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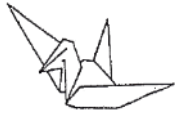
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Why Korean PAX? What's it like? How does it work? Should I join?

Jim Ronald, Korean PAX Coordinator

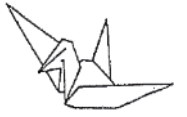
The answers to all these questions can be found in the reports of this year's Korean PAX participants, some of which are below. So please feel free to stop reading this introduction and go straight there!

As a result of almost no history education in Japan regarding its relations with Korea over the past 100 years, together with the twisted perspectives of some Japanese media and politicians, many Japanese people grow up with ignorance of what happened in the first half of the 20th century, together with feelings towards Korean people that range between distrust and hatred. Sadly, this is still true today. Koreans know much more about our shared history, and even know more than we about current-day Japanese politicians whose ancestors were involved in the mistreatment or deaths of Korean people. No wonder that many Koreans also feel distrustful of Japanese people, and even regarding Hiroshima and its message of peace may feel, "You think you are victims? Do you have any idea of what you did to our people?"



This is why Japanese people, and Korean people, need Korean PAX. At the heart of the Korean PAX program is a warm, generous welcome, from staying in the homes of Korean or Japanese hosts to eating together, talking together, and being honest together. And sometimes singing together at karaoke, playing together with children, too. And sometimes crying together, too. This year a team of eight people from Hiroshima, including a hibakusha and five high school students, joined the PAX program to Korea. Last year, we hosted a visit from eight Koreans. One day, sitting in a rest lodge in Shukkeien, as we were resting and reflecting on Korean PAX so far, one Korean participant just started crying, thankfully, saying, "But why are you so kind to us, so generous?" For many of us, our response, also with tears, might be, "Because you Korean PAX people were so kind and generous to us first, so welcoming, loving, and forgiving!"

We are blessed with an amazing Korean PAX partner organisation, KOPI, together with the various other peace practitioners housed in Peace Building, at the edge of the suburbs of Seoul. We are so thankful to this year's program managers, Yoonseo Park and Abby Long, for planning everything with care, to each host family for their warm and generous welcome, and each person who took part – as driver, guide, translator, helper, and friend!



Welcoming party for Herb Tsuchiya's family

Michiko Yamane

On Monday, May 20, 2024, we welcomed Herb Tsuchiya's family of four from Seattle and held a welcome potluck party. Herb unfortunately passed away on August 21, 2023, last year, due to a brain tumor. The family consisted of Herb's daughter Kerry, her husband Ben, their daughter Teri, and their son Cory.

In August 2013, we had an unforgettable time with Herb at the reciting drama of "Breaking the Silence" and the One World Peace Concert by Mike Stern in Hiroshima. Herb called us BFF (Best Friends Forever).

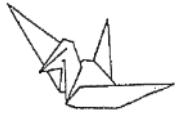
From September to October 2013, the peace mission of 16 people (12 women and 4 men) visited the United States. It was made possible by the contributions of former directors, JoAnn and Larry Sims, to accept such a large number of people. In Seattle, Fujii-san, Kenzo Tanaka san, Soh Horie-san and Ron-sensei had a wonderful time home-staying at Herb-san's house. Since then, Fujii-san has been in contact with Ben-san. This welcome party was made possible thanks to Fujii-san, who is an honorary board member of WFC.

At the party, many delicious meals were prepared, and entertainment programs were held by the directors, Peace Choir and the English classes. Yukiko Tanaka-san gave them peace dolls and a table center made from kimono sashes, which were very appreciated.

In September 2015, Asaka Watanabe, Miho Ikeda, and I participated in the 40th anniversary of the Peace Resource Center. We also went to Seattle and stayed at Herb-san's house. JoAnn & Larry and Herb-san took us to the park that Schmoe-san built, and we saw the thousand paper cranes dedicated to the Sadako's statue. I was truly heartbroken when the media reported the theft of the Sadako's statue in July of this year.

