

Remembering the “Forgotten War” by Koreans of Diaspora in the United States

The tension between North Korea and the U.S. has escalated to the highest level since the Korean War. Yet, Christine Hong observes, “The American public quietism with regard to the prospect of renewed U.S. aggression against North Korea is remarkable.” Could it be because this particular war is *forgotten* in the American consciousness? That may be so. However, there are many Koreans and Korean Americans for whom this war is nothing but forgotten, and they are breaking out of silence. You are invited to listen to Rev. Ann Rhee Menzie, Rev. Hi Dong Kang, Rev. Duk Joong Won and many others as they remember their experience with the war. The following three stories all come from <http://legaciesofthekoreanwar.org/story/>.

Rev. Hi Dong Kang was conscripted into the North Korean army in September, 1950 only to be taken prisoner by American forces ten days later. He spent the remainder of the war in a POW camp and was one of a small number of POWs who chose passage to a neutral nation, India, following the armistice signing. After a two-year sojourn in India, he went to Brazil, became and served many churches in Brazil as a Presbyterian pastor. As of 2017 he lives with one of his two daughters in northern California. He dreams of going home. <http://legaciesofthekoreanwar.org/story/reverend-hi-dong-kang/>

Ms. Eun-Joung Lee is a 1.5 generation Korean American woman living in Oakland, and she speaks about the impact of silence on the lives of younger generation Korean Americans. <http://legaciesofthekoreanwar.org/story/eun-joung-lee/>

Rev. Ann Menzie is a Presbyterian minister. She has not seen her father since age four. She was told her father went missing during the war. <http://legaciesofthekoreanwar.org/story/reverend-ann-rhee-menzie/>

For more stories, go to <http://legaciesofthekoreanwar.org/story-archive/>

Also recommended is a award winning documentary film *Memory of the Forgotten War* <http://www.mufilms.org/films/memory-of-forgotten-war/#.Wj7e463MzCV>

Read the following two reflections written by two Koreans in diaspora who have directly and indirectly experienced the Korean War. They are both teaching elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Memories of *Chunhyang*” by the Rev. J.P. Kang. Text file

Rev. J.P Kang is a second-generation Korean American and lifelong Presbyterian, serving since 2009 as an Associate Pastor of the Japanese Presbyterian Church of Seattle and since 2014 as a professor of Bible at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. His interests include reading the Bible as a resource for recovery from trauma, with special focus on the themes of exile and return.

Rev. Edwin Kang Remembers

Text file

The Rev. Edwin E Kang is a minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who retired from ministry after serving churches in Delaware and Ohio as pastor, a missionary in Congo and Japan, staff on the National Capital Presbytery and Mission Associate of Synod of the Northeast, an Interim Executive Presbyter. He is one of tens of thousands of Koreans who have been separated from their families by the division.