

Highlights

China Held the 2024 National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims

On the morning of December 13, China solemnly held the 2024 National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims. Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the event and delivered a speech.

The Memorial Ceremony took place at the Public Memorial Square of the Memorial Hall. The atmosphere was solemn and respectful, with the national flag flying at half-mast. Approximately 8,000 representatives from various sectors wore white flowers on their chests, and stood in silent tribute. At 10:00 a.m., the ceremony began with the singing of the National Anthem of the People's Republic of China. After the anthem, the entire assembly observed a moment of silence for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre. Air raid sirens in Nanjing sounded, vehicles stopped and honked, and pedestrians stood in silence to pay their respects. Following the silence, accompanied by the melody of the National Memorial Song, 16 honor guards from the Chinese People's Liberation Army Honor Guard carried eight wreaths and placed them on the memorial platform.

Li Shulei delivered a speech, stating that today we gather solemnly to deeply commemorate the innocent victims of the Nanjing Massacre, remember all the compatriots who fell victim to the atrocities committed by Japanese invaders, honor the revolutionary martyrs and national heroes who sacrificed their lives for the victory of the Chinese people's War of Resistance against Japan, and pay tribute to the martyrs from other countries who fought alongside the Chinese people, expressing the Chinese people's unwavering desire to pursue a path of peaceful development. Li Shulei emphasized that remembering history is essential for better progress.

Eighty-seven youth representatives from Nanjing read the Declaration for Peace, while six representatives from various sectors rang the "Bell of Peace". A flock of 3,000 white doves, symbolizing endless sorrow for the victims and infinite hopes for world peace, was released into the sky.

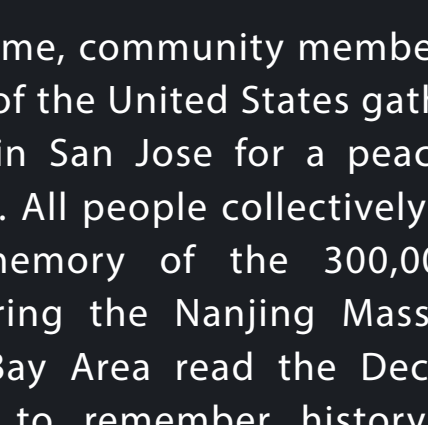
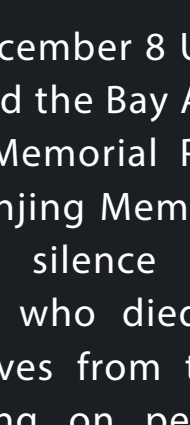


Candlelight Vigil - International Peace Assembly was held

On the evening of December 13, the "Candlelight Vigil - International Peace Assembly" was held at the Peace Square of the Memorial Hall. Representatives of Nanjing Massacre historical memory inheritors, descendants of international friends, overseas Chinese, students, domestic and international Zijin Grass volunteers, and peace-loving individuals from all walks of life at home and abroad gathered. Holding candles, they commemorated the deceased and prayed for peace.

