

# **Nanjing International Peace Newsletter**

**2019, Issue 6**

## **Introduction**

Eight Nanjing Massacre survivors expressed their wish for peace on the eve of the National Memorial Day for the Nanjing Massacre victims.

180 international students lectured on the history of the Nanjing Massacre at the Memorial Hall.

The number of the registered Nanjing Massacre survivors has been reduced to 80.

December 2019, Issue 6

## **Editor's Note:**

Dear readers and friends:

Nanjing is so intoxicating in late autumn with the streets and alleys covered by the yellow leaves of the Chinese parasol trees. We are here to present you the sixth issue of Nanjing International Peace Newsletter. Thank you for your attention.

## **Headlines**

On the evening of November 5, Yang Guizhen, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, died at the age of 102. At 17:15 on November 16, Zhu Weiping, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, died at the age of 91. Their death has reduced the number of the registered Nanjing Massacre survivors to 80.



On November 18th, Xia Shuqin, Ge Daorong, Ai Yiying, Chen Deshou, Cen Honggui, Ma Tingbao, Shi Xiuying, and Fu Zhaozeng, survivors of the Nanjing Massacre, came to the Memorial Hall to jointly express their wish peace. Cen Honggui, 95, is the oldest and Fu Zhaozeng is the youngest at 83.

They experienced the cruelty of the Nanjing Massacre in 1937. Their childhood was spent by witnessing their loved ones being killed, which has changed their lives ever since. Now, 82 years have passed, and their most simple wish after suffering is that peace will continue from generation to generation!



### **Events Held**

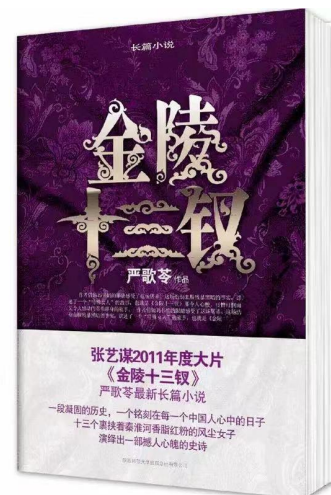
#### **They sow the "flower of peace" in the Memorial Hall**

On November 13, the online and offline commemorative ceremony of "Sowing Seeds of Zijin Grass to Give Expressions of Grief and Pray for Peace" started at the Memorial Hall. Divided into six groups, sixty people started from the six burial grounds of the victims of the Nanjing Massacre and rode to the Peace Square in the Memorial Hall. The captain of the cycling team scattered the soil collected from the burial grounds into the Zijin Grass Garden, and sowed the seeds in the hope of anticipating the blossom of peace flower next spring.



## Nanjing, “City of Literature”, published these literary works reflecting Nanjing Massacre

On October 31, Nanjing joined UNESCO ’ s Network of Creative Cities in the literature category. The Nanjing Massacre in 1937 has become the theme or background of many literary works such as "Nanjing", "Nanjing Massacre", "Nanjing Requiem", and "The Storm Flower: Nanjing 1937". They describe this part of history from different perspectives and remind us of the preciousness of peace.



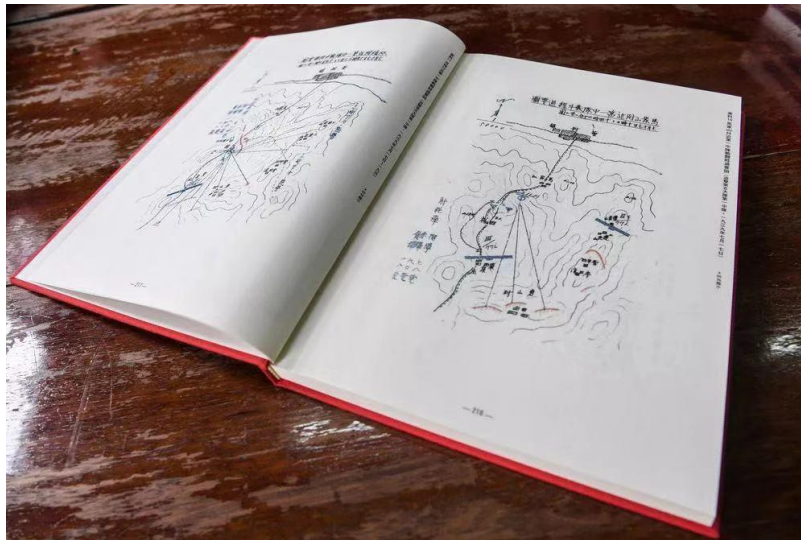
## **Japanese scholar donates poison gas war evidences to Memorial Hall**

On September 3, Seiya Matsuno, a Japanese scholar, donated a collection of data on Japanese invaders' use of poison gas in aggression war against China. “Related Materials on the Gas Warfare of the Fifth Mortar Battalion” is the result of his studies for many years.

