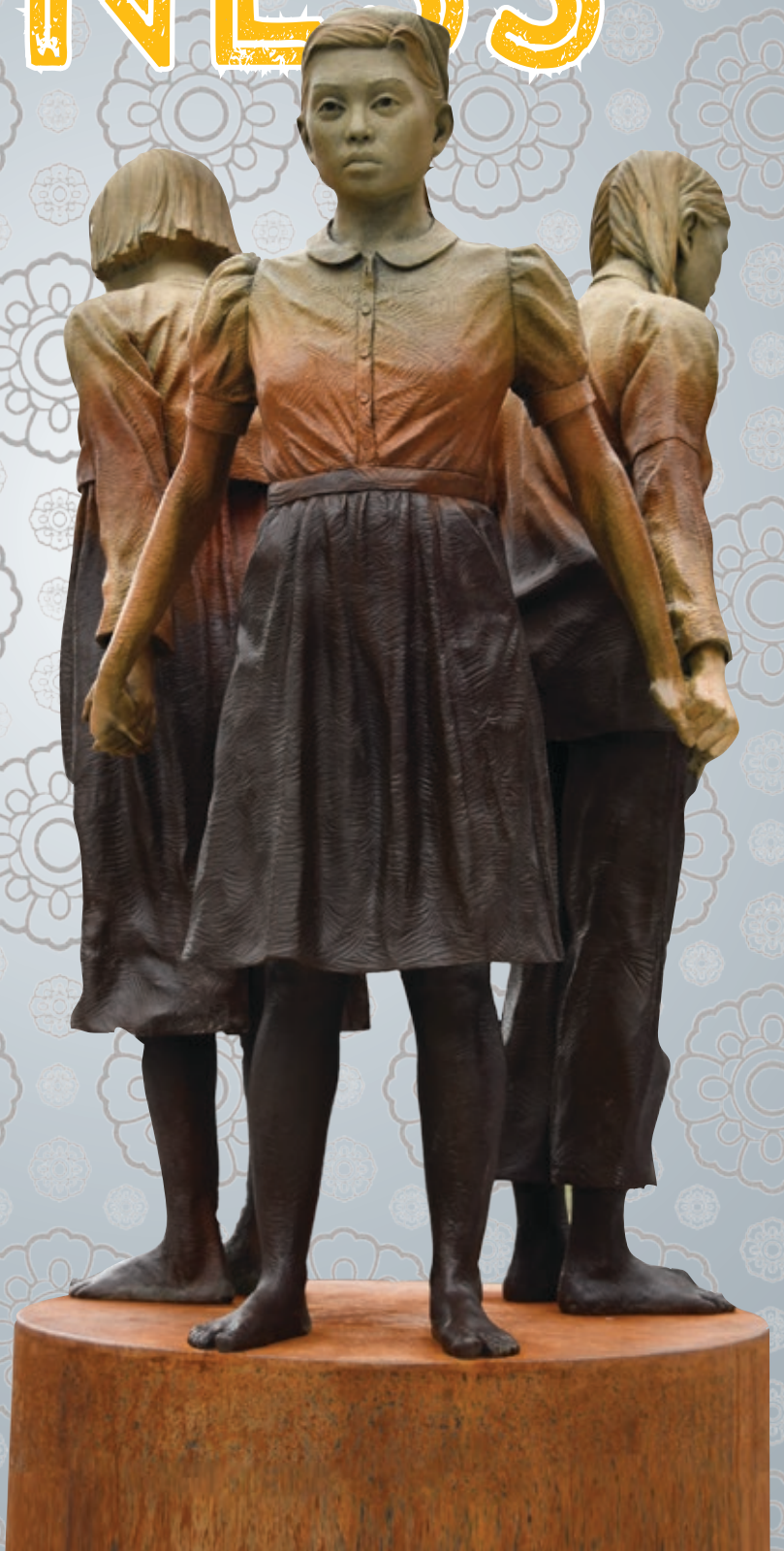


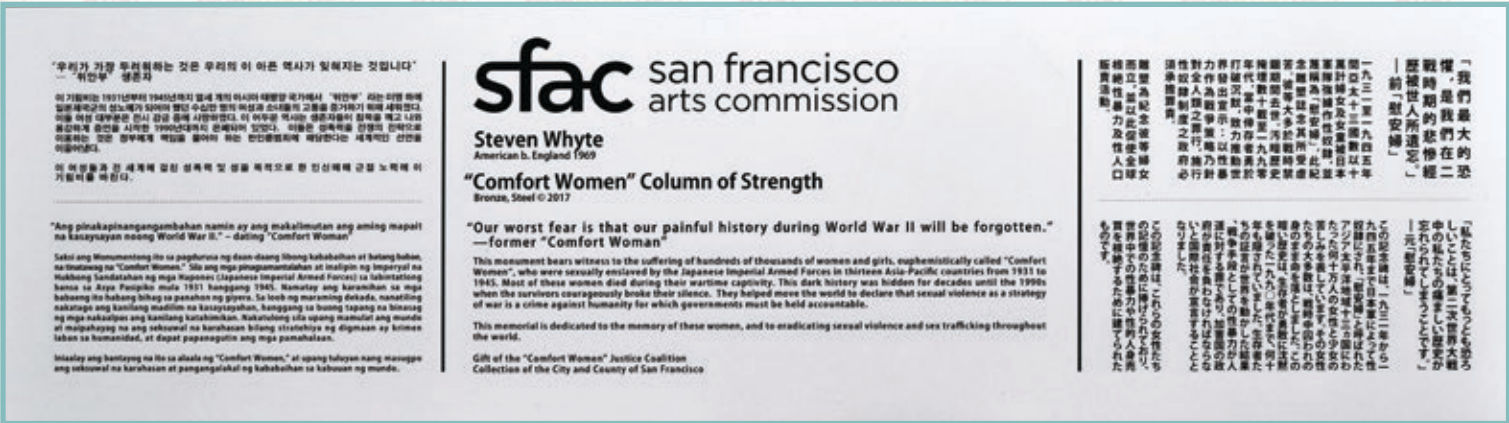
# IN HER LIKENESS

**FORGING GRASSROOTS  
SOLIDARITY IN THE FIGHT  
AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE.**

IN COMMEMORATION  
OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY  
OF "COMFORT WOMEN"—  
COLUMN OF STRENGTH

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018





This plaque is installed next to the statue. It's text is translated into Chinese, Korean, Pilipino, English, and Japanese.

**“Our worst fear is that our painful history during World War II will be forgotten.”**

—former “Comfort Woman”

**T**his monument bears witness to the suffering of hundreds of thousands of women and girls, euphemistically called “Comfort Women”, who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces in thirteen Asia-Pacific countries from 1931 to 1945. Most of these women died during their wartime captivity. This dark history was hidden for decades until the 1990s when the survivors courageously broke their silence. They helped move the world to declare that sexual violence as a strategy of war is a crime against humanity for which governments must be held accountable.

**This memorial is dedicated to the memory of these women, and to eradicating sexual violence and sex trafficking throughout the world.**

Gift of the “Comfort Women” Justice Coalition Korean American, Chinese American, Filipino American and other victim communities  
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our **“Comfort Women” Memorial First Anniversary Celebration!**

It was a year ago today, thanks to the unwavering support and solidarity of friends like you, that we overcame tremendous opposition and obstacles to introduce the “Comfort Women” Memorial, soaring proud and defiant to the world.

The powerful dignity emanating from the memorial reminds us of the sanctity of the human spirit, and the universal value of human rights—and in particular, women’s rights as human rights. It was this belief that a group of people shared to form the “Comfort Women” Justice Coalition (CWJC) in July 2015.

A sacred place for reflection and remorse, the Memorial has touched the hearts and minds of thousands of admirers—locals and visitors alike—leaving the indelible memory of the history that must never be forgotten. The women speak to us and remind us that Japan must apologize—the “Comfort Women” must have justice!

Political forces of enormous influence have schemed to turn us all away from the faceless girls and their demand for justice. And yet, we steadfastly refuse to go along. While most of the “Comfort Women” have perished, a handful of the survivors now in their 90s continue to inspire and guide our movement, testifying to remarkable human resilience, courage, and hope.

