

# **Nanjing International Peace Newsletter**

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## **Introduction**

The 6<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims was held in the Memorial Hall, Jiangsu province, on Dec.13, 2019.

37-minute Magee Film donated to the Memorial Hall.

Nanking Safety Zone Walk for Peace went underway in Nanjing.

## **Editor's Note:**

**Dear readers and friends:**

Spring is around the corner when you receive this issue of Nanjing International Peace Newsletter. The flower of peace in the Zijin Grass Garden of the Memorial Hall is about to bloom. We present to you the stories that took place in the Memorial Hall during the 6<sup>th</sup> National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims so as to pass the voice of peace to you. Thank you for your attention.

## **Headlines**

The 6th National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims was held on December 13, 2019 at the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, Jiangsu province.

The national flag was flown at half-mast at the Memorial Square. The memorial ceremony started at 10 am. 8,000 representatives of all walks of life stood still and bowed their heads to pay silent tribute to the victims as the one-minute siren howled over Nanjing. Cars, trains and ships sounded horns at the same time.

Sixteen honor guards laid eight wreaths in memory of the victims while the national flag flew at half-mast to mourn the victims. 82 students read the declaration of peace.

People rang the peace bell at the hall and set 3,000 pigeons free to call for peace.

Memorial ceremonies were also held at 17 mass grave sites for the victims killed in the Nanjing Massacre, 12 communities and 6 patriotic education bases themed on the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression.



## **Religious Service for World Peace Held**

Buddhist monks from China and Japan held a religious service for world peace in front of the memorial wall, also known as the wailing wall, in the Memorial Hall. They prayed, released the souls of the victims from purgatory, burned joss sticks and laid flower baskets. The religious service for world peace has been held for 16 consecutive years.



## **Candlelight vigil held for Nanjing Massacre victims**

A candlelight vigil was held in Nanjing on the evening of December 13, 2019. Fred Arment, executive director of International Cities of Peace, was joined by the descendants of the massacre victims, staff of the Memorial Hall, students from Nanjing and peace activists from Japan as well as families and descendants of the international friends who helped to shelter the Chinese people during the Massacre.

Among the participants were Stephen Brady and his daughter Megan Brady, the grandson and great granddaughter of Richard Brady, a surgeon of the Drum Tower Hospital during the Nanjing Massacre. 17-year-old Megan has read many stories about the international friends who sheltered the Chinese people during the Nanjing Massacre, including the story of Minnie Vautrin who risked her life to protect more than 10,000 women and children. At the candlelit vigil, Megan impressed the participants by singing a song called Mercy in the hope of working together to create a more peaceful and beautiful future.

Zhang Jianjun, director of the Memorial Hall, said in his speech: "Nanjing is China's first international city of peace, and we are here to send a voice of peace from Nanjing to the world. Humans live in the same global village, a community of shared

future, with you and me. Cherishing peace has become a world consensus. We hereby call for more and more social groups and individuals to invest in the cause of maintaining peace. May the candlelight penetrate the darkness, comfort the deceased, and warm the living. May the people of all countries work together to create a beautiful world where everyone can enjoy dignity and peace. "





### **Peace rallies held in Canada, USA**

The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Day Forum Viewing World Peace from the Perspective of History, Culture and Education was held on the afternoon of December 8 at the North York City Hall conference room in Toronto. Five scholars of history, society, culture and war history gave special reports.



At 12 o'clock on the 12th of December, 2019, Ontario held



an overseas peace rally in memory of the victims of the Nanjing Massacre in the provincial parliament building.

Soo Wong, a former member of the parliament of Ontario province who tabled the motion designating Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day to commemorate the mass killing of 300,000 Chinese by Japanese troops in Nanjing during World War II, was joined by some Canadian Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Dutch, Armenians, and Canadians.

"The suffering of others is also our suffering." Canadian writer Joy Kogawa from the Japanese community said. Noting that some people in the Japanese community denied the historical facts of the Nanjing Massacre, this is why he and the small community around him must come forward.



On the same day, the Chinatown in Vancouver held a photo exhibition of "Don't forget history and cherish peace" on occasion of the memorial service for Nanjing Massacre victims. More than 60 Chinese associations and about 300 people from all walks of life participated in the event.



