

2012 APHAFIC annual meeting

APHAFIC held its tenth annual meeting at China Max restaurant on May 19th, 2012. A total of 50 people attended. As this is 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, a power point continuous slide show was presented till the keynote speech, by retired Professor Ching-lin Wang of UC Berkeley, on "MEMORY, HISTORY, AND REDRESSING AN INJUSTICE: PERSONAL AND POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT".

After professor Wang's speech, Nancy Lo presented certificates of appreciation to three major donors in the past 10 years: Xun Lin, Ph.D. associated director, Pfizer, Mr. Edward Wang, received by Murray Lee, and Mr. David Du, received by Daming Li. A certificate of recognition was also presented to Mr. David Rytell, the webmaster of APHAFIC.ORG.

Professor Wang indicated that he was very honored to be invited to speak at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association of Preserving Historical Accuracy of Foreign Invasions in China (aphafic) and commended the Association for its untiring effort to preserve the truth of Japanese invasions in China and to seek justice from Japan. In her invitation to speak here tonight, Nancy Lo asked professor Wang to "talk about either the civil rights movement or the redress issues as well as the history and rising of the Asian Americans in US politics." In other words, she was kind enough to give him three choices for the topic tonight: (1) the Asian American civil rights movement; (2) the redress issues; and (3) the rise of Asian Americans in U.S. politics.

Professor Wang certainly sees himself as an integral part of the Asian American civil rights movement, dating back to its very inception in the late 1960s when he was still a graduate student in Berkeley. As a historian of Asian America, he considers the rise of Asian American consciousness and movement to be the most significant development in Asian American history. It was the coming of age of the AsAm baby-boomers that initiated the movement under the influence of the Black power movement. Asian American rode on the coat-tail of and benefited from the Black civil rights movement. The movement ushered in an era in which Asian Americans rejected their collective treatment in the U.S. as perpetual foreigners and second-class citizens, laid claim to America for the first time, and demanded racial equality and full participation in government under the U.S. Constitution. The movement, as you know, is still in its infancy and we still have a long way to go.

As for the 2<sup>nd</sup> topic, the redress issues, they are very much his life-time concerns because he personally experienced the horror of living under Japanese military occupation during his childhood in Xiamen, Fujian. He has always felt strongly that the Japanese government must come clean with its wartime record of atrocity, and apologize to both the victims and the countries it invaded, occupied, and brutalized. That is why he always takes part in any legitimate organized effort to seek redress and seize every opportunity he has to educate the public about what happened during the 8-year Sino-Japanese War and the 4-year World War II and the continuing consequences of Japan's stubborn refusal to take the full responsibility of the crimes it had committed during these two wars. As you know, that legacy of war crimes against humanity and neighboring sovereignties continues to haunt the victims, the children and grandchildren of the victims to this date on the one hand and to plague the relationship between Japan and its neighboring countries throughout East and Southeast Asia, on the other hand. As

long as Japan refuses to apologize for its wartime atrocity, there will be neither peace nor justice between Japan and its Asian neighbors. He deeply appreciated the Association and similar organizations across the world in their continuing struggles to prevent Japan from erasing this chapter in world history and from literally getting away with murder.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> topic is also very dear to him not only as a subject matter of his teaching and research but also an area of his active participation. As you know, participation in American politics takes several forms. Whenever we talk about politics, we think almost automatically and exclusively of electoral politics, that is, taking part in the voting process or running for public offices at local, state, and federal levels. This type of participation is the narrowest way of defining participation and the type of participation from which more and more Americans have become increasingly alienated and refused to take part, as evidenced by low turn-out rates of voters on election days and rising numbers of non-voters across the U.S. This is so because money, lots of it, has become a prerequisite for this type of participation, making a mockery of democracy and turning government into mostly a handmaiden of corporate America. The government's generous response to the 2008 financial debacle or the meltdown of corporate capitalism is an example of what he was talking about.

Less obvious, but more important is another type of participation: participation in community and civic affairs through voluntary organizations, such as fighting for local, state, and national issues and projects we hold dear through organizing, lobbying, and litigation. In everyday, many Americans create civic organizations to fight various causes involving education, jobs, civil rights, recreation, environment, health, crime, transportation, food safety, etc. Your APHAFIC is a perfect example of such citizens or grass roots initiative. You identify an issue you consider important and for which you are willing to devote time, talent, and money to achieve your objectives. This is the type of political participation to which he has devoted most of his time outside of his teaching and research, dating back to the mid-1960s. Personally, he has no interest in running for a public office nor will he accept an appointment to some a board or commission in local, state, or national government. He is interested only in promoting racial equality and economic justice at home and peace and justice throughout the world. That was why he founded Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) to fight for equal opportunity for Chinese and Asian Americans and helped organize the "Rape of Nanking" Redress Coalition (RNRC) and "50 Years of Denial," an international conference in 2001, commemorating the total failure of the so-called Peace Treaty of San Francisco in 1951. But, he will not hesitate to use and pressure elected officials and government agencies at all levels to advance his causes, most of which have to do with civil rights, media, and education. He urges everyone to take advantage of the opportunity we have to participate in this type of political activity.

Two books were presented to by their authors to professor Lingchi Wang: *In search of gold mountain* by Murrey Lee and 「從美國外交文件看民國誕生」(The Birth of the First Republic in Asia as Seen from the U.S. Diplomatic Documents) by Judy Lu



Professor Ling chi Wang gave his speech at the annual meeting



Attendees at the annual meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012





Nancy Lo presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Xun Lin, associate director, Pfizer for his continuous support to APHAFIC



Nancy Lo presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. David Rytell, for his diligent work as the web master of APHAFIC





Murrey Lee (left) and Judy Lu (right) presented their books to professor Lingchi Wang



Picture 5: Professor Ling chi Wang with APHAFIC board members, some of current and past: Jack Meng, Pao chin Chu, Lilin Wang, Nancy Lo, Ling chi Wang, Yeqing Chen, David Hu and Howard Chang, (not shown are Alex Chung, Mary Lee, Michael Lee and Claudia Ma).



