

南京国际和平通讯

Nanjing International Peace Communication

「南京國際平和通信」

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承办：南京大屠杀史与国际和平研究院

Memory of World

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A calligraphy and paintings exhibition titled *In Pursuit of Peace* was held at the UN headquarters in New York in April to eulogize the inheritance of peace by three foreign families.

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2019年08月总第04期
August, 2019, Issue 4

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Peace

Editor's Note

Dear readers:

Half a year is over when this issue of *Nanjing International Peace Communication* reaches you. The original opera *The Diaries of John Rabe* wrapped up its 5 European performance tours in July at the Berlin State Opera and the Elbe Philharmonic Hall of Germany and the Ronacher Theater of Vienna, Austria.

In the past several months, the exhibition titled *In Pursuit of Peace -- Calligraphy and painting by female artists from Jiangsu Province China* was held at the UN headquarters in New York. The descendants of John Rabe, John Magee and Richard Brady arrived in Nanjing for the five-day Purple Grass International Peace School Summer Camp. Two survivors of the Nanjing Massacre and three victims of the Japanese military sexual slavery system passed away. These "historical witnesses" tell future generations at a lifetime cost that the atrocities committed by the Japanese invaders in China during WWII left a profound impact on the fate of individuals.

Let us remember history and cherish peace!

Headlines

Original opera *The Diaries of John Rabe* on European performance tour

The original opera *The Diaries of John Rabe* wrapped up its European performance tours at the Berlin State Opera and the Elbe Philharmonic Hall of Germany and the Ronacher Theater of Vienna, Austria from July 3 to 10.

The performance tour turned out to be a huge success. Among the audiences were Mr. Rabe's grandson Thomas Rabe, the descendants of some members of the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone, Wu Ken, the Chinese Ambassador to Germany, Wang Yanwen, standing member of the Jiangsu Provincial Party Committee and director of the Publicity Department, and people from all walks of life in Europe.

From an international perspective and through the global lingua franca, the opera tells the story from the end of 1937 to the beginning of 1938, when more than 20 international friends such as John Rabe, the Siemens business representative in Nanjing, established the Nanking Safety Zone to protect Nanjing citizens and collected eyewitness evidences towards the

Nanjing Massacre.

Thomas Rabe, the grandson of Mr. John Rabe, said with excitement after watching the opera: "I am very touched by the study of history in the production of this opera. On behalf of all members of the Rabe family, I express my deep gratitude to the crew."

On the evening of July 6th, the concert version of *The Diaries of John Rabe* was performed at the Elbe Philharmonic Hall of Hamburg, Germany. The lead vocal and the band made five curtain calls amid 20 minutes of thunderous applause.

Du Xiaohui, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Hamburg, Germany, told the audience: "China is an ancient country. It is a Chinese tradition to pay a debt of gratitude. We will never forget the friends who have helped us. Today we are here to stage the performance in a bid to tell the world that we have never forgotten those who have contributed to Nanjing."



Events held

The exhibition titled *In Pursuit of Peace -- Calligraphy and Paintings by Female Artists from Jiangsu Province, China* was held at the UN headquarters in New York

April 20 marks the 10th UN Chinese Language Day. The exhibition titled *In Pursuit of Peace -- Calligraphy and Paintings by Female Artists from Jiangsu Province, China* was held on April 18 at the UN headquarters in New York.

Among the 22 exhibits were calligraphy and painting works by Sun Xiaoyun, vice-chairperson of the China Calligraphers Association, and six other Chinese female calligraphers and painters. The works include calligraphy works *In Pursuit of Peace* and *Building a Community of a Shared Future for Mankind* and painting works the Purple Grass—*the Flower of Peace*, Nanjing Forever— the Sindberg Rose, plant paintings such as lotuses that symbolize "peace" and sketches of Minnie Vautrin and Bernhard Arp Sindberg.



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Former President of Czech visits the Memorial Hall

Václav Klaus, former President of the Czech Republic, visited the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of May 11. He was accompanied by Vladimír TOMŠÍK, the Czech ambassador to China, Robert Hanc, General Manager of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and some others.

After visiting the museum, the former president went to the

memorial site where he stood in silent tribute and laid flower baskets.

In the Meditation Hall, he inscribed on the message book as follows: This Memorial Hall touched me a lot. We should not forget history so as to avoid the recurrence of anti-human atrocities.



23 German and French teenagers visit Memorial Museum

25 teachers and students from the Overseas Education College of Nanjing University visited the Memorial Hall on the afternoon of April 19 to participate in the 18th exchange session of the Purple Grass International Peace School.