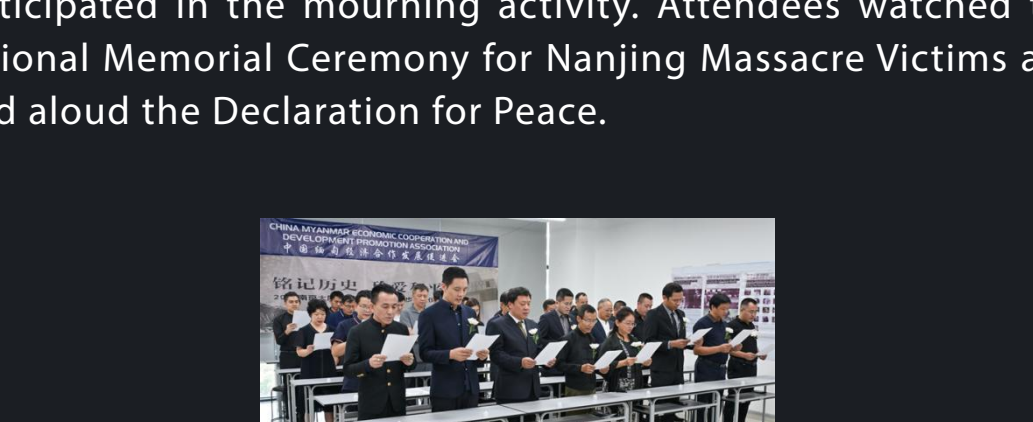


During the Nanjing Massacre, Dr. Robert Wilson, a 31-year-old American doctor at Drum Tower Hospital, was the only surgeon left in the city. In the absence of water and electricity, he worked night and day to save Chinese refugees such as Li Xiuying, who had suffered gunshot wounds, stabbings, and assaults by the Japanese army. That evening, Dr. Wilson's great-granddaughter, Ashleigh Jacobson, attended the assembly. She said, "As we light these candles, I feel not only the weight of history but also the warmth of a shared connection—a bond between my family and the people of Nanjing that has endured across generations."

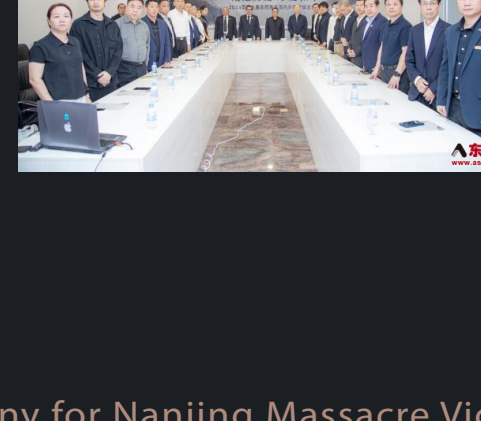


△Left - Dr. Robert Wilson, Right - Ashleigh Jacobson

The children of Zijin Grass Art Troupe's Children's Choir premiered an original song, *Peace Blowing Over Zijin Grass* (left picture), using music to commemorate and comfort the hearts of people. In February 1938, American doctor Richard Brady actively treated refugees at the Drum Tower Hospital. Many years later, inspired by her great-grandfather's deeds, Megan Brady composed the song *Mercy*. That evening, students from Experimental Primary School affiliated with Jinling High School performed this song (right picture), singing: "Please believe this is a path worth walking, so keep going, for ahead lies the light..."



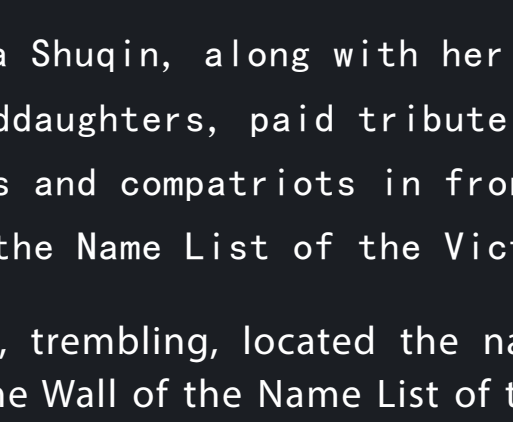
Zhou Feng, the Director of the Memorial Hall, said: "Peace is warm, like the candlelight tonight, watching over the long night of history and illuminating the direction of the future. All peace-loving people should take active action to transform the historical pain of the Nanjing Massacre into a civilized force for peaceful development, becoming practitioners of the concept of peace, storytellers of peace, and disseminators of the seeds of peace. Together, we can create a beautiful future of happiness and tranquility."



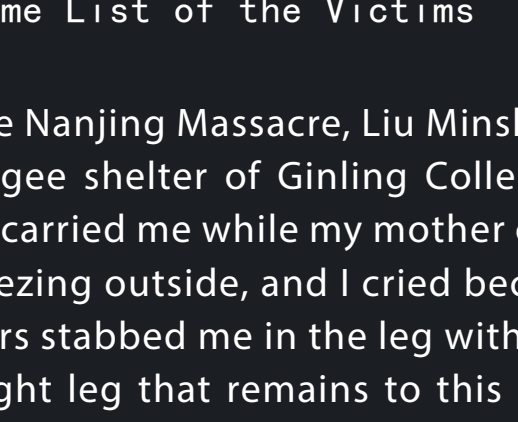
△Director Zhou Feng

Chinese Communities in Canada, the United States, and Other Regions Hold Peace Assemblies to Commemorate the Nanjing Massacre Victims