Our Memorial is also a timeless reminder of the power of our community and solidarity that strengthens our movement.

And that is why we share with you CWJC’s *In Her Likeness: Commemorative Booklet for the First Anniversary of the “Comfort Women” Memorial*, which highlights the work of our grassroots communities.

It is up to all of us to continue the work. Sexual violence must be eradicated once and for all.

In community,

Judges Lillian Sing and Julie Tang, retired,  
Co-chairs, CWJC

September 22, 2018



# “Comfort Women” | Column of Strength

## BUILDING THE “COMFORT WOMEN” STATUE IN SAN FRANCISCO

PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD have wanted to preserve the history of the “Comfort Women” and demand justice for them. In the United States, too, we wanted to join the fight. We also wanted to make sure that this history will be taught to our future generations.

It took the building of a multi-ethnic, multi-generational organization, led by two Chinese American retired judges, Judge Lillian Sing and Judge Julie Tang from



Yong Soo Lee with Supervisor Eric Mar

the Rape of Nanjing Coalition (RNRC) and anchored by an equally committed and driven coalition to get it done. The “Comfort Women” Justice Coalition (CWJC) represents the international population of the Bay Area. It’s made up of Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Filipino Americans, Japanese, women’s activists, human rights advocates, peace and veterans groups, anti-imperialists, scholars and various others!

The coalition came together around a few basic principles and goals:

- Build a memorial to the “Comfort Women” and against trafficking.
- Demand that the Japanese government issue an official apology to the survivors and their families and pay reparations.
- The Japanese Government should investigate the crimes and acknowledge the full extent of what occurred.
- We’re targeting the Japanese Government,

NOT the people of Japan

- Develop educational materials and structure to ensure that students would learn the true history of the “Comfort Women” and the issue of sexual violence during wartime.

### HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

When the idea came up for a memorial to the “Comfort Women,” it was supposed to be easy—a no brainer! Sadly, this wasn’t to be the case. CWJC faced push back from the beginning: denialists would fight the memorial every step of the way.

In July 2015 then Supervisor, Eric Mar introduced Resolution 150–764, officially calling for the building of a “Comfort Women” memorial. The resolution specifically stated the fact that the Japanese Imperial Army was responsible for the building and maintaining of the “Comfort Women” system. It demanded that the Japanese government both issue an official apology and give compensation to the surviving victims.