The students from Germany and France are aged between 14 and 19. Most of them visited the Memorial Hall for the first time to learn about the history of the Nanjing Massacre.

Ling Xi, deputy curator of the Memorial Hall, interacted with the international students. She said: "The Nanjing Massacre was a mass killing spree that took place on the Asian battlefield during World War II. Remembering history does not mean remembering hatred, but to avoid the recurrence of war instead. I hope that you can tell more people about this part of the history."



The Memorial Hall held mother-themed Purple Grass Activities

Some elementary school students from Nanjing visited the Memorial Hall to participate in the Little Purple Grass Study Session - To Dear Moms as part of the Mother's Day theme event in an unique way.

The children, under the guidance of the tour guides, paid tribute to the mother-themed sculpture. After the visit, the children hand-painted the Mother's Day greeting cards for the mothers and inscribed on the cards their innermost thoughts and feelings at the Youth Activity Center of the Memorial Hall.



The Memorial Landscape Designing Exhibition of the Mass Burial Sites of the Nanjing Massacre was held in the Memorial Hall

May 18th marks the International Museum Day. The memorial landscape designing exhibition was held at the

Memorial Hall where the victims of the Nanjing Massacre were buried in the morning under the sponsorship of the Memorial Hall and the Nanjing University of the Arts.

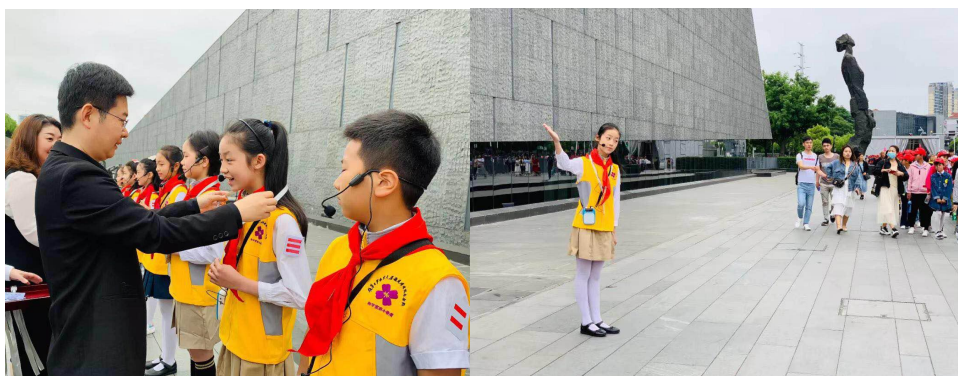
The teachers and students of landscape designing of Nanjing University of the Arts carried out artistic reconstruction and commemorative landscape designing for the 17 burial sites of the victims during the Nanjing Massacre. The base of each of the burial sites was collected from the soil where the burial places were located, thus coming up with 17 pieces of art work on the theme of the burial places. The teachers and students hoped to express the idea of "keeping the past from being forgotten and letting history tell the future" through these works of art with the theme of the burial sites.



Series of Activities held to observe International Museum Day

A total of 400 representatives of the staff of the Memorial Hall, visitors and students participated in the ceremony of raising the national flag and striking the peace bell in the State Memorial Square on the morning of the International Museum Day. In the Sculpture Square, 12 young volunteers who were selected from the young pioneers of Nanjing briefed the visitors on the history of the Nanjing Massacre.

In the Peace Square, the Nanjing Choral Association Youth Workshop Choir and the Middle School Choir of Nanjing University of the Arts performed the "2019 Purple Grass Voice of Peace Concert".



The elites from Taiwan, China, participated in Nanjing Historical and Cultural Training Class

The 30 trainees from Taiwan, China, visited the Memorial Hall to participate in the Nanjing Historical and Cultural Training Class for the Taiwanese Elites. The trainees include middle school students and white-haired elders, most of whom came to Nanjing for the first time to gain a deeper understanding of this part of the history.

Zhang Jianjun, director of the Memorial Hall, said: "This part of the history is the common memory of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. We must remember history and cherish peace."



Interactive activities of peace-themed intangible cultural heritage were held in the Memorial Hall

June 8th marks China's Cultural and Natural Heritage Day. The interactive activities of peace-themed intangible cultural heritage were held in the Memorial Hall in the afternoon.

Inheritors of intangible cultural heritages from the Nanjing Folk Customs (Intangible Cultural Heritage) Museum interacted with the descendants of the Nanjing Massacre survivors Ruan Dingdong and Shi Xiuying and volunteers by presenting paper-cuts, face-lifts, cloth stickers, and colorful works that symbolize peace and hope.



