

Program overview

- Expert speakers
- Book and issue discussion groups
- Documentary screenings
- Student essay contest
- Chinese craft activity for kids
- Great cultural programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Schedule of Events</u>
10/30	Kickoff event with Yale Professor Paul Kennedy
11/2	Chinese Dance, Music and Movement
11/3	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/3	<i>2 Million Minutes</i> screening
11/5	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/5	<i>2 Million Minutes</i> screening
11/5	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/5	<i>2 Million Minutes</i> screening
11/6	China behind the headlines: World Affairs Council
11/6	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/8-	Chinese Culture Weekend at Springfield Libraries & Museums
11/8	Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes
11/8	Shaolin Kung Fu demo
11/9	Celebrate China Family Fun
11/10	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/10	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/12	Feng Shui class
11/13	Student/educator discussion with <i>China Road</i> author Rob Gifford
11/13	Public Forum lecture: NPR bureau chief Rob Gifford
11/14	Shaolin Kung Fu demo
11/15	<i>2 Million Minutes</i> screening
11/17	What do you think? Follow up discussion on <i>China Road</i>
11/18	<i>China Road</i> book discussion
11/21	Asian Flowers and Arts with the Springfield Garden Club
On-going	Children's art/cultural Activities & Student Essay Contest



Rob Gifford © Patrick Fraser

“Route 312 is the Chinese Route 66...The shiny new, four-lane Route 312 has taken much of the traffic off of the old Route 312. The two roads are in many ways symbolic of the two Chinas that are emerging across the country. The new freeway, which cuts through the green fields without engaging with them in any way, is the road that the government wants everyone to see and use and marvel at. The old road, intimately connected with the lives of the villagers, is the one that tells the real story of rural China, and it’s a very different story from the dazzle camouflage of Shanghai and Nan-jing.” -from *China Road*

The City Thinks: Considering China

Its past, present and future as a rising power

A program of the Springfield Public Forum, the Springfield City Library, and the American International College Honors Program



Monks at Labrang monastery in Xiahe © Patrick Fraser

The City Thinks: Our community considers China and its future as a rising power

China has always loomed large on the global stage. From its early advanced civilizations and remarkable inventions, to its succession of dynasties to the upheaval and progress of the Communist era, China’s culture, society and sheer size have been a source of fascination for generations. Today, China’s rise as an international power affects many fronts around the world: economic, cultural, political, and environmental among others.

This fall, the Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library, with support from the American International College Honors Program and our City Thinks media sponsor *The Advocate*, present the 2008 City Thinks program, “Considering China.” In conjunction with various educational and cultural partners in our region, the China-based programming offered by City Thinks will include book and issue-discussion groups, documentary screenings, and diverse offerings of cultural programs.

The 2008 City Thinks program is inspired by the November 13, 2008 lecture by NPR Bureau Chief Rob Gifford, sponsored by Wilbraham and Monson Academy. Gifford, who spent over 20 years in China is the author of *China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power*, which is the cornerstone of City Thinks programming. *China Road* has been described as a “crash course in Chinese history, geography, economy and society. Gifford listens to the voices of the Chinese people.” (*Washington Post Book World*)

Join residents of the city and our larger region, learn more about this important issue, and discuss what **you** think!

“China Road” Framework for The City Thinks

Rob Gifford, author of *China Road: A Journey Into the Heart of a Rising Power*, spent over 20 years in China. A fluent Mandarin speaker, Gifford’s studies and reporting in China allowed him to develop a deep understanding of Chinese culture, society, government and economics. In his book *China Road*, Gifford uses the framework of his journey across China via Route 312 (China’s Route 66) to bring the reader into China: its history, its present and possible futures. Using a powerful mix of personal interviews, anecdotes, historical background and journalistic fact-finding, Gifford gives an insider’s view of China that leaves the reader informed and entertained. *USA Today* notes, “Extraordinary...a thoughtful portrayal of a country that is exercising an ever larger impact on American lives.”

