

Hello Crazy English Speaker readers!

By Karen Zhang

蜂蜜们，“疯狂英语”杂志要改版了。本期应该就是《疯狂英语口语版》的最后一期。自创刊以来，《口语版》赢得了读者们的喜爱和支持。小编们非常感谢你们的支持和认可。改变是为了迎接更美好的未来，“疯狂英语”杂志将更加努力，继续为读者的英语学习提供帮助。感谢Karen这些年的来稿分享，使我们对美国有了更深的了解；而随着中国国际地位的提高，中国在国际舞台上扮演越来越重要的角色，我们需要更有力地向世界传播中国文化，促进中国与世界文化的交流。而英语作为目前世界上最多国家使用的语言，是文化交流的重要工具，其重要性不言而喻。因此，让我们继续努力，学好英语吧！

Since the September 2010 issue, we've gotten acquainted and agreed to meet once a month in this very column that has witnessed my years spent in America. As time goes by, this column has been a part of our lives for more than five years. To be exact, this is the 62nd essay I've penned for "Karen in America". For me, it's quite a remarkable record. For you, I'm deeply thankful for your support all this time.

Just as I'm telling you about America through my eyes, with as much pleasure as you may have had reading about it, I've learned that this is the last publication of the column. As the Chinese saying goes, "All good things must come to an end". I'm sad that we have to part ways but I'm pleased that we are heading for a better future. And so is the future of this magazine.

In the past few years, as part of my observation of American society for my column writing, I also felt the widening impact of China on America, even on the world. The world is getting rounder, or some might say flatter, than any time in history.

One example, when I wrote about "Steve Jobs" (Jan. 2012 Issue), I realized Apple Inc.

sold more iPhones greater in China than in the U.S. for the first time this April. No doubt, what I initially thought a fresh topic in the U.S. may be no longer so in China. Another example, I've discussed automobiles three times (Oct. 2011, Jan. 2014 and Aug. 2014 Issues). These essays showcased^[展示] the importance of cars in American life. Meanwhile, China has become the world's largest car market in the last five years. This year's Shanghai auto show underlined China's dominant position. But how can cars not be important to Chinese everyday life? Don't the U.S. and China share similarities in this respect?

With the move to ease visa application to the United States, more and more Chinese people are now coming to America and seeing what I see. And they might spread the word about their encounters faster than what I can write. Of course, with the Internet and modern technology, everything that happens far away seems to happen in front of our eyes instantly.

However, as I wrote in the Apr. 2011 Issue, despite the fact that we're living in an oversaturated^[过度饱和的] information age, many Americans know little about today's China. And the world needs to hear your voice from China. So keep up with your zest^[热情] for learning English. And, above all, speak up!

Very faithfully,
Karen Zhang (in Washington) 