Herb's golden rule in life, "Be Kind, Be Kind, Be Kind," really resonates with me. He left big footprints on our hearts.





Charles Oppenheimer's visit to WFC

Junko Hattori



Mr. Charles Oppenheimer, grandson of Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, visited WFC on June 1, 2024. The grandfather, Dr. Robert Oppenheimer was the American theoretical physicist who led the development of the atomic bomb in the U.S. during World War II and was called the “father of the atomic bomb.” The grandson visited Japan at the end of May and spent two days in Hiroshima, visiting Peace Memorial Park and meeting A-bomb survivors including Ms. Keiko Ogura, before his final press conference at the Japan Press Club in Tokyo on June 3. On May 31, a host/introducer in Hiroshima who knew about WFC's activities called WFC for a last minute request to meet with Hibakusha at WFC. We were able to facilitate this and Charles met with Hibakusha Mr. Hiromu Morishita at the WFC.

On Saturday, June 1, Mr. Charles arrived at WFC with his video production crew and others. He sat down with Mr. Morishita at the meeting table set up in the back of the living room.

The previous day, the chairperson had coordinated with Charles' coordinator to get consent for attendees from WFC's side, so about 10 people gathered including three Hibakusha as well as the local introducer. Junko Hattori, Co-vice chairperson of the WFC, served as interpreter.

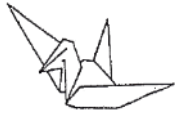
Mr. Morishita shared his A-bomb testimony while Charles' video production crew from the U.S. recorded the event, and WFC also videorecorded upon consent.

After the A-bomb testimony, Mr. Morishita spoke to Charles about his grandfather, who was supposed to be revered for his achievement by the U.S. government and American people, but was forced into a difficult position after the war because of a conflict of views with President Truman, who was promoting an arms race. “He tried to do his duty, as we all do in wartime,” Charles said of his grandfather. “But after the war, he tried to do all he could to spread the word that the arms race was dangerous. I want to ensure that people are not tormented by a disastrous war.” He replied.

During the Q&A an in-utero Hibakusha asked “Two active presidents visited Hiroshima with a nuclear football each time. We, survivors, expected them to say seeing Hiroshima that the atomic bomb should not have been dropped or to apologize for the suffering caused by the bombing. However, I heard that there was strong pressure from veterans in their home country. I know this is a difficult question to answer, but how do you feel?” Mr. Charles replied, “I think it is complicated, but I understand your disappointment. The people who dropped the bombs should be held accountable. People who have had bombs dropped on them, anywhere in the world, deserve an apology.” He replied. Reflecting on this meeting, Mr. Morishita said that seeing Mr. Charles made him feel the power of his testimony.

After a final commemorative photo session, the group left for their next destination in Hiroshima.