### MOBILIZATION OF SUPPORTERS

CWJC knew that we would need a lot of support if we were to get the resolution through the Board of Supervisors. We put out a call for support.

What followed was rather incredible. Our diverse membership base ensured a far reach into many communities and sectors. Hundreds responded to our call and showed up. The denialists and their supporters were completely outnumbered. Speaker after speaker talked about why they supported the memorial, ranging from Japanese-Americans to Koreans to Filipinas to academics and religious leaders.

**KATHY MASAOKA**, a leader of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress spoke in favor of the memorial: *“We view this as an issue of human and women’s rights and do not see it as one between China or Korea and Japan but one between the Japanese government and the “Comfort Women.” We support them and call for an apology and*



*reparations just as we did the US government on the subject of Japanese internment in this country.”*

So did **AMOS BROWN**, President, SF NAACP, who said,



*“For us, color comes in all colors. I stand here as a free thinker. To suggest to these women that what happened to them is not real is like telling a woman who was raped that it didn’t happen. I am standing in support of the statue.”*

**SHIORI HORIKAWA**, a Japanese exchange student from Tokyo studying at San Francisco State University, urged support for the Memorial, *“... as a granddaughter of “Hibakusha, survivor of the Nagasaki Hydrogen Bomb, and, as a Japanese citizen ... My grandfather and I*



*won’t ever forget about “Comfort Women” as well as all the Hibakusha, because we don’t ever want either of those things to happen again to anyone else.*

*To seek Peace, the important thing is to learn from the past. But if you don’t establish the memorial in this diverse city, San Francisco, I feel that you support hiding the past in the name of Japanese nationalism.*

*I believe the resolution has the power to lead our world to peace in the future, by helping us remember the history of the victims.”*

## CWJC CONVINCES EDUCATORS TO TEACH ABOUT “COMFORT WOMEN”!!

CWJC immediately went to the San Francisco School Board and lobbied for the issue of the “Comfort Women” to be included in high school curriculum. The US is notoriously Eurocentric. There is very little written about Japan’s wartime atrocities in general, let alone about the “Comfort Women”. However, despite the presence of denialists at the hearings, the issue of the “Comfort Women” will now be taught to tenth graders.

The California State Board of Education has also advised local school boards to include education about the “Comfort Women” in all their curricula as well.

**“GRANDMA” YONG SOO LEE** testified as well and brought the audience to tears: *“I came here as a living evidence of history and I want to tell this beautiful city to please lift my sadness and erect a memorial. I came as a witness to history, but I am more than that: I came here as an activist who is trying to solve the history [“Comfort Women”] for the sake of women’s rights around the world. And for the sake of these women, I am determined to solve this problem!”*



After a heated debate with hundreds of testimonies spanning over four hours, the Resolution was passed unanimously on September 22, 2015.

## BUILDING THE STATUE

We then launched an international competition to get a design for the statue. Finalists were chosen by a panel of art experts and community members and Steven Whyte’s Column of Strength was the winner. Along with the statue would be a plaque explaining who these women were to the general public. Once again we had to fight through many public hearings for the language. The denialists argued over every single word!

The plaque itself is translated into English, Korean, Pilipino, Chinese and Japanese.

On September 22, 2017, a mere two years since the resolution passed, the statue was unveiled in a ceremony attended by more than 500 people, including members from the Board of Supervisors, representatives from the governor’s office, state senators and leaders of community NGO’s and organizations. Among notable speakers was Mike Honda, who as state assembly person had sponsored CA Assembly Bill HJR 27 in 1999 and House bill HR 121 in 2007 as a Congressperson demanding an official government apology from Japan. Grandma Young Soo Lee of course was the highlight. News media from around the world filmed the proceedings.

continued next page



**WHAT NOW?**

Story over? Not quite. The Board of Supervisors had to accept the statue as an official gift to the City and County of San Francisco, which it did. Once that was done, the then-Mayor, Ed Lee, had to sign the acceptance.

Osaka Mayor Yoshimura wrote to Mayor Lee urging him not to accept the statue. Doing so, he insisted, would do irreparable harm to the sixty-year old sister-city relationship between Osaka and San Francisco. In fact, Mayor Yoshimura continued, if the statue became official public property, then he would be forced to totally end that relationship.

Mayor Lee didn't bow to the threats and on November 22, 2017, he signed the resolution accepting the statue, thus making it official San Francisco property. Despite pressure from Japan, the newly

elected Mayor London Breed has continued to honor that commitment. The statue is here to stay!

**THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES**

CWJC can now focus on its second phase of work of publicizing the statue and educating the public. The Abe administration in Japan is not an aberration, it is part of a worldwide trend towards militarism and fascism, which

always brings with it the targeting of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Our work has to be within this context, just as it always must consider the issue of women's human rights, racial justice and decolonization as part and parcel of the struggle for justice and peace.

We will continue to hold the Japanese government accountable for its wartime crimes, and demand an official apology, compensation, and justice for "Comfort Women." ■

**OFFICIAL DATE RELATING TO "COMFORT WOMEN" IN SAN FRANCISCO**

We successfully urged the City to adopt the Resolution declaring September 22, 2017 as "Comfort Women" Day in the City and County of San Francisco.