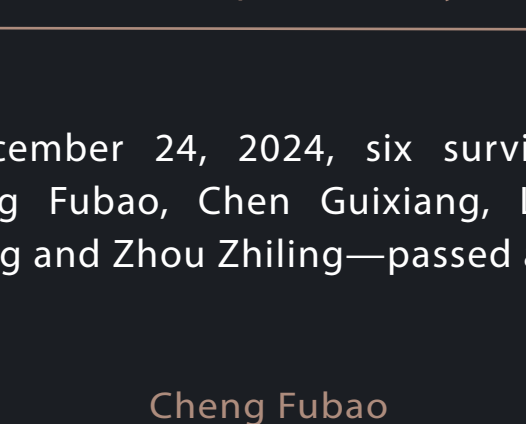
On the evening of December 7, Canadian time, the annual online Historical and Cultural Education Forum, themed "Solemn and Beautiful Flowers of Peace", was hosted by Hong Maple Foundation (Canada). Zhang Yingying, the mother of Chinese-American writer Iris Chang, also participated virtually. During the forum, attendees held a memorial ceremony to pay tribute to the 300,000 Nanjing Massacre victims and prayed for world peace.



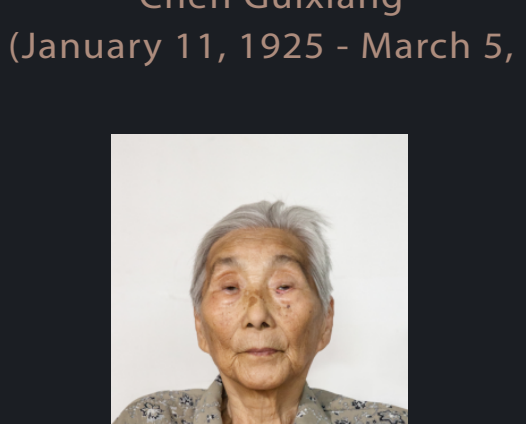
On December 8 U.S. time, community members from San Francisco and the Bay Area of the United States gathered at the Iris Chang Memorial Park in San Jose for a peace assembly themed "Nanjing Memorial". All people collectively observed a moment of silence in memory of the 300,000 Chinese compatriots who died during the Nanjing Massacre. Youth representatives from the Bay Area read the Declaration for Peace, calling on people to remember history and work together to promote peace and justice.



On December 13, local time in Myanmar, the China Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association (CMECD) organized a simultaneous mourning ceremony for the Nanjing Massacre victims, titled "Remembering History and Cherishing Peace," at the Yangon branch venue. More than 50 people, including representatives from the Myanmar office of the China Foundation for Peace and Development, some local overseas Chinese, friendly political parties and enterprises, schools, and chambers of commerce, participated in the mourning activity. Attendees watched the National Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victims and read aloud the Declaration for Peace.



On December 13, local time in Cambodia, China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful National Reunification in Cambodia, Khmer-Chinese Association in The Kingdom of Cambodia and the China Hong Kong, Macao and Overseas Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia jointly organized representatives of Cambodian Chinese and overseas Chinese to set up a Cambodian sub-venue in Phnom Penh to hold the mourning activity simultaneously with Chinese compatriots at home and abroad. Everyone observed a moment of silence, watched the National Memorial Ceremony, collectively read the Declaration for Peace, and also held discussion and exchange activities.



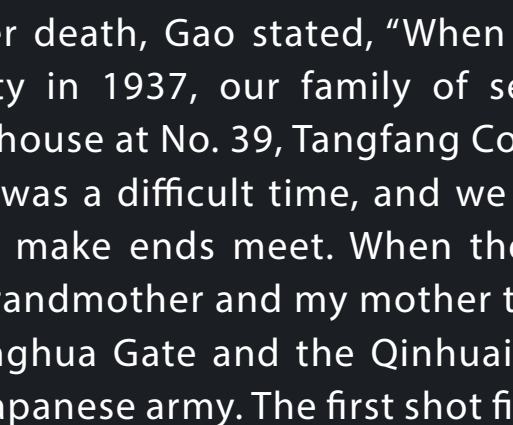
Inheritance

Memorial Ceremony for Nanjing Massacre Victim Families Held at the Memorial Hall

On December 1, a memorial ceremony for the families of Nanjing Massacre victims took place in front of the Wall of the Name List of the Victims at the Memorial Hall. Nanjing Massacre survivors, their descendants, representatives of the victims' families, and youth representatives from Nanjing stood solemnly, holding chrysanthemums to honor their relatives and compatriots who lost their lives 87 years ago.