## Events Held

### **Zhou Wanrong's name engraved on the whailing wall**

The name of Zhou Wanrong, a newly-discovered Nanjing Massacre victim, was engraved on the wailing wall on Nov. 29 to become the 10,665th name on the wall.

Tao Xiuhua, daughter of Zhou Wanrong with a former name Zhou Wandi, said she was ten years old in 1937 when four or five Japanese soldiers were rounding up the Chinese near her home on the morning of December 14. Tao said that she and her younger sister of five years old witnessed that their father and several other Chinese were taken away by the Japanese soldiers. They cried and followed the Japs until they were driven back at the Yijiang Gate. Her father never came back.





### **Family commemoration activities**

#### **Massacre survivors mourn deceased relatives in front of the wailing wall**

Survivors and family members of the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, including Xia Shuqin, Ge Daorong, Ma Tingbao and Ai Yixing, began a series of commemoration activities in early December 2019 by laying flowers and burning incense before the wailing wall where the victims' names are engraved.

The survivors and family members of the victims of the massacre are getting old as time goes by. It is up to the second and third generation of the survivors and family members of the victims of the massacre to pass on the memory of the massacre. The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall has launched a memory project for the descendants of the family members of the victims to pass on the memory. The information on 716 descendants has

been collected so far. 399 of them are able to join in the project, including 155 in the second generation, 154 in the third generation, 89 in the fourth generation, and 1 in the fifth generation.



### **Nanjing Massacre survivors pass away**

Two Nanjing Massacre survivors passed away in early December, 2019.

Hu Xinjia died on December 4. He was 95. On December 14, 1937, the Japanese invaders went on a killing rampage in Jiangxin Zhou, a small island in Nanjing. Hu saw Japanese soldiers kill several Chinese in the wheat field. He managed to avoid being killed by hiding in a woodpile.

Jin Maozhi died on December 5th. He was 91. He witnessed more than 20 people, including his father, killed by the Japanese army. After his father was killed, he had a difficult

life with his mother and once lived on begging.

Their death reduced the number of existing massacre survivors to 78 as of December 18, 2019.



**Nanjing boy born on December 13 reads out peace  
declaration at National Memorial Ceremony**

Students of Nanjing No. 1 Middle School are invited to read out the declaration of peace at the National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims since the first ceremony was held on December 13, 2014. Cui Zixing, who read out this year's peace declaration, was born on December 13. He said: "Standing at the scene, we felt as if going back to 1937. I felt very sad and angry when my compatriots were slaughtered by the Japanese invaders. During the recitation, the emotions came up from the inside out, and in the end they burst into tears.

The students who read out the peace declaration recite are basically post-00 children. They said that standing at the National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims was "the mission of Nanjing children" , adding that we have a responsibility to express our understanding of this heavy history and our desire for peace, so that people around the world can see and hear it through live broadcast footage! "



### **Symposiums and seminars**

#### **New video footage documenting Japanese atrocities donated to Memorial Hall**

A new video footage documenting Japanese atrocities in Nanjing in December 1937 was donated to the Memorial Hall

on the afternoon of December 13, 2019. The 37-minute version was made by Chinese American Shao Tzuping, chairman of the New York-based the Alliance in Memory of the Victims of Nanjing Massacre, from the film found in 1991 in the basement of the home of Reverend John Magee's son David Magee. This version of the Magee film reflects one of the most comprehensive and informative versions of the Nanjing Massacre by the Japanese invaders, and thereby has important historical value.

During the Nanjing Massacre, John Magee stayed behind in Nanjing at the risk of his life and used his 16mm camera to take video footages documenting the Japanese atrocities. With the serial numbers 1-12, these footages are the only visual documentation of the Nanjing Massacre that has been discovered so far.

The first version of the Magee Film was developed by George Fitch after smuggling the films by sewing them into an overcoat lining on a train ride from Nanjing to Shanghai in late January 1938. Fitch sent the films to Shanghai Kodak and made four copies which were brought to the United States, Britain, Japan, and Germany for screening during the war and produced widespread influence in the international community.

After Fitch left Nanjing, Magee continued to film Japanese atrocities and his footage became more informative. The Magee Film had been kept by Magee himself until his death, and the films with the serial numbers 1-12 have detailed field notes.