Date/Time	2008 The City Thinks Events Schedule	Location (See page 3 for complete contact information for Libraries)
Thurs. Oct. 30 6:00 pm reception 7:00 pm lecture	City Thinks Kick Off Reception Lecture/discussion with Yale Professor Paul Kennedy and performance by Wen-Wei "Wayne" Wang, nationally recognized erhu (Chinese two-stringed violin) player	American International College Karen Sprague Cultural Arts Center 1000 State St., Springfield, MA 413-737-7000
Sun. Nov. 2 11:00 am brunch (\$6) 12:00 pm performance (free)	Chinese Dance, Music and Movement Asian-inspired brunch followed by interactive dance and music performance featuring teacher Julie Poon Lai, Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School students, and erhu performance by WenWei "Wayne" Wang.	Bay Path College Blake Student Commons Dining Room 588 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA 413-565-1000
Mon. Nov. 3 1:30 pm -2:30 pm	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power and related books	East Forest Park Branch Library 122 Island Pond Road, Springfield, MA
Mon. Nov. 3 7:00 pm	2 Million Minutes screening for Students/Educators Followed by a discussion with the Wilbraham and Monson Academy community. Pizza party to follow. (Email citythinks@yahoo.com to reserve a space)	Wilbraham and Monson Academy Chapel 423 Main St, Wilbraham, MA 413-596-6811
Wed. Nov. 5 11:15 am -12:15 pm	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power and related books	East Springfield Branch Library 21 Osborne Terrace, Springfield
Wed. Nov. 5 After school	2 Million Minutes screening/discussion Open to students and the public	Springfield City High Schools Visit SpringfieldPublicForum.org for details
Wed. Nov. 5 6:30 pm	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power ; details at SpringfieldPublicForum.org	Asnuntuck Community College 170 Elm St., Enfield, CT
Wed. Nov. 5 7:00 pm	2 Million Minutes screening/discussion Open to the public	STCC, One Armory Square, Springfield Visit SpringfieldPublicForum.org for details
Thurs. Nov. 6 12:00 pm	China Behind the Headlines: World Affairs Council Instant Issue Brown Bag Series with UMASS History Professor Steven Platt. \$7 admission (free to students); \$15 with lunch. (Please RSVP to cmelcher@worldaffairsCouncil.com.)	Sovereign Bank Building Conference Room 1350 Main St., 2 nd floor, Springfield, MA 413-733-0110
Thurs. Nov. 6 6:30 pm	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power with a special focus on Taiwan/Tibet	AIC, Bradley Room, Campus Center 1000 State St., Springfield, MA 413-737-7000
Sat. Nov. 8 and Sun. Nov.9 (See schedule below.)	Chinese Culture Weekend at the Springfield Libraries and Museums! Explore the culture of China with activities at the Libraries and Museums all weekend!	Chinese Culture Weekend at the Springfield Libraries and Museums!
Sat. Nov. 8 9:30 am -12:00 pm	Tai Chi and Qi Gong Classes with Lijun Cheng, Head teacher with Center of Harmony. (Call or visit www.springfieldlibrary.org to register.)	Springfield Central Library 220 State St., Springfield, MA
Sat. Nov 8 1:00 pm	Shaolin Kung Fu Demonstration Class presented by the Shaolin Kung Fu Center. (Recommended for kids ages 5-13.)	Liberty Branch Library 773 Liberty St., Springfield
Sun. Nov. 9 11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Celebrate China Family Fun Day: Tanglewood puppets, calligraphy lessons and art projects, Shaolin Kung Fu Demonstration Class presented by the Shaolin Kung Fu Center.	Springfield Museums 21 Edwards St., Springfield, MA 413-263-6800
Mon. Nov. 10 7:00 pm	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power , open to students and the public.	Wilbraham and Monson Academy, Athletic Center Board Room, 423 Main St, Wilbraham, MA 413-596-6811
Mon. Nov. 10 Check Forum website for details	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power	Elms College 291 Springfield St., Chicopee 413-594-2761
Wed. Nov. 12 6:30 pm	Feng Shui Class with Lynn Curry. (Advance registration suggested - call or visit www.springfieldlibrary.org to sign up.)	East Springfield Branch Library 21 Osborne Terrace, Springfield, MA
Thurs. Nov 13 3:30 pm	Student/educator small Group discussion with China Road author Rob Gifford. (Email citythinks@yahoo.com to reserve a slot(s) by November 1, 2008.)	Springfield Sheraton Hotel 1 Monarch Place, Springfield, MA
Thurs. Nov 13 7:30 pm	Public Forum Lecture: NPR Bureau Chief and author of China Road Rob Gifford. Free and open to the public.	Springfield Symphony Hall 34 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103
Fri. Nov. 14 3:00 pm	Shaolin Kung Fu Demonstration Class presented by the Shaolin Kung Fu Center. (Recommended for kids ages 5-13)	Forest Park Branch Library 380 Belmont Ave., Springfield, MA
Sat. Nov. 15 2:00 pm	2 Million Minutes Screening/Discussion Open to students and the general public	Forest Park Branch Library 380 Belmont Ave., Springfield, MA
Mon. Nov. 17 6:30-8:00 pm	What Do You Think? Follow up discussion: Rob Gifford's speech and China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power	Springfield Central Library (Community Room) 220 State St., Springfield, MA
Tues. Nov. 18 6-7 pm	Book discussion group: China Road: Journey Into the Future of a Rising Power and related books	Sixteen Acres Branch Library 1187 Parker St., Springfield, MA
Fri. Nov 21 and Sat. Nov. 22 See Forum website.	Asian Flowers and Arts, with the Springfield Garden Club. Includes benefit dinner, flower arranging, origami, Chinese cooking classes with Norma Chang, etc. See SpringfieldPublicForum.org for details or call 599-0432 or 525-5887.	Wilbraham and Monson Academy 423 Main St, Wilbraham, MA 413-596-6811
ONGOING	Children's art/cultural activity: Check your local branch for details.	Springfield City Libraries Central Library/branches
ONGOING	Student Essay Contest, grades 7-college (4 judging divisions) Submission deadline: October 10, 2008.	Visit SpringfieldPublicForum.org for essay question, details, rules and registration forms.