“The bond between us and Nanjing has remained connected”--the inheritance of peace by three foreign families

At 8:30 on the morning of July 1, the peaceful bell was struck at the State Memorial Square of the Memorial Hall by a number of special foreign families who had traveled to Nanjing with the "Flower of Peace" badge pinned to their chests.

When the Japanese invaders captured Nanjing 82 years ago, their ancestors, German businessman John Rabe, American priest John Magee, and American doctor Richard Brady, joined hands to establish the Nanking Safety Zone at the risk of their own lives and did their best to shelter more than 200,000 Chinese civilians.

“The bond between us and Nanjing has remained connected since then.” The descendants of the international friends were bent on finding the footprints of their ancestors' work and life and started their participation in the five-day Nanjing Purple Grass International Peace School Summer Camp by visiting the Historical Memorial Hall of the Gulou Hospital, the former residence of John Rabe, the Nanjing Museum of the Site of Lijixiang Comfort Stations and the Nanjing 12th Middle School.

“The purpose of keeping in mind the friendship between China and the past is not only to renew our friendship, but also to enable the seeds of peace to grow in our hearts,” said by Zhang Jianjun, the director of the Memorial Hall. He hopes that everyone can become an envoy to carry forward the historical memory and practice peace operations, and pass on the kindness, courage and sense of justice of international friends in the test of life and death.



Symposiums and seminars

New historical artifacts donated to the Memorial Hall

On the morning of May 9, Chinese-American Lu Zhaoning, Nanjing collectors Tang Kai and Zhang Dingsheng donated or transferred 133 precious historical artifacts to the Memorial Hall.

Lu Zhaoning is an American-Chinese who was born and brought up in Nanjing. He has been tracing for historical artifacts in the United States about the Nanjing Massacre and the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression since 2004. This is the 14th time for him to donate historical artifacts to the Memorial Hall. So far, he has donated more than 1,700 pieces (sets) of historical artifacts to the Memorial Hall.



Five victims suffered from the Japanese military “comfort women” system were discovered in Hunan Province

The staff of the Nanjing Museum of the Site of Lijixiang Comfort Stations, a branch of the Memorial Hall, traveled on May 8th and 9th to Yueyang City of central China’s Hunan Province where they confirmed the identity of five newly-discovered victims of the Japanese military "comfort women" system during WWII. They are 95-year-old Grandma Ling and Grandma Yu, 102-year-old Grandma Liu, 99-year-old Grandma Yang, and 92-year-old Grandma Wu. The latest discovery increased the number of certified and living victims of the Japanese “comfort women” system to 18 in the Chinese mainland.



Three victims suffered from the Japanese military “comfort women” system passed away

Wei Shaolan, a victim of the Japanese military sexual slavery system, passed away at the age of 99 at 13:20 on May 5. Tang Genzhen, a victim of the Japanese military sexual slavery system, died at home at the age of 99 at 3 am on May 9. Jin Hua (a pseudonym), a victim of the Japanese military sexual slavery system, passed away at the age of 92 at 23:30 on June 2.



Two Nanjing Massacre survivors passed away

Wang Fuyi, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, passed away at the age of 92 at 6:30 on the morning of April 21. Shi Guifang, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, passed away at the age of 95 at 11:10 am on June 10. Their deaths reduced the number of existing survivors of the Nanjing Massacre to 83.



Events that soothe the hearts

Staff of the Memorial Hall visited the surviving victims of the Japanese military sexual slavery system

Zhang Jianjun, the director of the Memorial Hall, and the deputy directors Ling Xi and Shi Pengcheng with other staffs traveled in late April to Hunan Province, Hainan Province and Shaanxi Province respectively to convey greetings to the surviving victims of the Japanese military sexual slavery system.



The Memorial Hall celebrates Xia Shuqin's 90th birthday

May 5th 2019 marks the 90th birthday of Xia Shuqin, a Nanjing Massacre survivor. On the morning of the same day, Zhang Jianjun, director of the Memorial Hall visited Xia's home to celebrate her 90th birthday. He was joined by deputy directors Ling Xi, Shi Pengcheng and other staffs.

During the Nanjing Massacre, 7 of her 9-member family were bayoneted to death by the Japanese invaders when Nanjing fell in December 1937. Xia Shuqin was only 8 years old when the tragedy befell. Today, she lives in a family of four generations, with 20 children and grandchildren.



Bouquets of flowers presented to Minnie Vautrin's statue

Minnie Vautrin, an American who sheltered countless Chinese refugees during the Nanjing Massacre, passed away on May 14, 1941. On May 14th, 2019, the 78th anniversary of her death, staffs of the Memorial Hall, volunteers and many visitors presented chrysanthemums in front of her statue. Chrysanthemum was much favored by Vautrin before her death.