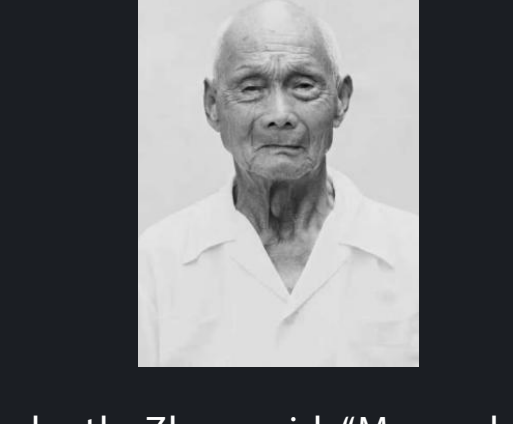
Ninety-year-old Liu Minsheng, ninety-five-year-old Xia Shuqin and ninety-six-year-old Ai Yiyi approached the "Wall of Tears" with the help of their families. Accompanying them are Xia Yuan, Huang Xinghua and Liu Liu, historical memory inheritors of the Nanjing Massacre.

Xia Shuqin, whose hair is now entirely white, looked sorrowful as she recalled her family's tragic experiences during the Nanjing Massacre. Her granddaughter, Xia Yuan, stated, "For my entire family, the Wall of the Name List of the Victims, also known as the 'Wall of Tears,' is the only place where we can pay homage to those who died in that war. We will never forget this history."



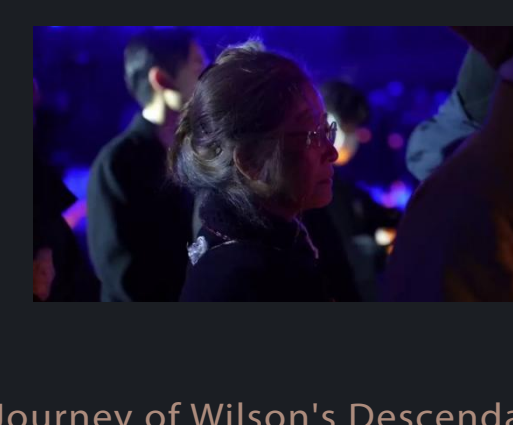
△Xia Shuqin, along with her daughter and granddaughters, paid tribute to their relatives and compatriots in front of the Wall of the Name List of the Victims

Ai Yiyi, trembling, located the names of her family members on the Wall of the Name List of the Victims, "Wall of Tears". Eighty-seven years have passed, yet the nightmare remains vivid in her memory. During the Nanjing Massacre, six male members of her family, including her father, were killed by the Japanese invaders. Ai Yiyi said that during that time, women struggled to survive with their children and were referred to as "widows of the Ai family", a label that broke her heart.



△Ai Yiyi, accompanied by her daughter and grandson, paid tribute to their relatives and compatriots in front of the Wall of the Name List of the Victims

During the Nanjing Massacre, Liu Minsheng and his family fled to the refugee shelter of Ginling College. "In the refugee zone, my father carried me while my mother carried my younger sister. It was freezing outside, and I cried because of the cold. A Japanese soldier stabbed me in the leg with a bayonet, leaving a scar on my right leg that remains to this day. My father was taken away and never returned." The Nanjing Massacre forever altered the trajectory of his life.



△Liu Minsheng, accompanied by her daughter, paid tribute to their relatives and compatriots in front of the Wall of the Name List of the Victims

Testimony

Six Nanjing Massacre survivors passed away in 2024

As of December 24, 2024, six survivors of Nanjing Massacre—Cheng Fubao, Chen Guixiang, Liu Suzhen, Gao Ruqin, Shi Xiuying and Zhou Zhilin—passed away.