City Thinks Essay Contest

Consider China’s rise on the international stage in a wide range of areas: the global economy, politics/foreign affairs, the environment, human rights, among others. Referencing one or more of these topics and using specific examples, build an argument and answer the question: **“Does China represent a threat or an opportunity? Why?”**

Tell the city what you think! Your essay should not exceed 500 words and should include facts and a bibliography to support your conclusions. Essay contest guidelines are as follows:

* The contest is open to any student age grade 6-college, with 4 judging categories: Grades 6-8, 9-10, 11-12 and college level.

* Essays must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2008 in both electronic and paper format. Please see the rules and guidelines for complete information.

*Complete guidelines and entry forms are available at your local library or at SpringfieldPublicForum.org or SpringfieldLibrary.org



2 Million Minutes Documentary Film & Discussion

Regardless of nationality, as soon as a student completes the 8th grade, the clock starts ticking. From that very moment the child has approximately two million minutes until high school graduation. How a student spends their two million minutes-in class, at home studying, playing sports, working, sleeping, socializing or just goofing off-will affect their economic prospects for the rest of their lives.

How do most American high school students spend this time? What about students in the rest of the world? How do family, friends and society influence a student’s choices for time allocation? What implications do their choices have on their future and on a country’s economic future?

This film takes a deeper look at how the three superpowers of the 21st Century-China, India and the United States-are preparing their students for the future. The goal of *Two Million Minutes* is to tell the broader story of the universal importance of education today, and address what many are calling a crisis for United States schools regarding chronically low scores in math and science indicators. What does the future hold for our youth, our nation, our world? Participate in the discussion by attending one of the upcoming *Two Million Minutes* screenings and discussions hosted by City Thinks partners. (Excerpted from 2MMinutes.com)

Visit <http://www.asainstitute.org/2mm/index.html> for more information and discussion questions.

CHINA ROAD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What changes in Chinese society does Gifford note throughout his journey? Which do you think are the most transformative, and why?
2. Discuss the assertion repeated throughout *China Road* that these changes have caused people in China to lose their moral compass and standards. What are these moral and behavioral standards? Why do people interviewed by Gifford feel this way? Do you agree? Do you think other countries have generally accepted moral standards? If so, how would you compare these to those in China? If not, should countries or societies have generally agreed upon standards of morality and behavior?
3. What is the significance of Route 312 in China? Gifford compares the travel on Route 312 to the travel of the “Okies” in the United States during the Dust Bowl. Do you agree with this comparison? Why, or why not?
4. How has history shaped modern Chinese society? Is its impact similar in other nations?
5. Do you think China could become a democracy? Why? Consider Gifford’s assertion that with the (somewhat limited) new choices available to people within China, the desire to choose their political leaders are sure to follow. Does this influence your thinking about China’s possible democratic future?
6. Discuss the three possible scenario’s Gifford sees for China’s future (p. 282, paperback edition). Which do you think is most likely to occur and why?
7. Describe China’s relations with Tibet, Taiwan, and the non-Han Chinese peoples within its borders, drawing on Gifford’s portrayal of them as well as your own knowledge. What do you predict the future of these states and peoples will be, as well as China’s approach to them?
8. What role has religion played in the development of Chinese society? How would you compare this to the role religion has played in U.S. society?
9. Compare the situation of rural migrants to China’s cities to migrants and immigrants in other countries. What similarities and differences do you see? What, in your opinion, will be the eventual impact of this migration in Chinese society?
10. Gifford describes his book as portrayals of “ordinary Chinese people caught up in an extraordinary moment in time.” What lessons and perspectives did you draw from these portrayals? Do you agree that the present is an extraordinary moment in time in China?
11. Do you agree with Gifford’s statement that China “matters more now than it has ever mattered in modern times”? Why?
12. What “fault lines” do you see in Chinese society, based upon *China Road* and your own knowledge?
13. Whom would you identify as the winners and losers (and/or strengths/weaknesses) in China’s current socio-, political and economic arrangements? Why?
14. What do you think the U.S.’s position(s) should be regarding various issues relating to China, now and in the future?
15. Of the people you “met” in this book, who was the most interesting and/or compelling? Why?