SF students performing their original play at the memorial unveiling

# COMFORT

BY LETICIA GUZMAN, CHABOT COLLEGE

Recruited like soldiers for soldiers  
 Bodies like battlefields, call them survivors  
 These women are warriors  
 Once, kept captive  
 Kept quiet  
 Kept to be kept to be used for comfort  
 Today, there is finally some comfort  
 Today, they're survivors  
 Innocence robbed but spirit could never be taken  
 These bodies more than stone  
 More than still  
 More than scarred  
 These bodies, sacred  
 Today, survivors  
 Like always  
 Know that there are 46 women still alive  
 Listen to the 200,000 women who didn't make it  
 Listen to the women who wont be silenced  
 25 years of protest and Japan still fails  
 to acknowledge their violations

*Poet, Leticia Guzman is a queer Chicanx poeta from Hayward CA, who finds courage and empowerment in writing about their experiences. Bay Area's 2017 Brave New Voices team member, published b the San Francisco Currant Theatre "If You Knew My Story." Leticia Is an ethnic studies major who works towards creating safe spaces for youth.*

Today, a monument on the other side of the world  
 To acknowledge their struggle  
 This poem, in solidarity  
 More than just listening  
 More than just watching  
 Every woman's voice heard through this activism  
 Know that this resistance, still continues  
 Today, there is some comfort  
 Like always there's been women  
 Resisting  
 Fighting  
 Continuing  
 Always.



Yong Soo Lee at the first Unveiling.

# IN HER LIKENESS

*On International Women's Day 2018, women from the Bay Area's diverse communities gathered together at the statue. We built altars to honor the experiences of women fighting violence in all its forms.*

*In doing so we built a living bridge between the "Comfort Women" and all women around the world.*

## **Remembering Indigenous Women**



We stand here today to recognize the many missing and murdered indigenous women across Turtle Island and Canada. One out of three indigenous women are raped every year. It wasn't until 2014 that President Obama signed a law that made it illegal for people to basically hunt Native women on reservations and not have to deal with consequences because they were non-Native men who were doing it.

Because of the settler-colonial project that started on our land we are still being used as weapons of war in our own lands. What happens to our land—when our land is taken advantage of ... when our land is raped, the same thing happens to women's bodies all over the world. We were taught in ceremony was that it is now the time for women to stand in their rightful place in this world, to stand in our power, to stand as partners with men.

It is time for us to have the voice for our sisters and our aunts and our grandmothers, our mothers and our daughters and our granddaughters.

For so long men have used land as a way of ownership of our bodies as well. Now it's time for us to stand up against the wars of humanity. It is our special relationship with the land as women, as caretakers of medicine, as women who hold water in our bodies to

hold the next generation of children to come. To stand up and say "No more!"

—Corrina Gould,

Indian People Organizing for Change, from  
"Honoring missing and murdered indigenous women"

## **Remembering Migrant Women @ the Border**

We honor the one in seven persons in the world who is an international or internal migrant

We honor women today who are facing the hard reality of forced migration.

Forced by the lack of jobs and failed government policies to ensure dignified work and decent wages at factories sewing t-shirts.



Forced by contamination of lands by international mining and land evictions to grow export crops.

Unable to feed her children, pay their school fees, buy shoes, her only option is to seek work elsewhere—the big city—or the next rich country which will pay 10 times what she would earn in a day at home.

Because of violence ... from intimate partners, or



strangers who target trans, lesbian, gay and women's bodies. Violence rooted in governments which fail to prosecute gender motivated killings. Her only option is to migrate for lack of justice and a place to breathe free.

We honor all women today who are on the journey.

—Rev. Debbie Lee,  
Women for Genuine Security, "Border Litany"

## Sumoud



My altar honors Palestinian women living under Israeli occupation. This Occupation is the epitome of a colonizing entity stealing a people's land—occupying the land and oppressively asserting control over the people of that land, and attempting to appropriate the culture of that land and people.

The women of Palestine engage in sumoud, an Arabic word meaning "steadfastness".

They do this by

- continuing to exist in the face of an entity that foists destruction on them;
- remaining on their land & preserving their culture in the face of brutal military occupation forces; and
- staying put and carrying on daily life that the colonizer is continually clamps down on.

Today, 62 Palestinian women and girls hang on to their sumoud in Israeli prisons: nine of them were shot and injured, 17 of them are mothers, and six of them are minors.

Last December, Ahed Tamimi was snatched from her home at the age of 16. She turned 17 in an Israeli prison for slapping an Israeli soldier! Sh is represented here in this altar. Her mother was detained that same day when she went to check on Ahed in detention,

Since 1967, over 10,000 Palestinian women and girls have been arrested and detained by Israeli occupation forces.

—Arla S. Ertz,  
San Francisco Women in Black

**IT IS TIME FOR US TO HAVE  
THE VOICE FOR OUR SISTERS  
AND OUR AUNTIES AND OUR  
GRANDMOTHERS, OUR MOTHERS  
AND OUR DAUGHTERS AND  
OUR GRANDDAUGHTERS.**

—Corrina Gould,  
Indian People Organizing for Change

## Honoring Korean women affected by military violence

On August 14, 1991, Haksoon Kim came out from her silence and testified in public about her traumatic experience as a comfort woman. Her testimony



soon helped to draw public attention to the issue of Japanese sex slavery during WW2. It also inspired courage in other victims, prompting them to open up about their own wounds and pain.