Cheng Fubao
(May 3, 1933 - January 30, 2024)

Before his death, Cheng recalled, "The Japanese soldiers indiscriminately shot my father, who fell dead. We hid in a ditch, and the adults covered our (children's) mouths to stop us from crying, fearing we would be discovered by Japanese invaders. After the Japanese soldiers assembled and marched eastward, we survived."

Chen Guixiang
(January 11, 1925 - March 5, 2024)

Before her death, Chen recounted: "A Japanese soldier grabbed me by the hair and slapped me twice. I cried out, 'Grandma, save me! Grandma, save me!' My grandmother knelt on the ground, begging for mercy. The Japanese soldier struck her with the butt of his gun before shooting her to death."

Liu Suzhen
(November 13, 1931 - April 21, 2024)

Before her death, Liu said, "I was only six years old when the Japanese army came. They scalded my right arm with boiling water. We built a hole in the high slope of Shanghai Road with mud and hid in it. The sound of the airplane bombing above us rumbled so loudly that adults and children were too scared to go out."

Gao Ruqin
(January 22, 1934 - May 23, 2024)

Before her death, Gao stated, "When the Japanese army entered the city in 1937, our family of seven moved to my grandmother's house at No. 39, Tangfang Corridor, in Zhonghua Gate City. That was a difficult time, and we relied solely on my father alone to make ends meet. When the Nanjing Massacre occurred, my grandmother and my mother tried to flee with me along the Zhonghua Gate and the Qinhuai River, dodging the pursuit of the Japanese army. The first shot fired by the Japanese army struck my mother in the leg, piercing it. The second shot hit my grandmother in the chest; she let go of my hand with a cry and collapsed, lifeless."

Shi Xiuying
(October 26, 1926 - July 12, 2024)

Before her death, Shi said, "My father was stabbed three times and killed by the Japanese soldiers, and my elder brother disappeared after being taken by the Japanese soldiers. In order to make ends meet, my mother emptied toilets for other people to earn only 0.2 yuan a month, barely affording black bread. We didn't have enough to eat."

Zhou Zhilin
(December 23, 1925 - July 20, 2024)

Before his death, Zhou said, "My uncle was stabbed twice to death by Japanese soldiers. I lay a dozen meters away from my uncle and pretended to be dead, and narrowly escaped."

Inner Thoughts

A 53-Year Devotion to Spreading Nanjing Massacre History in Japan

A Japanese grandmother with glasses stood silently at the National Memorial Ceremony for the Nanjing Massacre Victims in 2024 and the Candlelight Vigil - International Peace Assembly that evening. She is Miyauchi Yoko, head of the "Kobe-Nanjing Heart-to-Heart Association" in Japan. She was born in Tokyo, Japan in 1950 and grew up in Kobe. At the age of 21, she visited China for the first time in 1971, and is now in her seventies. Before retiring, she worked as a Japanese history teacher. During her 34 years of teaching, she insisted on teaching students the history of Japanese massacre. She hopes her students can sincerely say "I'm sorry" to the Chinese people.

Miyauchi Yoko has faced pressure from her colleagues, students, and students' parents. Some parents directly requested the principal, saying, "Please don't teach such classes anymore". Miyauchi Yoko retorted that, "I teach this class for peace." She believes that students should learn about what Japan did in China and other Asian countries, not just focus on the atomic bombing event during their study trips to Hiroshima. "When Chinese people ask, 'Do you know what Japan has done?' or say, 'The atomic bombs were also self-inflicted by the Japanese!', our students can sincerely apologize to the Chinese people, allowing for reciprocal communication," she explained. She also shared that the voices of the victims and citizens she heard during her visit to Nanjing were crucial in motivating her to continue her efforts.

The Inheritance Journey of Wilson's Descendants

For 87 years, Dr. Robert Wilson's family has maintained a bond with Nanjing. From December 11 to 14, 2024, Ashleigh Jacobson, his great-granddaughter, followed in the footsteps of her family. Let's take a look at this inheritance journey that spans time and space.

