

The 14th APHAFIC annual meeting was held in China Max restaurant, 4698 Convoy St # 101 San Diego, CA 92111 from 6:00-9:30pm, June 3, Sunday, 2018. A total of 51 people attended. The meeting started with the annual report from Nancy Lo on all activities during May 2017 to June 2018 (<http://aphafic.org>), followed by two speeches on “THE WORLD’S FIRST ASIA-PACIFIC PEACE MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER-A REALITY”, ‘世界首屆亞太和平博物館和教育中心，已成現實’” by Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong (王裕佳博士) and Ms. Flora Chong (劉美玲女士). Dr. Joseph K.S. Wong, founder and chair of ALPHA Education shared the vision and mission of the upcoming museum, and Flora Chong, Executive Director and Vice Chair talked about the development of ALPHA Education along the four directions, and its challenges – engaging educators and students, empowering youth, supporting research and opportunities ahead .

Dr. Joseph Wong, with degrees of C.M., M.D., D.Sc., is the chair of ALPHA Education, and founder of Toronto ALPHA in 1997 and ALPHA Education. He was named Toronto Star Man of the Year in 1986. He received awards including the Canadian Red Cross Humanitarian Award in 2005. Ms. Flora Chong, with a Master degree in Social Justice and Education, is the Executive Director and Vice Chair of ALPHA Education. She heads educational and public awareness programs on the history of Asia-Pacific War in and outside of Canada, including presentations at high schools, universities, student and teacher conferences, and international conferences. She received the Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and Queen Elizabeth II’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Dr. Wong mentioned that Ontario was the first city to incorporate WWII history in Asia into K-12 curriculum, and the first jurisdiction outside China to recognize Dec 12 as commemoration of Nanjing massacre. This is inspired by Jewish action on holocaust issues. Education ALPHA works with universities around the world to remember history. ALPHA started in 1997 was disappointed by the lukewarm reaction of the community, until mid Nov 1997 when ALPHA promoted *Rape of Nanking, the Forgotten Holocaust* by Iris Chang who gave a talk at the 60th anniversary of Nanjing Massacre. 2000 copies were sold within a couple of days with the help of seniors, of Chinese and Asian descent working as volunteers. As a medical doctor, he spends half of his time on volunteering for social justice, with Jewish organization, against racism. Flora Chong’s work brings young people over to work on WWII history. Working with pattern institutions, they started to see hope in the younger generation.

Building a museum has been a dream. His group did not see the need for a museum until several years ago. His group started to look for location 5,6 years ago for the museum. 4 years later they bought the property in the geographic center of Toronto, with good public transportation. Building is not big, but is a place for young people to study history with digital innovations. Exhibitions will be in modules. Endowment fund is needed to reach the goal of \$9m. Over 50% of that has been raised, including Hong Kong, San Francisco, etc. They did not receive any donation in China unfortunately.

Ms. Chong showed a video about the education ALPHA. She grew up in Hong Kong, with very little knowledge of the history until she read Iris' book. It's transformational for her life as she studied computer and design. Her Chinese link was minimum, until she read that book. She became a part time volunteer in 2004 requested by Joseph and started as a full time volunteer in 2005. Most people know of WWII in Asia in North America is that of atomic bomb, Japan being the victim and do not know the brutality of Japanese imperial army to Chinese and southeast Asia. Her talk was about the actual work and initiatives of ALPHA Education and its structure. They have been working along four strategic directions to achieve its vision and mission: 1) Engaging educators and students, 2) Empowering youth, 3) Supporting research and opportunities ahead and 4) Connecting with local and international communities

1) Engage educators and students: This includes high school, study tour to China for educators, film makers, playwrights to make sure curricular has WWII in Asia. Toronto has the largest school board in Canada, "History meets humanity" student conferences with 200-300 high school students participating each time – not just history which alone may not attract students. She gave Classroom workshop examples, multiple disciplinary subjects, again not just history.

2) Empowering youth: Inter-cultural youth dialogue and understanding – not to talk about WWII history at first because it can be difficult for Japanese youth; Slowly they invite more people for their events. Students came to them afterwards and asked "what can we do?" Two University of Toronto sophomore (1 Korea and 1 Japanese) formed a club and so did five university chapters so far. Some students in law school are thinking about international law. They also have social justice leadership summer camp for international students – hopefully including Japanese in the future.

3) Supporting research and opportunities ahead: They are also a research hub to help to conduct research around Asia Pacific war: Digital archive project, partner with places in China (Unit 731 research institute), Korea, 10 University of Michigan students every year, and others. They hope to expand to other universities, like University of HK, University of Toronto. Other projects include Study guide for the Iris film, Other award winning films, Memoir of POW, Teachers' resources and others.

4) Connecting with local and international communities : Advocacy and connecting with the community – They have been to Australia also, and San Diego this time, Canadian parliamentary motion urging Japanese government to apologize to comfort women in 2007, and Peace Festival every Aug 15, the day of ending WWII, the victory of over Japan (V-J) day.

Q & A session

Q: how many staff? A: 5 full time now, still recruiting for the museum



Nancy Lo gave the annual report from June 2017-June 2018



Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong shared the vision and mission of the upcoming museum



Ms. Flora Chong, talked about the development of ALPHA Education along its directions, and its challenges



Nancy Lo presented certificates of appreciation to Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong and Ms. Flora Chong



Dr. Joseph Y. K. Wong and Ms. Flora Chong with some of APHAFIC present and past board members: from left to right: Claudia Ma, Lily Ronghuei Xu, Lily Wang, Flora Chong, Nancy Lo, Dr. Joseph K.S. Wong, Jenshih Lee, Jeannie Liu (ALPHA LA), Jack Meng, Alex Chung, and Pao chin Chu (photo by World Journal)