In 1992, Yun Kuem-Y, an employee at a night club, was brutally murdered by US soldier, private Kenneth Lee Markle. Criticism soared because he could only be tried under US not Korean jurisdiction.

Hyo-sun Shin and Mi-seon Shim were middle school girls. On June 13, 2002, they were walking along a public road. A US Army armored vehicle struck the girls, and drove over their bodies. The American soldiers involved were found not guilty of negligent homicide. This incident was significant in inflaming anti-militarism and anti-American sentiment in South Korea.

So, today we are creating an altar for these four women here not just to remember, but to empower us by keeping their spirits alive in our movement on International Women's Day.

—Misuk Nam,  
One Heart for Justice

## Remembering Trans Women



“These were made in honor of trans women. A lot of these young women who have been killed have just disappeared from public awareness, so this is a tribute to them.”

—Asian American Pacific Islander students,  
UC Berkeley



## GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM IN CHINA TOUCHES OUR HEARTS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Mr. Zhang Shuang Bing, a teacher based in China, is a grassroots activist who has travelled throughout Shanxi and Hebei provinces since the 1990s to track down Chinese "Comfort Women." He personally worked with them, encouraged them to break their silences, and helped them file lawsuits against Japan in Tokyo courts, using his own savings and resources to pursue these lawsuits. Unfortunately, none of the lawsuits filed in Japan have succeeded. But he never gave up. He contacted Mr. Shang Yue Ping, a famed filmmaker, and persuaded him to direct and produce a movie about them, culminating in the production of critically acclaimed *Da Han* (2018), the first-ever Chinese movie to focus on China's largely forgotten "Comfort Women." *Da Han* will premier at the "Comfort Women" Memorial First Anniversary Celebration event at City College of San Francisco.



## UNITED FOR COMPASSION— A Japantown Gathering Against Hate

**W**e of CWJC stand with you in solidarity today. As we think of the threat to Muslims and the many others targeted as so-called enemy today, we remember the internment during WWII and we say: **IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!**

As we think of the millions of Latinos who are threatened with the separation of their families and deportation, we remember the Chinese Exclusion Act and we say: **IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!**

As we think of the young Black men and women shot down in their youth and the millions locked up in US prisons, we remember the lynchings and enslavement that went on for hundreds of years and we say: **IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!**

As we think of the Indigenous peoples protecting their land at Standing Rock, we remember the centuries of genocide and theft of land and we say:

### IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!

As we learn that Supreme Court nominees want to make LGBTQIs outlaws once again, we remember all those who have been bullied, jailed and killed for just being true themselves and we say: **IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!**



As we think of all the women and girls who are victims of sexual violence both here and around the world, we think of the hundreds of thousands of "Comfort Women" and we say: **IT MUST NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!**

We stand here in solidarity with all who are threatened by this nationalistic, xenophobic, racist, misogynist and oppressive "reality." It must not happen again.

**AND UNITED—ALL OF US TOGETHER, IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN!**

—Grace Shimizu  
for CWJC, 11-22-2016

# GIYERA

**BY JOI BARRIOS**

## 1. BAHAY-PAHINGAHAN

Hala, hala, pasok pasok na  
sa bahay pahingahan  
ng sundalong dayuhan.

Ang babae dito, araw-araw naliligo,  
hindi puwede ang may sakit,  
sapin sa kama ay laging malinis.

Uno singkuwenta ang Filipina,  
para sa sundalong mula  
sa Taiwan o Korea.

Apatnapung minutong ligaya.  
Sa Hapong opisyal na nais ng Haponesa,  
gawing sampung piso  
at puwede nang magpa-umaga.

Hala, hala, pasok pasok na.  
Sa paghimlay sa kanyang dibdib,  
may alaala ni ina.

Bukas ng umaga,  
bayani kang mag-aalay ng buhay,  
ika'y sasahimpapawid,  
Hindi na kailanman  
sa lupa magbabalik.

## 2. INASAWA NG HAPON

Hindi ako nakapasok sa simbahan  
sa tapat ng bahay-pahingahan  
na kung tawagin nila'y Asia Hall.  
Ngunit narinig marahil ng mga santa  
ang aking mga nobena.

## WAR

### 1. THE REST-HOUSE BROTHEL

Come on, come on, come in  
to our rest house for  
foreign soldiers.

The girls here, they bathe everyday,  
the sick ones we throw out,  
the bedsheets and linens  
are always clean.

Only one fifty for a Filipina,  
for a soldier come down  
from Taiwan or Korea.  
Forty minutes of pleasure.  
For a Japanese official who  
prefers Nipponese,  
make it ten pesos,  
leave when you please.

Come on, come on, come in.  
When you rest on their breasts  
you'll remember your mother.  
Come tomorrow morning,  
you'll give your life as a hero,  
Kamikaze in the air,  
Spirit flying, falling faster.

