

**Sonoma State University Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Grove  
Rohnery Park, California, U.S.A. September 14, 2013**

Representing APHAFIC, Dr. Yeqing Chen, one of the board members, attended the Dedication Ceremony of ‘**In Memory of Victims of the Pacific War 1931-1945 Memorial Bench**’ (亚太浩劫纪念座碑揭幕) in the afternoon on Saturday, 9/14/ 2013, at the **Sonoma State University Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Grove**, Sonoma State University, Rohnery Park, California. Sonoma State University is the site of a memorial to the victims of wartime atrocities. The Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove features a sculpture representing holocaust and genocide victims and a pathway defined by railroad tracks paved with personal memorial messages. (<http://www.sonoma.edu/workplace/2013/09/pacificwarmemorial>)

Twenty six new bricks, contributed by many GA member organizations, are inscribed with memorial messages for victims of the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces, 1931-45, including two donated by APHAFIC: 1. In memory of victims of WWII atrocities by Japan in Asia, APHAFIC.org, San Diego and 2. Remember Iris Chang who wrote and spoke for victims of 1937 Nanking massacre, APHAFIC.org San Diego.

A granite rock bench, roughly triangular in shape (11 ft by 3 ft by 4 ft and 2 ft thick) will flank the pathway. It will be engraved with a memorial message for victims of the Pacific War, 1931-1945, in both English and Chinese. Saturday, 14 September 2013, was chosen as the weekend before 9/18 — the 82nd anniversary of the Japanese invasion of the Asian mainland and the beginning of the 14-year occupation of Manchuria in Northeastern China.



Memorial bricks by the lake.



Close-up of memorial bricks.



Sonoma State University H&G Memorial Grove Memorial Bench

## **Haoqi Long Epic (浩氣長流), the undying spirit of Chinese nation. September 22, 2013**

Mr. Wang Kang, the organizer of the painting spoke on ‘The historical status of the anti-Japanese (aggression)war and its significance during the war time’ was held on September 22, from 1:30-5:00pm at the Archive and Learning Center, SDCHM. This event was co-organized by Association For Preserving Historical Accuracy Of Foreign Invasions In **China (APHAFIC),San Diego Chinese Historical Museum (SDCHM),San Diego Art & Cultural Society (SDCACS) and US-China People's association (SCPFA). During the event, part of vinyl replica of the 1020 meter x 2 meter Haoqi Long Epic (浩氣長流) scroll was exhibited. A documentary film on ‘ My heart for China’ to describe was shown prior to the talk by Mr. Wang.**

This film

<http://v.ifeng.com/his/201009/af6bc40f-a0c9-4bb5-87f8-bfae631af71d.shtml>

In 2004, Mr. Wang mobilized 50 artists **in Chongqing, the China’s capital during WWII** from 1937-1945, to paint various aspects of Chinese fighting against the Japanese imperial army called 浩氣長流 (Haoqi Long Epic, the undying spirit of Chinese Nation ). This enormous scroll of Chinese paintings was first exhibited in the Sun-Yat Sen Memorial Hall, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC, in July 2010. In an area of 1,858 square meters, the scroll contains 1,438 figures and 120,000 characters in the preface, forward, bio-sketches, slogans, poems, documents and narrative, 22 patriotic songs and 168 large seal prints. With its gigantic scale and magnificent style, the scroll sets a record in the history of art

Mr. Wang Kang, from Chongqing, China, is an independent scholar and grassroots thinker. He is the founder of “Chongqing, the capital of ROC during the anti-Japanese (aggression) war , Culture Research Center “ to initiate the responsibility of the searching, organizing, researching and preserving the history and culture of the anti-Japanese (aggression) war. His research has broaden the understanding of the historical thinking of Chinese and western countries. His lecture tour to US in August 31-September 22, included 9 lectures given in Washington, New York, San Francisco, Los Angles and San Diego.

Mr. Wang’s talk on ‘The historical status and the significance of Anti-Japanese (aggression) war during the war time’ was in Chinese, interpreted into English by Lilly Cheng. The talk covered the following major points:

- 1. The importance of Chongqing, the capital city of China during 1937-45.** CHONGQING becoming the Nationalist Provisional Capitol is one of the greatest contribution, significant historical decision by the Nationalist Government. Moving the Capitol to CHONGQING was like China's exodus as Jews exited from Egypt. Generalissimo Chiang was compared as Moses leading his people out of Egypt, to CHONGQING.
- 2. History in 1931-1945, in particular the assistance from the US to end WWII in the Asian theater.** What would have happened to the UK and Europe if the Germans had joined

hands with Japan? As president Roosevelt said during the war, if Japan had conquered China, it would move on to India, Burma, and all Asia.

General Claire Lee Chennault helped China by forming first paid fleet of the Flying Tigers beginning in 1937, including China and US's transporting 8000 tons of military supplies via Yunnan through the treacherous Burmese hump. In 1941, after the attack from Japan on Pearl Harbor, US entered the war and Alliance was established between China and the US, against fascist Japan.

