



A.L.P.H.A. BITS

November 2014
Volume 1 Issue 1

Edmonton Association for the Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia
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Special links

[Tentative itinerary of 2015
Study Tour to China and
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2014 Study Tour Reflection

By Tracy Hryciw, Calgary, AB

Dumplings. Smog. Crowds. Dragons. These are only some of the words that come to mind when people think of China. Occasionally the mind ventures further and considers the art of calligraphy or the beautiful vases of the Ming dynasty, and, for many minds, that is far enough. Yet there is so much more to discover. With a grant from Edmonton ALPHA, this past summer I was provided an opportunity to expand my knowledge of this remarkable country during the 2014 ALPHA Peace and Reconciliation Study Tour.

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201411/A1.pdf>

Waiting for the Apology

by Cam Fahlman, Edmonton ALPHA

Every so often, we hear about some photo exhibit or monument that reminds the world of a sad chapter in humankind's long story of inhumanity. One such grievous chapter is Japan's system of military sexual slavery—and its enslavement of over 200,000 women and girls known euphemistically as 'Comfort Women'.

These crimes “remain one of the greatest unacknowledged and unremedied injustices of the Second World War.

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201411/A2.pdf>

*“It is possible for today's
Japan to offer a genuine,
healing apology. But
it will take courage
and honesty.”*

Forced Labour Claims Arising from World War II in Asia

By Glenn Brandys, Toronto ALPHA. Printed with permission.



The scale of forced or slave labour used by the Japanese during World War II is quite staggering, equaling or exceeding those used by Nazi Germany; estimates have the total forced labourers coming in somewhere between ten and fifteen million. As Japan's military activities continued into the late 1930's, they began to experience an increasing labour shortage. In 1938, Japan passed the National Mobilization Law, which gave the Japanese government the ability to exert full economic and social control over Japan and its colonies; by 1942 nearly all able-bodied men were conscripted for war-related efforts, and out of the roughly seventy million person population, about ten million were mobilized for war, including women and children.

Read on . . .

http://torontoalpha.org/documents/Forced_Labour_Claims_Arising_From_World_War_II_in_Asia_GlennBrandys.pdf

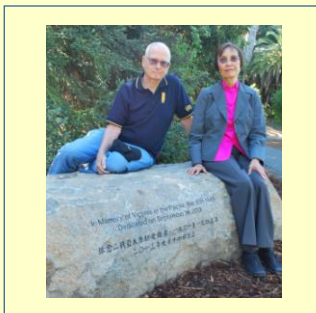
In Memorium: Remembering Peter Stanek

By Cam Fahlman, Edmonton ALPHA

Those seeking peace and reconciliation throughout the world have lost a champion. Peter Stanek, former President of Global Alliance based in California, passed away on Saturday, October 18, 2014.

I first met “Pete” in July 2009 when I joined an American study tour that was heading to China. That summer, Edmonton ALPHA sent some teachers on a similar study tour organized by Toronto ALPHA and BC ALPHA. Our predominantly American group of educators visited some of the same sites and met with some of the same victims and scholars as our Canadian colleagues.

Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201411/A4.pdf>



Pete and wife Jean atop victims' memorial stone, Sonoma, USA

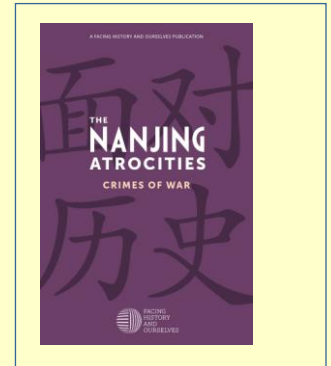
Book Review

By Edmonton ALPHA

The Nanjing Atrocities: Crimes of War is the newest publication by a wonderful American organization called Facing History and Ourselves (www.facinghistory.org) whose volunteers strive to educate others about humankind's capacity to do terrible things to one another. Brendan Edwards, one of our Edmonton ALPHA teacher members, discovered this work and its authors at a social studies conference he attended in Boston.

Facing History and Ourselves have generously offered their latest publication as a PDF for free! Please visit:

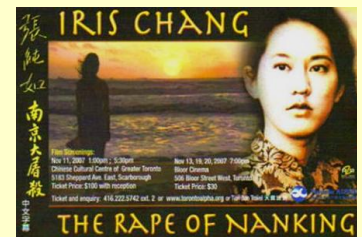
https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/publications/The_Nanjing_Atrocities_Crimes_of_War_0.pdf



Finally ALPHA Peace Dove lands in China

A synopsis report by Edmonton ALPHA

Back in 2007 Toronto ALPHA produced a docudrama entitled *Iris Chang: The Rape of Nanking* as a memorial project for the 70th anniversary of the Rape of Nanking. The premier of this docudrama in China was initially planned for Nanjing in December 2007. Olivia Cheng who played the role of Iris Chang waited patiently for 3 weeks in Hong Kong to go up to Nanjing for the premier. The call never came. The screening was postponed when then Prime Minister of Japan visited China.



Read on . . . <http://edmontonalpha.org/news/201411/A6.pdf>

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