

The APHAFIC winter meeting was held at the University Community Library 1:30-3:30pm, February 25, 2017, and featured a talk on “Stories that need to be told” by Ms. Jana McBurney-Lin. Approximate 40 people attended the meeting.

Nancy Lo gave the introduction and paid tribute to two WWII veterans who passed away recently: Robert Hoe (1922- January 21, 2017) and Lester Tenney (1920- Feb 23 ,2017). Both of them had spoken to our association regarding WWII in Asia. We treasure WWII veterans as eye witness is a very important to keep the history accurate.

Robert Hoe (US Navy Lieutenant JG) was sent to China in 1944-1946 with the United States Navy. He trained Chinese soldiers in demolition, small arms, guerrilla warfare underwater demolition teams and swimming, as part of secret operation of Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO). He was assigned to cities in Fukien province. He was later transferred and assigned to Shanghai as operation duty officer at port of Shanghai before he returned to America to continue his education in 1946. In 2015, [October 17](#) at our 70th anniversary celebration, he was one of the invited speakers to talk about his active duty in China during WWII.

Lester Tenney, a US Army staff Sergeant and later Army tank commander, wrote *My Hitch in Hell* about his experience during 8 days Bataan death march, starting April 9, 1942 and as a POW working in a Japanese coal mine afterwards. Lester Tenney gave three speeches regarding his experience as POW during WWII and his perspective of pursuing justice between 2005-2011:

1. “The War is Over, But the Memory Lingers On”, the keynote speech at the Forum to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the End of WWII (1937-1945) on September 10, 2005 at Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park.
2. ‘The guilt of the survivor: The Bataan Death March’ and book signing at APHAFIC Members and Donors Appreciation Garden Party on August 23, 2008 at Fairbanks Ranch, and
3. “After 65 Years Why Do We Still Need An Apology From The Japanese” at winter meeting, January 22rd, 2011.

At the winter meeting, one WWII veteran was present: Colonel Frank Mason.

Ms. Jana McBurney-Lin started with a Korean folk story: “The Story-Bag” about a boy who put his stories in a bag, and never let the stories be told... Moral: never tie the stories in a bag – they need to be told. (<https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/story-bag>)

Jana studied Japanese in college, went to Tokyo and stayed for six years, and fell in love with the Japanese culture. She taught English there. She met her husband who was from Fujian, China, got married in Tokyo, and later both moved to Singapore. When visiting the village where he’s from in China, she saw a poster about a baby girl being just as precious as a baby boy, which inspired her first book *My Half of the Sky*. After the book was published and received awards, she was contacted by the Korean Dr. Chai to tell his story.

Japan occupied Korea in 1910. They at first like visitors, respected Korean customs and territory. By 1942, they insisted Koreans to use Japanese names and learn Japanese language and forced Koreans to replace national flower (rose of Sharon) with cherry blossoms. Most importantly was

that everyone was required to dispose of their religious beliefs in favor of worshiping the almighty God, Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

She read from her book *Blossoms and Bayonets*: P. 36-38; page 44-45, and page 70-72.

Protest against Abe. Jana took the book with her to protest the visit of a group sponsored by Prime Minister Abe called “Japanese Women for Peace and Justice.” on December 13, 2014. The group also had a book called *The Secret Behind The Rape Of Nanjing , A Spiritual Confession By Iris Chang*. On first glance it appeared to have been written by Iris Chang, and it even had more reviews than Jana's book. However, Chang's name was only part of the title of the book written by Ryuho Okawa--a Japanese cult leader. What happens when a book full of lies gets reviews like that? We need to protest again that. Someone asked: why are you standing in the cold; why don't you pick up the pen? Everyone needs to be opening story bags.

Starting in last year, Jana heard about lots of anger and misinformation about China. When her neighbor called her daughter “chink”, she started a blog highlighting Chinese-American views on ways to improve relations called, “Bridge over the Pacific.” (www.bridgeoverthepacific.blogspot.com). Jana has been on a writing journey, knowing that the stories will kill you if you don't share them. Truthful stories are important in our world right now. She thinks that is why an organization like ours is so important. She is grateful that we have given her a chance to be a part of our organization for this moment in time.

Q&A:

Q: Is your book fiction? A: historic fiction.

Q: Is it a cultural thing about changing names in Asia? A: It seems to have happened on Ellis Island/Angel Island. Comment: During Japan occupation in Manchuria, Japanese was the official language: school children had to learn it.

Nancy: We need to keep history accurate: Japanese APA hotel chain denies Nanking massacre by placing a book which denies Nanking massacre in the hotel rooms, [Japan hotel chain angers China over book's denial of Nanjing massacre \(https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/18/japan-hotel-chain-apa-group-angers-china-over-book-denial-nanjing-massacre\)](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/18/japan-hotel-chain-apa-group-angers-china-over-book-denial-nanjing-massacre). The current defense minister of Japan, Tomomi Inada, denies history of slave labors (comfort women) and Nanking massacre.

Q: Are your books being translated into Chinese? A: Not yet. It would be nice. Comment: it should be translated into Japanese.

Q: Corea was changed to Korea A: In early 1900, the Japanese did not like it preceding Japan alphabetically. (<http://goldsea.com/Air/Issues/Corea/corea.html>)

Q: How about interviewing American military? They all know about the Nanjing massacre, but they don't want to talk about it. A: I would love to talk to them.

Q: Has The book, *Killing the Rising Sun* by Bill O'Reilly, been translated to Japanese ? A. Not sure.

Q: Title of your book, *Blossoms and Bayonets*, reminds me a book by Benedict which has similar title like your book . That book included schizophrenic type of people. A: beauty and hatred. Note, *Chrysanthemum and the Sword* was written by Ruth Benedict and Ezra Vogel (forward).

Our next meeting will be our annual meeting on May 6, at China Max with Guest speaker: Dr. Don M. Tow (曹贊文), the President of the “New Jersey Alliance for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia”, and the Co-Founder and Vice President of the “10,000 Cries for Justice” (www.10000cfj.org) speaks on the ‘Lessons from 19th Century U.S.-China Relation Applied to 21st Century.

Bob in front of FLYING TIGER CURTISS-WRIGHT P-40



Retired Lieutenant Robert J. Hoe speaking on His duty in China from 1944-1946 at the Commemoration of 70th anniversary of victory of WWII, Oct 17, 2015



Lester Tenney at Forum to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the End of WWII (1937-1945) on Saturday, September 10, 1-4 pm, 2005 at Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park



Tenney on "AFTER 65 YEARS WHY DO WE STILL NEED AN APOLOGY FROM THE JAPANESE" at winter meeting, January 22rd, Saturday, 2011





Ms. Jana McBurney-Lin presented her talk on ‘Stories that need to be told’ at APHAFIC winter meeting, started with a Korean folk story: “The Story-Bag”.



Ms. Jana McBurney-Lin did book sign for her two books: *Blossoms and Bayonets* and *My Half of the Sky*



Ms. Jana McBurney-Lin with some of APHAFIC current and past board members:
from left: Ronghui (Lily) Xu, Claudia Ma, Lucia Yu, Jana, Nancy Lo, lilin Wang and Jack Meng