In 1991, Shao Tzuping was appointed inaugural director-general of the Alliance in Memory of the Victims of Nanjing Massacre which was established in New York. After many setbacks, he finally found Rev. Magee's son David Magee. On July 12 that year, in the piles of junk in the basement of David Magee's house, Shao Tzuping found a copper box containing the films shot by Magee and recorded the scenes of the Nanjing Massacre.

David Magee later provided the Alliance in Memory of the Victims of Nanjing Massacre with all the films that were believed to document the Japanese atrocities in Nanjing during the massacre, with a catalog of field notes. Shao Tzuping met with key members of the Alliance and sent these precious films to a film processing company for remake and edited them into two sets of "one-inch disks" of about 37 minutes.

According to experts' research, the 37-minute version of the "one-inch disk" includes three parts: 1. The first 11 minutes and 22 seconds reflect the situation in Shanghai after the Battle



of Shanghai. 2. The picture before the Japanese occupation of Nanjing lasted about 1 minute and 23 seconds, in particular the Japanese bombing of Nanjing and the fleeing Nanjing refugees. 3. The atrocities committed by the Japanese army after occupying Nanjing, including the scenes of the Japanese army's rounding up young and middle-aged men on Shanghai Road, images of the medical staff of the Drum Tower Hospital treating the victims of the Japanese atrocities, the situation of the wounded and sick in the clinic at the refugee camp of the Jiangnan Cement Factory, and the video footage on a survivor called Wu Changde.

Experts believe that compared with the 17-minute version that has been in the Memorial Hall's collection, the 37-minute version has three characteristics:

In terms of length, the "37 minutes" version of the film is about 9 minutes longer than the 17-minute version, excluding the footage about the Battle of Shanghai, which is 11 minutes and 22 seconds, and the footage repeated in the 17-minute version.

In terms of the background setting, the footages of the 17-minute version that has been in the Memorial Hall's collection are mostly filmed in the Nanking Safety Zone with

only a few footages shot in the Qixia Temple and other suburban areas of Nanjing. The footages of the 37-minute version were filmed more than in the Nanking Safety Zone, including the footages on the Japanese atrocities outside of the city. According to historical records, from February 16th to 17th, 1938, Magee went to the Qixia Temple in the eastern suburbs of Nanjing and the Jiangnan Cement Factory Refugee Camp. In the 37-minute version, the wounded were seen being taken to the Jiangnan Cement Factory Clinic and also the footages on the wounded in the clinic, thereby more informative than the 17-minute version.

In terms of the scope of the scene, in the 37-minute version of the film, more than 30 victims were filmed in the Drum Tower Hospital, including 11 victims that were not filmed in the 17-minute version, for example, the footage of survivor Wu Changde, and that of a woman in the Drum Tower Hospital. The woman, who had her neck chopped by the Japanese, was being examined by Dr. Robert Wilson. Wilson twisted her head and asked her to make a turnaround and feelings of extreme pain appeared on her face.

Professor Zhang Lianhong, director of the Nanjing Massacre Research Center of Nanjing Normal University and researcher of the Institute of Nanjing Massacre History and

International Peace, believes that the 37-minute version of the Magee Film is of great significance for the following reasons:

First, the 37-minute version is one of the most comprehensive and informative visual documents on the Nanjing Massacre among the various versions of the Magee Film that have been discovered so far, most notably the number of victims in the Drum Tower Hospital, the visual footage of Wu Changde and the scene of Xia Shuqin's family after 7 of the 9-member family were killed by the Japanese.

Second, it is of great significance in cultural and historical values. When the Alliance discovered the Magee Film, burned a 37-minute "one-inch disk" and produced documentaries such as "John Magee's Testimony" and "The Order of the Emperor", which were later widely distributed and presented to many libraries around the world, generating widespread international influence.

In the 1990s when the Japanese right-wing forces denied the historical truth about the Nanjing Massacre, the documentary "John Magee's Testimony" undoubtedly strongly countered the arrogance of Japanese right-wing forces. There is no doubt that the original "one-inch disk" itself has very important cultural and historical values.

Professor Zhang Lianhong also said that in October 2002, prompted by the Alliance, John Magee's son David Magee donated a camera and 4 boxes of film to the Memorial Hall. Magee image, thereby the collection of the 17-minute film. The value of cultural relics is irreplaceable, he added.