Seiya Matsuno is known for his pioneering role in the study into the Japanese invaders' use of poison gas in aggression war against China.

Japan's Kyodo News carried a report on July 7th that Japanese historian Seiya Matsuno had recently found a "detailed report of the battle" recording the use of gas bombs by Japanese invaders on the battlefield in China. This is the first time that irrefutable evidence has been found that the Japanese gas forces themselves recorded the use of erosive gas and other relevant information documents, Matsuno said.





## **Descendants of Japanese war veterans reflect on war and pray for peace**

On the morning of October 27, a 15-member delegation from the Fukui Prefecture of Japan visited the Memorial Hall. The members of the delegation average 70 years old. Most of them were teachers of sociology and history before retirement.

Yamamoto Fujio, the head of the delegation, is an emeritus professor at Fukui University of Japan and the eldest son of Yamamoto Takeshi, a Japanese veteran who committed crimes in the Nanjing Massacre. Yamamoto Fujio and his younger brother Toshio Yamamoto gave a lecture in the Memorial Hall on the basis of their father's war diaries. He said, "As the second generation after the war, these efforts we have made over the years are to constantly reflect on war, pursue peace, and let

future generations remember the war crimes committed by Japan."



### **Staff reveal truth about Japanese military sex slaves**

Staff of the Memorial Hall visited Kumamoto, Nagasaki and Fukuoka in late October to participate testimony rallies in search of the unfortunate historical truth between China and Japan. They also gave three lectures in the three cities to reveal the historical truth about the Japanese military sex slavery system during WWII.





## **International students lectured on Nanjing Massacre history**

On October 16th, 180 international students from more than 30 countries and regions, including the United States, Germany, Japan, Poland, participated in the 25th exchange activity of Nanjing Zijin Grass International Peace School at the Memorial Hall.

A Russian girl said that the existence of the Memorial Hall is very meaningful. "It allows us to see living people and indelible stories that happened to them. We want to tell our family, friends, and classmates everything we know here. Stay away from war and cherish peace! "



## **Exhibition on Sindberg held in Aarhus, Nanjing**

On the morning of August 31, an exhibition on Bernhard Arp Sindberg, the Danish Hero of Nanjing, was held in Aarhus of Denmark and Nanjing of east China. The statue of Sindberg was unveiled by Denmark's Queen Margre the II in the Mindeparken Memorial Park, Aarhus, on the same day. The statue unveiling and the exhibition are meant to commemorate the Danish hero Sindberg, who rescued tens of thousands of Chinese during the Nanjing Massacre, and continue to write a new chapter in Sino-Danish friendship.



## **Photo Exhibition in Commemoration of the 71st**

### **Anniversary of the Judgment by IMTFE held**

On the morning of September 18th, a photo exhibition was held in the Memorial Hall in memory of the 71st anniversary of the Tokyo Trial. Mr. Gao Wenbin, who is 97-year-old, struck the gavel to open the exhibition. Gao was the secretary and translator of the Chinese prosecutor at the International Military

Tribunal for the Far East.

The exhibition is divided into three parts: "Road to Tokyo Trial", "Tokyo Trial" and "Japanese War Criminal Trials in Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region." The exhibition area is 500 square meters and 9 precious cultural relics are on display.

A documentary panorama painting scroll "The Tokyo Trial" was held concurrently in the Three Prevails exhibition hall. The painting scroll is a painstaking work of Li Bin, a renowned painter, over three and a half years. The painting is 172 meters long and 4 meters high. The painting shows more than 450 characters including judges, prosecutors, defendants, defense lawyers, witnesses, court staff and other personnel involved in the Tokyo Trial. With reappearances counted, 633 people in total are shown in the painting.





## Modern dram *I Want to Ask You* staged

On the evening of September 19, the modern drama "I want to ask you" was staged at Nanjing University. The play tells of three young women from China, Japan and Malaysia. During the rehearsal, they tried to explore the fate of three Japanese old women who were deserted by the Japanese war of aggression against China after they were deceived by the Japanese government to join the "Manchurian and Mongolian Expedition" and came to "Manchuria". The Japanese women criticized the Japanese government's war of invasion against China. They sincerely thanked the Chinese for their life-saving grace, expressed their hatred of the war, and prayed that China and Japan would live in peace for generations.

