

The 17th aphafic annual meeting was held in La Jolla/Riford Branch Library, 7555 Draper Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037 from 1:30-4:00pm, May 11, Saturday, 2019. The meeting started with the annual report from Nancy Lo on all activities during June 2018 to May 2019 (<http://aphafic.org>), followed by Mr. Leo Shi Young's speech on 'When the Very Last "Comfort Woman" Dies...'.

Mr. Leo Shi Young (史雷永先生) is a historian journalist, screen writer and film producer living in San Francisco. He is the publisher of *The Rape of Nanking*, an undeniable history in photographs in 1996 and the second edition is now available. He produced many films, among which are Trilogly of WWII: Yimou Zhang's "金陵十三钗 (*The Flowers of War*)", "Haxor Ridge" (on youtube and netflix), "Jews in Shanghai".

He stated that no one knows what will happen when the last comfort woman dies. As of today, 20 of them are alive in China. Wei Shaolan, 99, died on May 5 and only 5 comfort women are left in China as of today (Note: Another comfort woman, Tang Genzhen, passed away on May 9th in China, four days after Grandma Wei Shaolan passed away

(http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-05/06/c_138036193.htm).

Ms. Wei was in his film 'The last comfort woman'. Japanese government still denies Nanking massacre and comfort women, saying that was casualty of the war.

As to the number of people died during Nanking massacre in 1937, his book counts accurate to the single digit, not including the wounded. Iris learned about Nanking massacre and wrote her own book, with the same title 'Rape of Nanking'.

Mr. Shi mentioned that professor Zhiliang Su of Shanghai Normal University studies the Chinese comfort women, revealing the military sex slave system for the last 26 years. The recent breakthrough is another 12 victims in Hunan province.

Two hundred thousand Korean women were known to be sex slaves, but 300,000 Chinese women were unknown as slave labor, because the statue in Seoul is placed across from the Japanese embassy. Every Wednesday, people gather there. At beginning, one of two seats was occupied by a Korean woman statue and the other one was empty. The empty chair next to the statue was later occupied by a Chinese comfort woman. The work was done by his group and the Korean artists Kim's, who started working in Tsinghua University and sculpting and casting. The 2nd statue was installed in 2015, in a small park in Shanghai. It received a lot of media attention. In 2016, statues were installed in Shanghai Normal University campus. Footprints behind the statue were made from the real comfort women. Later a third chair was made, which was meant for those from other countries. Jack Meng mentioned that in San Francisco, the 3rd statue was of a Filipino comfort woman.

In 2017, it was decided to make the Dutch girl as the 3rd comfort woman statue, modeled by a Dutch Victoria's Secret model. As of today, no place has been found for the 3rd statue. So it was planned to put it in Nanjing but it did not happen. The installation of the second statue caused diplomatic up and downs, as when news leaked out, Chinese foreign ministry got protest from

the Japanese government. The university compromised and moved the statues indoors. Students from Beijing and Shanghai supported the statue being on campus. Eventually Chinese foreign ministry spokesman announced that the statue has to be installed. A computerized version of the 3 statues plus a 4th chair were established. So these statues will live on forever, after the real comfortable women die.

According to Japanese documents, during 8 years of WWII, one comfort woman served 29 soldiers, and needed to be replenished every year.

There was a film called “twenty-two”, about the 22 former comfort women left in China at the time of filming in 2014. Mr. Leo Shi Young wants to make the new film international as Mr. Leo Shi Young’s group have interviews, testimonies from these old ladies. Mr. Leo Shi Young brought a box of miniature statues of two comfort women, at \$25 each. The sale helps to finish the film. Mr. Leo Shi Young mentioned another future WWII film produced by him: “Jews in Shanghai”.

Q&A session

Q: what do comfort women want, money?

A: No, they do not want money. Our purpose is to let people know this happened in history.

The installation of the fourth statue seems to be difficult. Through GA, we tried to do the installation in Taiwan, which turned out to be not so easy. In the States, the process needs to go through city councils. Note ‘On August 14, 2018, the first 'comfort women' statue in Taiwan was unveiled in the city of Tainan (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comfort_women#Taiwan)

Q: How did these women adjust when they came back home?

A: It was more miserable for the Chinese than the Korean. Korean comfort women moved into senior homes in Seoul. People come and take care of them, including young people after school and on weekends. As to the Chinese survivors, it was different as shown in the film, an old lady were crawling in the mud, and no one took care of them. Donation seldom reaches them. No one seems to care.

Q: When will ‘the Jew in Shanghai’ film come out?

A: The end of next year if we raise all the money needed, in time for Oscar.

Jack Meng: Some Holocaust survivors are still alive, thus the earlier the movie comes, the more likely they’ll see it.

A: We’re trying to hire big stars, like Chris Hemsworth.

Q: Who made the 2nd statue?

A: Myself and my Tsinghua classmates. The artists of the first statue just wanted peace, but that did not happen. The gesture of the 3rd statue appears that she almost wanted to stand up. The details are under/behind the statues. Kathy Zhang from San Francisco donated \$70k for the 3rd statue. We casted 2 copies, ready to be shipped.



Nancy Lo gave the annual report of APHAFIC from June 2018-May 2019



Mr. Leo Shi Young gave his speech on 'When the last comfort woman dies'



Mr. Leo Shi Young with APHAFIC current and past board members