### 2. THE JAPANESE SOLDIER'S MISTRESS

I could not get into the church  
beside the rest-house brothel  
they call Asia Hall.  
But it seems the saints have heard  
my novena.

Isang araw, may kapitang dumating.  
Kailangan niya ng labandera't kusinera.  
Salamat, Santa Clara, salamat.  
makatatakas na rin  
sa araw-araw na gahasa.

Sa araw, nagluluto ako't naglalaba,  
sa gabi, nakahilata sa kama.  
Salamat, Santa Regina,  
higit na mainam nga ba  
ang gahasa ng isa  
kaysa ng dalawampu't dalawa?  
Salamat, Santa Rita de Casia,  
salamat sa isda at kanin sa hapag,  
salamat sa kamay na hindi lumalapat  
sa aking pisngi,  
salamat at naituro ninyo sa akin  
ang pagiging mabait at masunurin.

Sa kalye, sa palengke,  
masakit ang iwasan at umiwas.  
Kaya't sa pag-iisa,  
nagpapasalamat ako sa mga  
santang nakakausap.

Natapos ang giyera,  
at sa paglikas ng kaaway,  
kasama akong napatakbo  
sa kabundukan.  
Ay mga santa, ako'y samahan,  
paanong haharap kapag naabutan  
ng kababayan?

Ay, Santa Clara, sila'y pumaligid.  
Buhok ko'y hinila, hinablot, tinapyas,  
sa lupa'y ikinalat.

One day, a captain arrived.  
He needed a washerwoman,  
and a cook too.  
Thank you, Saint Clara, thank you.  
I escape at last from this life  
and the rape that comes daily.

By day, I cook and wash his clothes,  
by night, he lays my body across the bed.  
Thank you, Saint Regina,  
Is it better to be raped by the same man  
or twenty-two different ones?  
Thank you, Saint Rita of Casia,  
thank you for the rice and  
fish on the table,  
thank you for the heavy  
hands that don't land  
on my face,  
thank you for teaching me how  
to be polite and obedient.

On the street, in the market,  
it stings to be avoided and to avoid.  
So whenever I'm alone,  
I give thanks for the saints  
that speak to me.

War is over,  
and in the enemy's departure,  
they have dragged me with  
them into the mountains.  
Blessed saints, be with me,  
how will I face my people  
when they find us?

Oh, Saint Clara, they have us surrounded.  
They pull my hair, tear it  
from my head, cut  
and scatter it on the ground.

Ay Santa Rita, kaytalar ng patalim.  
Kaylupit ng mga mata.  
Kaysakit ng mga salita.  
Bilis, bilis,  
itarak niyo na sa dibdib.

Ay Santa Regina, wala nang talab  
ang mga nobena.  
Ang inasawa ng kaaway  
ay walang takas.  
Sa simula't wakas ng giyera  
ay babaeng bihag.

### 3. GERILYERANG HUK

Ano ang kulay ng tagumpay?  
Kasing-bughaw ba ng langit  
na ngayo'y natatanaw  
at ng bandilang pinangarap  
makipagsayaw sa hangin?

Ano ang kulay ng tagumpay?  
Kayumangging tulad ng  
lupang mapagbiyaya?  
Luntian bang tulad ng mga dahon  
na nagkubli sa akin sa kabundukan?  
Gintong tulad ng palay  
na inaasam kapag anihan?

Ano ang kulay ng tagumpay?  
Ito ang aking nalalaman:  
Kulay-gatas ang balat  
ng mga sundalong dumating  
pagkatapos ng digmaan.  
Pagkatapos naming  
magwagi at maagaw

Blessed Saint Rita, their  
blades are so sharp.  
Their eyes so cold.  
Their words so cruel.  
Haste, haste,  
thrust the blade through my heart.

Oh, Saint Regina, my novenas  
fall on deaf ears.  
The enemy's mistress  
will meet no mercy.  
From start to end of war  
a woman captive, spoken for.

### 3. THE HUK GUERRILLA

What is the color of victory?  
Stunning azure of the heavens  
now mirrored from a distance  
in the banner of our hope  
that flies in the wind?

What is the color of victory?  
Deep dark brown of earth  
in all its bounty?  
Lush bright green of leaves and grasses  
that cover and conceal me in  
the tallest mountains?  
Sticky sweet gold like a grain of rice  
treasured and lucky come harvest time?

What is the color of victory?  
I have learned this much:  
Milk white is the color  
of the soldiers come  
after the war.  
When we had finally rent and wrestled  
ang bayan mula sa mga kaaway,  
Kulay-gatas ang balat ng mga sundalong  
inangkin ang aming tagumpay.

Nagdilim ang aking paningin  
nang pinilit nilang agawin  
ang aming mga armas.  
Ay, nagsa-hunyango ang mga Pilipinong  
kaydaling isuko sa ibang mananakop  
itong kalayaan.

Kami'y tinambangan.  
Sunod-sunod na putok ng baril.  
Ay inang, ay amang,  
kulay-pula ang lupa na aking niyakap  
nang bumagsak,  
at natiyak ng puso  
bago ang hininga'y mapugto,  
na hindi, hindi dito dapat,  
ang digmaa'y magwakas.  
our lands from the hands of our enemies,  
Milk white is the color of the soldiers  
who claimed our hard won victory.