Participating Branch Library Contact Information	
Branch Name and Address	Phone Number
East Forest Park Branch Library, 122 Island Pond Road	413-263-6836
Springfield Central Library, 220 State St.	413-263-6828 ext. 213
Liberty Branch Library, 773 Liberty St.	413-263-6849
East Springfield Branch Library, 21 Osborne Terrace	413-263-6840
Forest Park Branch Library, 380 Belmont Ave.	413-263-6843
Sixteen Acres Branch Library, 1187 Parker St.	413-263-6858

Resources to Learn More: For Educators, Students, and the Community

China and Rob Gifford web resources: More at SpringfieldPublicForum.org or SpringfieldLibrary.org

In-depth book feature with summaries of each of Gifford's seven-part series with photo galleries for each section
http://www.npr.org/programs/morning/features/2004/aug/china_road/

Video clip from *The Daily Show* guest appearance (6:08)
<http://www.thedailyshow.com/video/index.jhtml?videoid=90433&title=rob-gifford>

Read over ten pages of Gifford's most recent published stories in a range of topics
<http://www.npr.org/templates/archives/archive.php?thingId=2100529&startNum=3>

"China Correspondent" Audio podcast interview of Gifford's experience in China, what he envisions for the future, and his newest work:
http://www.here-now.org/shows/2005/09/20050906_2.asp

Lesson plan catalogue organized by Chinese region and school grade providing links to lesson plans for teachers teaching about China:
<http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/china/resource/lesindex.htm>

"China Rises," four-part television series with sections on politics, economy, environment, and society. From the *New York Times*:
<http://www.nytimes.com/specials/chinarises/intro/index.html>

Corresponding teacher's companion to the above videos with related articles and discussion questions framing different perspectives on the issues: <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/college/coll-chinarises.html/index.html>

Resources for Educators
Five Colleges Center for East Asian Studies
 Smith College, Florence Gilman Pavilion
 69 Paradise Road, Northampton, MA 01063

Kathleen Woods Masalski, FCCEAS Director
 Voice: 413-585-3751; Fax: 413-585-3748
 Email: fcceas@email.smith.edu
 Web: www.smith.edu/fcceas/home.html

The City Thinks is a collaboration between the Springfield Public Forum and the Springfield City Library with support from local schools and colleges and funding from the American International College Honors Program. The goal of the program is to provide area residents the opportunity to consider a pressing issue of our time through education, discussion and other activities.

One of the few surviving lecture series in the nation offered at no charge to the public, the Springfield Public Forum brings an incredible array of nationally-known experts and commentators to our community. This year, we are thrilled to present **The City Thinks** in collaboration with the City Library and the American International College Honors Program and media sponsor the Valley Advocate.

For nearly 150 years, the Springfield City Library has provided public library services to area residents. Using state-of-the-art technology, the Library provides free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning through a variety of programs and services. We are pleased to be able to work with other civic organizations to implement city-wide activities that engage a broad cross-section of the community.

Special Thanks to:

The Valley Advocate	Daryl G. LaFleur	Zoe Silverman
AIC Honors Program	Julie Poon Lai	Springfield Garden Club
Asnuntuck Community College	The Museum of Fine Arts	Springfield Monarch Place Sheraton
Bay Path College	Odyssey Bookstore	Springfield Public High Schools
Lijun Cheng	Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School	Springfield Technical Community College
Elms College	The Quadrangle	WenWei Wang
Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation	The Renaissance School	Western New England College
Rob Gifford	The Republican Newspaper	Wilbraham and Monson Academy
Professor Paul Kennedy	Shaolin Kung Fu Center	World Affairs Council



**American International College
 Honors Program**
 1000 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01109
 800.242.3142
AIC.edu

Wilbraham & Monson Academy
 423 Main Street
 Wilbraham, MA 01095
 413.596.6811
WMAcademy.org



Springfield City Library
 220 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01103
 413.263.6828
SpringfieldLibrary.org

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