The abolishment of unfair treaties on January 11, 1943, initiated by President Roosevelt, originally planned by Dr. Sun Yet Sen led China to be treated equally by other nations after 12 long years of fighting: the participation in Cairo convention in 1943, one of 4 big powers of the new United Nations in 1944 and the Security Council of UN in 1945. The rising status of China in the world, Mr. Wang believes, is likely due to the effort of President Roosevelt.

### **3. Relationship between United States and China**

For over 70 years, the shared history of the Chinese people and US should be remembered with US being a young country while China being an old one. How can these 2 nations with such differences develop a harmonious relationship separated by the grand Pacific Ocean?

A great collaboration between US and China in 21st century depends on collaboration at the people's level. The US-China relationship has been up and down since 1972 when Chairman Mao opened doors to President Nixon, due to the threat of the Soviets. Deng Xiaoping opened China for marketing economy. Presidents Jiang Zemin and Hu Jingtao kept Chinese/American relationships at bay. The media expressed anti-American sentiments, especially after 9/11,2001, the anti-US sentiment was at the highest. About 5 years ago, Xi Jinping said Americans had nothing better to do by criticizing China. Chinese and American may not understand each other very well, like the late professor John Fairbanks, author of 'China, A New History', who expressed disappointment at the Chinese leadership after Tian An Men square incident. He admitted that he didn't understand the Chinese government and its people. How about our Chinese scholars, who can say they understand the West? Study-abroad students from China understand US better than Mr. Wang's generation.

In order for US and China to resume their prior friendship, China needs to replace their violent, avenging philosophy and apply the three people principle, initiated by Dr. Sun Yet Sen and agreed by chairman Mao in 1984, in order to establish democracy in China.

### **4. Unification of China**

Human rights and legal rights are what China are needed to reach a thorough unification force within China, the principles upheld by the US and Chinese people. Unification of Taiwan and China is desirable. Relationship among US, Chinese, and Japanese will be bettered by upholding these shared principles. All the adversities between Japan and China can be ceased, depending on the balance of Japan/American, and Sino/Japanese relationships. The trick is to better handle Japan/American/Chinese/Korean/Indian relationships. The 21st century should be the time that all nations converse more to facilitate the understanding of one another. This requires the reform on the Chinese government. China is not just the Communist party but her people. People need to be separated from government.

Wang compared the China after the war as a sunken ship. By unification of two sides, improvement of US-China relationship, from this sunken ship we should be able to recreate a Noah's ark of unified China, illustrated by the painting: rescue the sunken ship and rebuild an ark (打撈沈船 再造方舟).

Many questions were raised after Mr. Wang's talk: among them are on the 'rescue the sunken ship and rebuild an ark' (打撈沈船 再造方舟). - unification of China. Sunken ship can be revived only when it is recognized. As to whether 23 million Taiwan people have their own right to decide the future for themselves, like whether to move to unification of 2 China, Mr. Wang agrees that china unification should be decided among the 2 Chinas. But because China is such a big power, and composed of 1/5 of the world's population; to have this unification, US cooperation is definitely needed. Both Chinas should stress unification, then all other problems will be resolved including the divided China in the past, legal system independence, media independence, human rights. Right now the word unification is taboo, and hardly touched by both governments. Wang wishes that president Ma would extend a helping hand. However, power and wealth in China are blocking this process. Mr. Wang makes efforts to preserve the accuracy of history of both PRC and ROC. By surpassing the difference among political parties, an agreement will hopefully be reached to unify China, say by 2015, the 70th anniversary of the ending of WWII.

After Mr. Wang's presentation, another documentary film on 'the commemoration of the Marco Polo Bridge incident' in 2013 in Beijing was shown. This incident on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1937 sparked the second Sino-Japanese War and subsequent WWII and civil war. During the commemoration, all surviving fighters in their 90s were present. When their names were read, the veterans stood at attention just like when they were during their military service. For those leaders who passed away after the war, e.g. Lin Biao, their offspring were present and stood in attention for their fathers and grandfathers. It was a very moving event!

We thank all co-organizers and volunteers. Many volunteers are from LA and General Abe Lin of San Diego assisted the planning of the event and the display of the scroll: Professor Wenli

Xu, senior fellow, Watson Institute for International Studies, Browning University: who spent 16 years in communist jail, and leader of The Democracy Wall in Beijing(西單民主牆), Ms. Shirley Soong, a visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, in charge of the collections of historical documents on T.V. Soong, Chiang Kai-shek, Kong Xiang-xi and Chiang Ching-kuo, Chiang Kai-shek's son.



Mr. Wang Kang gave his talk on 'The historical status of the anti-Japanese (aggression)war and its significance during the war time'



The painting on 'Rescue the sunken ship and rebuild the ark'



General Tai (戴民權), father of professor Paul Tai (right) was included in the painting.



Mr. Wang Kang was presented a certificate of appreciation from leaders of four co-sponsors: Nancy Lo, APHAFIC; Alex Chuang, SDCHM; Carolyn Yang, SDCACS; Lilin Wang, USCPFA, and Lilly Cheng, SDCHM



Mr. Wang Kang with general Abe Lin and APHAFIC board members: Yeqing Chen, Alex Chung, Nancy Lo, Mr. Wang Kang, Mary Lee, Lily Xu, Jack Meng and Lilin Wang (from left to right)