My vision grew dim  
when they bid us  
put down our weapons.  
Strange, how quick and easy we Filipinos  
relinquished that  
freedom.

We were overwhelmed.  
Shots fired without end.  
Oh mothers, oh fathers,  
blood red is the color of the ground  
that embraced my falling body,  
and my heart grew sure  
before I took my last breath,  
that here was not, and is not  
the place this war will end.



Maria Josephine Barrios, popularly known as Joi Barrios, is a poet, activist, script-writer, actress, translator and teacher.

She serves as a Lecturer teaching Filipino and Philippine Literature at the University of California, Berkeley while on leave as an Associate Professor from the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD). Joi is a long time supporter of the "comfort women."

# The Unveiling

On behalf of the Korean community I welcome you to this “Comfort Women” memorial unveiling. It is significant that the Korean, Chinese and Filipino communities have all worked together to build this memorial and this is the first time in history that we see all three communities represented in such a statue. Our intercultural relationship is very special.

It is the wish of all survivors, their families and communities, and the sponsors of the memorial that the “Comfort Women” find peace and that their hardship be a cautionary tale for generations to come. As stewards of this monument, it is our intention to honor the sacrifices of the “Comfort Women” in ever widening circles. Knowledge is power, and the more we share the tragic story of the “Comfort Women”, the more chances we have to help victims of sex trafficking and sexual violence in the world today.

Jonathan H. Kim, Chairman  
Jin Duck & Kyung Sik Kim Foundation



Grandma Lee, Mike Honda, Eric Mar, and others at the Unveiling. Photo by Frank Jang

# Congratulations and Solidarity Messages

Congratulations on the great achievement embodying your long-term effort to reconnect and reinvent the memories of AMAs, in which we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you, as always.

*Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation and AMA Museum*



The United Public Workers For Action UPWA welcomes the 1st anniversary of the San Francisco "Comfort Women" Memorial. The need for remembrance and education continue today as there is a growing danger of militarism and war in Asia and throughout the world. Public teachers are also threatened in Japan for teaching the truth about the role of the Japanese Imperial Army during the 2nd WW. This memorial stands for justice for all.

*The United Public Workers For Action UPWA*



Congratulations on the first anniversary of the installation of the San Francisco Memorial. Let us continue to work together in sowing the seeds of hope for the future.

*Seed of Hope Foundation*

As we approach the First Anniversary, we published the record of our visit to San Francisco from back in March in a book titled "The Girls Memorial: Facing the Future with Dignity" by Mitsuko Hirai. With this book, we will continue to tell the stories of the "Comfort Women" and the truth of their history here in Osaka, and throughout Japan.

*People of Osaka Connecting Heart2Heart with San Francisco*

The Japanese sexual slavery system was established in context of Japan's wars of imperial aggression. Tragically, Japan's leaders today not only refuse to learn from this history, they vehemently deny it. In midst of such a dark reality, the San Francisco Memorial remind us of hope. On this occasion of the First Anniversary of the "Comfort Women" Memorial, we hereby recommit to rising up and growing our trans-Pacific solidarity with our friends in San Francisco and beyond!

*Korea NGO Center*

The SF/Bay Area Nikkei Resisters celebrate the first anniversary of the SF "Comfort Women" Memorial and congratulate CWJC for their fearless advocacy to make this memorial a reality. As Japanese Americans, it is essential for our community to recognize the violence carried about by Japanese military forces and remain on the frontline to demand justice for all "Comfort Women"!

*Nikkei Resisters*

Members of GABRIELA USA send our heartfelt solidarity on this one year anniversary of the "Comfort Women" memorial in San Francisco. We will continue to fight boldly to defend the "Comfort Women"'s dignity and their right to justice and we are committed to continue to educate our community on what happens to women during times of war and conflict. From the legacy of resistance of our Lolos, we will continue to RISE for justice for the "Comfort Women", RESIST militarization, and UNITE to fight against imperialist wars!

*GABRIELA USA*



We join you today in commemorating the “Comfort Women.” Most of our Lolas have now passed away and it is now for our younger generation to carry on the legacy they have bequeathed to us. That through their struggle we may also oppose military sexual slavery by any foreign aggressor. It is a crime against humanity that should never ever happen again. Justice for all victims of Japanese wartime military sexual slavery.

**GABRIELA, National Alliance of Filipina Women**

**As a Sansei whose father and grandparents were incarcerated in Japanese American concentration camps, I wholeheartedly support such a memorial.**

**As one of the few groups of people recognized by the U.S. government for having been racially targeted, Japanese Americans can draw upon our history to connect with the plight of other communities of color. Sexual violence towards women and girls and human trafficking should not be tolerated in any context.”**

—Lisa Nakamura,

“Reflections on Day of Remembrance,” Nichi Bei Times, Feb. 16, 2018

On its first anniversary, CODEPINK Honolulu and Veterans for Peace Hawaii congratulate the organizers of the memorial in San Francisco dedicated to “Comfort Women” for reminding us of the atrocities of war!

**Code Pink Honolulu**

CODEPINK San Francisco is happy to honor the struggle of the “Comfort Women” and join in the first anniversary celebration. We congratulate all who worked so hard to make this a reality. How wonderful to have this memorial in our city!