In 2019, the Memorial Hall received a total of 1,711 (sets) of donated or collected items. Director Zhang Jianjun said that with the existence of these physical evidences, historical memories will have vitality and be passed down from generation to generation. He said: "We are working hard to build a data imaging center for these historical materials. This part of the history cannot be stored in the warehouse only. It must be displayed to the world through various methods such as exhibition, publication, and dissemination. The Memorial Hall will continue to do a good job of collecting relevant cultural relic materials and tracking history. This is what we have been working at for the past years. "



## **New book series on Nanjing Massacre released**

New books series on the Nanjing Massacre Do Not Forget History and Make a Joint Endeavor for the Lofty Cause of Peace were released at the Memorial Hall on the morning of December 9, 2018.

9 books were released on Monday at the Memorial Hall to publicize the historical truth about the Nanjing Massacre and convey Chinese people's wish for peace. They include *Keeping History Alive-Oral Inheritance of the Nanjing Massacre over the Past Forty Years*, *Nanjing Massacre History Exhibition* (English, Japanese), *Research on the History of the Nanjing Massacre* (English, Japanese) and *Historical Files and Research on the Defense of Nanjing*.

The books, with two of them in English and Japanese editions, have been distributed to universities, libraries and research institutes in the USA, Britain, Japan and some other countries.

Deputy Director Ling Xi said that in the future, the Memorial Hall and the research institute will continue to carry out historical research, oral history collection, and foreign translation of research findings. It will also launch a program to interview the descendants of international friends after the

National Memorial Day for the Nanjing Massacre Victims. The results will be published in 2020.



### **Descendant of massacre survivor testifies in Japan**

Ge Fengjin, whose father survived the Nanjing Massacre, attended testimony-collecting meetings in Osaka, Nagoya, Shizuoka, and Tokyo from December 7 to 11, 2019 to discuss the slaughter and remind people to never forget history.

At the invitation of Japanese civil groups, Ge Fengjin shared his father's story to mark the 82nd anniversary of the massacre. His father, Ge Daorong, was only 10 years old when Nanjing fell to Japanese troops. He survived by escaping into a safe zone, but his three uncles did not.

Sun Zhaiwei, an expert on the Nanjing Massacre and a



researcher at Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, with Ge Fengjing, spoke about the defense of Nanjing and the massacre.

Shota Naito, a postdoctoral fellow majoring in history from Japan's Meiji University and one of the organizers of the testimony-collecting meetings, said he has been attending the testimonies about the Nanjing Massacre in Tokyo every year since 2015.

Each year, the organizers invite people to talk about the massacre, offering a rare opportunity to learn about the event in Japan, he said, adding that he is concerned that some people in Japan do not know about history, and some even attempt to falsify, forget or deny the existence of the Nanjing Massacre.



## **Events that sooth the hearts**

### **Fourth edition of Nanking Safety Zone Walk for Peace held**

The 4th Edition of "Gratefulness • Nanking Safety Zone" Walk for Peace went underway at Nanjing Normal University on the morning of November 30, 2019. The event was sponsored by the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Museum. More than 300 people from China and foreign countries walked over the former site of the 3.8-sq-meter Nanking Safety Zone to measure the footsteps and feel the big love of the international friends, such as John Rabe, Minnie Vautrin and John Magee, who stayed behind during the Nanjing Massacre to shelter tens of thousands Chinese civilians and disarmed soldiers.

92-year-old Ge Daorong, one of masscre survivors, wore a Zijin Grass scarf onto the statue of Minnie Vautrin.

When reaching the terminal, Ruan Dingdong, a survivor of the Nanjing Massacre, issued a peace commemorative card and distributed Zijin Grass seeds so that the flower of peace will take root in the earth.

The "Gratefulness • Nanking Safety Zone" Walk for Peace has been held once a year since 2016 to thank the international friends who risked their lives to shelter the Chinese people, and

warn people not to forget the painful history and cherish peace.



**I miss you when the Chinese parasol tree leaves turn yellow  
——A birthday letter from a Nanjing native to John Rabe**

November 23 is the birthday of John Rabe. During the Nanjing Massacre 82 years ago, Mr. Rabe stayed behind in Nanjing at the risk of his life and served as the chairman of the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone which he helped to establish.