The playwright writer and starring Chie Kobayashi is a postgraduate of Beijing Film Academy. She wrote this three-act play with perseverance and sincerity out of the result of her rational thinking on Sino-Japanese relations over the past seven years. Kobayashi has appeared as a visitor to eight Japanese

women in the feature-length documentary "The Examination of Postwar Japanese Women". She was greatly shocked and unable to let go of her listening to the facts of the war witnesses.



### **International Day of Peace 2019    Singing for Peace**

September 21 marks the International Day of Peace. In the afternoon, the theme activity "Singing for Peace" was held at the Memorial Hall. The members of the Zijin Grass Choir of the Memorial Hall performed live "Let there be peace on earth", "Ode to peace" and "Let the world be filled with love". Students from Nanjing-based universities and visitors to the museum folded the origami peace flower Zijin Grass into a peace dove.





## **Memorial Hall holds “Nanjing · International City of Peace” stamp exhibition**

The Nanjing International City of Peace stamp exhibition was held on September 21 in the Memorial Hall. 17 of the 197 entries submitted by designers from China, Switzerland, Venezuela and some other countries were displayed. Creative stamp products were also designed.





## **Nanjing International Biennial of Posters for Peace 2019**

### **held at the Memorial Hall**

Nanjing International Biennial of Posters for Peace 2019 was held at the Memorial Hall on December 13th. The theme of this biennale is "Peace and the City". The organizing committee has collected 5,432 works from more than 30 countries and regions including China, the United States, South Korea, Poland, and Japan.

The panel of judges include Jin Qiangqiang, member of the International Graphic Design Alliance, Finn Nygaard, member of the International Graphic Design Alliance and Chairman of the Swiss Region, Ahn Sang-soo, well-known international master of graphic design and professor at Hongik University in Korea, and Od Ezail, a member of the International Graphic

Design Alliance , and Cao Fang, member of the International Graphic Design Alliance, director of the Jiangsu Advertising Association, and director of the Graphic Design Professional Committee. About 200 works were selected from the entries and 30 outstanding works were finally selected for the exhibition. These works transcend nations, languages and cultures, and convey human aspirations for peace.

This biennale was guided by International Cities of Peace Association. In 2020, the biennale will participate in the International Cities of Peace Tour.



## **Events that sooth the hearts**

### **Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated for massacre survivors**

11 survivors of the Nanjing Massacre were arranged to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival by eating assorted porridge, drinking peace tea and enjoying the longevity feast on the morning of September 12. The event is sponsored by the Nanjing Aid Association for the Victims of Atrocities by the Japanese Invaders. The survivors averaged 90 in age and added up to more than 1000 years old. They enjoyed a collective birthday party in an unusual way.

### **They re-engrave victims' names on the wall for third year**

Some 100 college students from Jincheng College of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Nanjing Audit University visited the Memorial Hall in late November to re-engrave the names of the 10664 massacre victims one by one for the third time for three years in a row as a sign of reliving history and pray for peace.



## **Foreign officers visit the Memorial Hall**

Foreign officers with the Chinese PLA Army Engineering University visited the Memorial Museum on November 15 to attend the 27th exchange activity of the Nanjing Zijin Grass International Peace School. The officers come from 21 countries.

They struck the peace bell, toured the exhibition halls, talked with Chen Shoude, a massacre survivor, folded Zijin Grass flowers and laid flower basket at the memorial site. A Mozambican girl said that peace should be a common pursuit of young people. Zhang Jianjun, the director, issued a certificate of completion for the peace envoys.





### **Iris Chang Park opens in California**

A memorial park honoring the late Chinese-American writer Iris Chang opened in San Jose, California, on November 9. Chang wrote the seminal work, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*, which was published in 1997. The 10,500-square-meter park opened on the 15th anniversary of Chang's death. A special stele is engraved with Iris Chang's biography. Her parents were invited to attend the ceremony.

The staff of the Memorial Hall and some visitor representatives presented flowers in front of the memorial statue of Iris Chang. Her parents specially recorded a video for us, expressing the remembrance of their daughter. They also used Iris Chang's famous saying "the power of one" to encourage everyone not to easily give up ideas and dreams, and insist in the belief that the power of a single person can change the world. More than 7.16 million viewers clicked online to watch the



memorial video of the 15th anniversary of Iris Chang's death.