**Code Pink Berkeley**

We have repeatedly protested the deeds and words of the current and previous Osaka Mayors as the city’s residents. We also mobilized hundreds to people to support the advocacy led by CWJC to erect the Memorial. As a steadfast ally of your efforts here in San Francisco, we have no doubt that our relationships cannot be severed simply by the termination of our official Sister City Relationship, as tragic as it is. Let us continue to work together in solidarity, for true justice for “Comfort Women” as soon as possible, and build a society where women’s human rights and peace will prevail.

**Kansai Network to Resolve the “Comfort Women” Issue**

Nowadays the cases of the military sexual violence are most visible in Okinawa, where the US military is stationed and its soldiers and personnel have kept raping and killing young girls and women. The dignity of women as humans is at stake in “the “Comfort Women” issue” as well. We congratulate the citizens of San Francisco for your courage and tireless efforts in building the beautiful memorial and appealing to the world. We express our support to and solidarity with you all.

**Citizens’ Forum to Improve Osaka**



We are proud to be associated with the “Comfort Women” Justice Coalition to gain justice for hundreds of thousands of women and girls who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese military during World War II. Japan must apologize to all these women and to the world communities for such a colossal crime against humanity.

***Alliance for Preserving the Truth of the Sino-Japanese War***

Congratulations to “Comfort Women” Justice Coalition for the successful installation of the memorial in 2017, and for being the guardian of the Memorial in this past year. Let us join hands and work for peace together and not allow this dark “Comfort Women” history to be ever repeated. Thank you, CWJC, for your leadership.

***“Rape of Nanjing” Redress Coalition***

We stand with CWJC and all its partner organizations, and applaud the successful building of a Memorial to the “Comfort Women”. We are proud of our joint efforts to work against Japan’s WWII sexual slavery institution in Asia and remind the world that Japan still has not apologized nor repented for this serious war crime.

***Global Alliance for Preserving the History of WWII in Asia***

The Indo Project would like to congratulate the CWJC with the first anniversary of the “Comfort Women” memorial in San Francisco: in a time when women worldwide continue to be marginalized and abused, this memorial is an important reminder that our fight for women’s rights continues.

***INDO Project***

Congratulations as you commemorate the 1st Anniversary of the “Comfort Women” Memorial. We stand in solidarity with you for continued education on past war atrocities, and vigilance against the build up of militarism in Japan, Asia, and the world.

***California Nevada United Methodist Church Committee on Advocacy & Justice***

We, Zainichi Koreans remember Grandma Song Shin Do and all other “comfort women” who fight for justice. Congratulations. We’re proud to be part of this movement.

***Eclipse Rising***

Congratulations on the 1st Anniversary of CWM! Stands up high! We will remember you! The truth will be revealed!

***California/Nevada United Methodist Korean Women***

Whether in Asia during World War II or in Haiti today, military occupation targets women- and women’s fight for dignity and justice is of paramount importance. On the occasion of the first anniversary of the installation of the “Comfort Women” statue in San Francisco, we stand in solidarity with the struggle to expose and end sexual violence.

***Haiti Action Committee***

The NLG SF/BA strongly supports the “Comfort Women” Memorial and the efforts of our allies to hold the Japanese government accountable for the enslavement of hundreds of thousands of women during World War II. This 1st anniversary serves as an important reminder that we must continue to work towards demanding justice and self-determination for victims of wartime sexual violence.

***The National Lawyers Guild SF/BA***

Congratulations to the “Comfort Women” Justice Coalition on the first anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial in San Francisco! We remember all those who suffer military sexual violence, past and present. In solidarity—

***Women for Genuine Security***



# Insufficient Song to a 14-Year-Old Comfort Woman

BY PETER KENICHI YAMAMOTO

Your lingering darknesses  
Brought to your throat from the  
Pit  
Of your  
Stomach  
In waves of utter pain to wash  
Your life  
Overboard again and again  
Daily your search fills a galleon of hurt  
Your experience of every day  
Of rape after rape after rape  
And we do remember  
You  
My dear lady  
My young daughter  
My little sister  
Dying death after death  
And falling day after day  
And living the hurt  
Of a woman's wartime  
Comfort Woman's  
Bondage to  
Man.  
We do  
Remember . . .

*Peter Kenichi Yamamoto became an activist in the 1970s as a resident at the I-Hotel during its final days. He served the National Japanese American Historical Society as a volunteer for many years. He continued to support various social justice causes as a prolific poet, thinker, and community activist "who always put people and their struggles first." He was a staunch supporter and dear friend of CWJC helping to galvanize support for the "Comfort Women" Memorial in JapanTown, His absence is sorely missed.*





Photo: Steve Zeltzer

## “COMFORT WOMEN” JUSTICE COALITION

The First Anniversary Celebration is Sponsored by CWJC, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Filipino-American communities & our allies.

We'd like to thank the State of California and City College of San Francisco for hosting the “Comfort Women” photo exhibition

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[www.remembercomfortwomen.org](http://www.remembercomfortwomen.org)

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### IN MEMORIAM

To the “Comfort Women” who passed on this year and  
Peter Kenichi Yamamoto (1954–2018).  
We will always love and remember you.



**"COMFORT WOMEN"**  
JUSTICE COALITION