

The APHAFIC held its 2012 summer poolside party on September 8th with 45 attendees. This event featured a talk by Mr. Patrick Seamus McElhaney, AP US History and AP Psychology Teacher, Point Loma High School. He participated in the China Institution tour from July 10-26, 2011, [An intensive program, organized by GA, to enhance the teachers' understanding of the cultural and historical background of China during the Asia-Pacific War from 1931-1945](#) (for details, see SDCHSM winter newsletter). His talk was on his experience of this tour and his reflection.

He thanked the Association for the Preservation of Historical Accuracy of foreign Invasions of China for their invitation to give a talk. The tour group included 6 participants for 3 week-trip in July 2011, to 5 Cities: Harbin, Shijiazhuang, Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing, to better understand how China was impacted by Japanese aggressive expansion in Asia. Mr. McElhaney learned that China before the war was a country of vast resources, however was politically divided and vulnerable to foreign manipulation. the Japanese Empire followed a strategic plan to become the dominant power in Asia at the expense of all interested parties- Chinese/European/American. Beginning in the 19th Century with Japanese modernization, militarization, and industrialization, Japan engaged war with neighbor countries: Sino-Japanese War 1894-95: Japanese entrance into Korean peninsula, Russo-Japanese War 1904-1905: Korean Peninsula Expansion= neutralized Russian influence, 1931 Japanese invasion of Manchuria with ghastly Unit 731, human, biological warfare experiments and 1937 Japanese invasion of greater China, Shanghai, Nanking. During the "Rape of Nanking," in December, 1937, 300,000 Chinese people were murdered in the vicinity of Nanking: Mass execution of civilians, prisoners of war, mass rape of women and the slave labor, in that "Comfort Women" forced prostitution of Chinese and Korean women .

Mr. Pat McElhaney 's **Observations and Reflections are :**

1. Legacy of the War

Clear responsibility for these abuses against the Chinese people is clearly at the foot of the Japanese government and the Japanese Military leaders—they condoned and allowed this to happen.

Justice has not been served

2. History of denial in Japan

Japanese history should reflect this fact but does not.

3. China after the Revolution has emerged from the ashes of war and atrocity to the modern economic and industrial power we know today.

4. Lastly, China is a country of Contrasts- great modernity but extreme poverty

Mr. Pat McElhaney stated "... When we were in China, culture shock for me, drained by the heavy content of tragedy and death, and suffering... we went through the Nanking Museum and saw the statue of the late Iris Chang. Mr. Wong had been working with Iris Chang on a script for a play about her work, when she committed suicide. We walked up to her statue and he broke down. He said "She was my friend." That was the only thing he could say, afterward we lit candles for her and the victims....' It was an incredibly powerful moment for Mr. McElhaney when he thought about Iris during his talk, which made him relive the moment and he was chuck with tears. He could not talk when it was so emotional.

In the following Q&A session, Patrick remarked that history will be interpreted differently by those who write it, and that the basic human qualities of greed and bullying of the weak will continue if not checked, though the means to carry out warfare may change with times. He also remarked that if the 19th Century belonged to the British, and the 20th Century belongs to the Americans, then the 21st Century will

certainly belong to the Chinese, with her huge manufacturing economics and popular influence on the rest of the world.

The evening ended with Entertainment: Jokes by Howard Chang and Kung-fu with fan (“扇子功”) by Ali*.... with attendees.

Other contributors of the events were David Hu, the program MC, Lilin Wang, Mary Yan-Lee and Yeqing Chen for registration, Jack and Wendy Meng for arrangement of the catered delicious Chinese buffet, and Alex and Agnes Chung for the sound equipment.

Four pictures of summer poolside party



Pat presented his experience and reflections from his 2011 China education tour



Nancy Lo presented the book 'Nanking massacre 70 years of amnesia' by Toronto ALPHA (www.torontoalpha.org) to Pat with David Hu on the side.



Pat with attendees



Ali performed Kung Fu

Future event

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Nanjing Massacre, APHAFIC together with other GA member organizations invited Japanese teacher turned activist Tamaki Matsuoka to talk to several member associations. Ms Tamaki will be in San Diego from November 30- December 3rd before she leaves for Toronto, and other sites. She will show her documentary 'Torn memories of Nanjing'.