His residence at No. 1 Xiaofenqiao in Nanjing protected more than 600 Chinese refugees while the Nanking Safety Zone

sheltered more than 250,000 refugees. Over the years, the residents of Nanjing have never forgotten Mr. Rabe, and hailed him "the goodman of Nanjing".

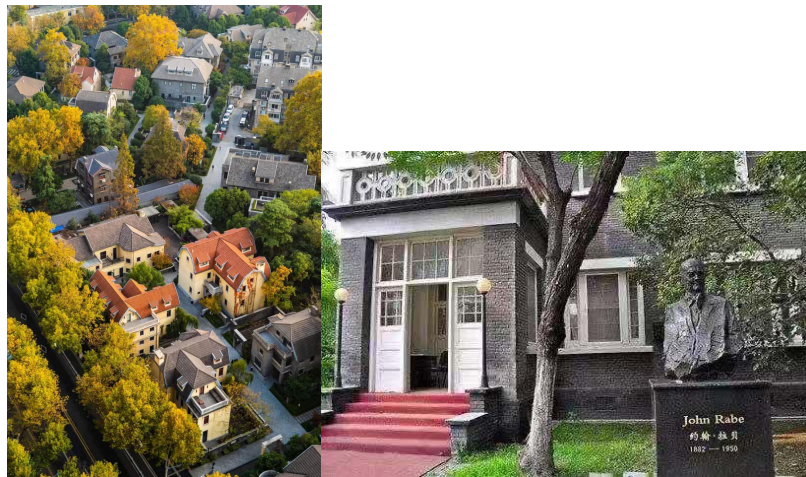
On the eve of his birthday this year, a Nanjing citizen wrote a letter to Mr. Rabe. Excerpts are as follows:

Dear Mr. Rabe:

Happy Birthday!

At this moment in Nanjing, the leaves of the Chinese parasol trees have turned yellow here and there.

The courtyard of No. 1 Xiaofenqiao is somewhat sparse, but those who come to visit you may prefer the tranquility of only the fallen leaves and the cold wind.



Today's Nanjing is different from the day when you celebrated your 55th birthday here.

In today's Nanjing, the birthday gift for you is peace.

You were worried about sunny weather as you were afraid

that it would be easier for the city to be bombarded by Japanese artillery fire.

82 years later, whenever the weather is so clear that you can see the Zifeng Building and the Purple Mountain at an easy glance.

What a crystal blue sky! I looked up at all kinds of kites and the migratory birds flying south and laughed and sighed at the leaves of the Chinese parasol trees.

I'm glad that the fighter planes and smoke that you saw when looking up will never again cast a shadow on this land.

You have witnessed the tragic killing of children and girls, as the ancient city was plunged into a horrible hell.

82 years later, with the children carefully planting the seeds of Zijin Grass, the laughing teenagers are invigorating Nanjing.

Nanjing has become China's first international city of peace....



On Rabe's birthday, a college student in Nanjing bought a



bouquet of flowers and presented it to the statue of Mr. Rabe. The flower shop aunt asked him for whom the flowers were meant. When she was told that the flowers were meant to be Rabe's birthday gift, the aunt said, "He is the permanent gentleman, and it's his birthday, so you should add some roses." She has been running this flower shop for thirty years and witnessed the birth of the John Rabe Memorial.



### **Elderly couple hailed for recording historical moments for decades**

An elderly couple in Nanjing has been hailed for their steadfastness in recording the historical moments taking place at the Memorial Hall.

Liu Jianzhi, 92, and Qi Enzhi, 84, have been recording the commemoration activities with their cameras for 26 consecutive years since 1994. Whether it's windy, rainy, or severely cold or



hot, they take the bus, transfer to the subway, and then walk to the Memorial Hall briskly or staggeringly.

On the 6th National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims in 2019, the elderly couple left home at 6 a.m. and returned home at 9 p.m. With cameras hanging in the front, they both tried their best to find the best photographic angles. They were so persistent as if age was never a hindrance.

In 2018, the couple donated 1008 film negatives, 22286 digital photos, and 5 photo albums on the Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims to the Memorial Museum. They took these photos during the past decades.

Qi Enzhi said that as long as their health permits, they will continue with their efforts so that peace-loving people around the world can see the historical and peaceful pictures they have taken.

