essential industries by leveraging advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, smart sensors, autonomous vehicles, advanced robotics and data analytics.

To regain lost ground, the US must take immediate steps to restore its economic vibrancy.

The author is a distinguished professor and Edward W. Carter chair in business administration at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.