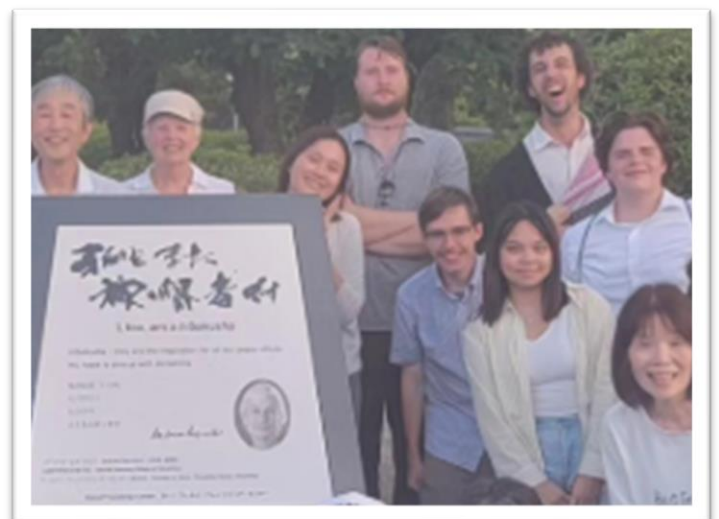


Hiroshima Jogakuin University Internship

Tuyen Nguyen

It was my honor to be an intern for the World Friendship Center (WFC) last semester. I met many people and learned many things from textbooks and the stories of people from WFC and Hibakusha. First, during my internship, I had the opportunity to participate in Shizuko Abe-san's evacuation and Testimony Map project and design flyers for the activity on Peace Day, August 8th. Besides that, I also had chances to meet and listen directly to the testimonies of Tamiyuki Okahara-san and Soh Horie-san, who were survivors of the nuclear bomb in Hiroshima. Through these projects, I had the chance to challenge myself, learning new skills such as designing a digital map and flyers for a real-life project. The testimonies from the survivors brought me many feelings and ideas—anger, pain, and motivation to research and work more in the field of Peace. The knowledge I gained about the history of not only Hiroshima but also Japan enhanced my understanding of Peace Studies, which I can build on and continue to learn from in the future. The experience on August 6th was one of the best unforgettable memories of this internship. I had a special chance to participate in the Peace Memorial Ceremony where a lot of people come from many places in the world to commemorate victims of the nuclear bomb. Even though I have lived in Hiroshima for 5 years, this is my first time participating in the ceremony and this experience gave me a new perspective about the Peace in Hiroshima which motivated me to go to Peace Memorial Park next year on August 6th. After the ceremony, there was a testimony of Shizuoka Abe-san and I was touched and thought a lot about the terrible result from war and also motivated me a lot in finding the way to spreading peace to more and more people. Especially, when seeing our map project used in the testimony, I was very glad and proud to be a part of this event and really hope that I can contribute more to a meaningful event like this in the future. Especially, on that day we met the Peace Ambassador exchange group from the United States and had a great discussion together about Peace.

We discussed and thought a lot about what can we-as the young generation-do to spread peace to more and more people. Although the internship was just a few months, the knowledge and experiences I gained will stay with me for a long time. Last but not least, one of my most precious experiences from this internship was meeting and talking with many young people from various places in the world about peace and what we can do as the younger generation to protect people from the loss of war and work towards a lasting, meaningful peace.





Hiroshima Jogakuin University Internship

Rose Palmer



It was my first internship experience, and I am glad it was at the World Friendship Center. It's been an incredible experience. First, when I came to this internship, I felt nervous and insecure about my skills. My lack of experience made me anxious, but I committed to staying uncomfortable until I achieved my goals. I set objectives for myself and worked to improve myself, such as working on my communication skills. Though I felt worried about the new challenges, I was nevertheless eager since I like exploring my capabilities and trying new things. It was tough at times but I remained optimistic. I was a little nervous at first since we didn't know exactly what tasks we would be doing, but in the end, we were given the task of working on testimony mapping for a hibakusha, Shizuko Abe, in preparation for her testimony on August 6th. Our first task was to read her testimony. I am truly privileged to have had the chance to learn about the story of one of Hiroshima's atomic survivors. This was a unique opportunity for me.

I have a great interest in technology and online tools; however, creating a map with a timeline was new for me. I struggled with several things, such as finding the exact locations described, determining which materials we could use to build the map, and reading English and Japanese testimonies to ensure accuracy. Despite these difficulties, I thought it was a great first day of the internship, which also gave me a lot of confidence for the days ahead. We continued working on building the map in the following days. We became familiar with our task and eventually became more efficient. We made mistakes here and there, but we learned from them. I was starting to get excited, and I couldn't wait to see what we would accomplish in this internship. Additionally, we also had other smaller projects to work on, such as designing flyers. I love designing things, so this was something I felt confident about. We accumulated a variety of flier styles, each with a distinct feel. I had many other positive experiences, besides.

Throughout this internship, we had two visits from hibakusha, who shared their testimonies in the afternoons. It is fascinating that each story is different. The first visit was from Tamiyuki Okahara-san. He shared stories about his father's experience during the A-bomb, as well as the impact of the aftermath of the atomic bomb on other civilians, giving an example of what he had experienced himself. I had never thought of indirect effects before. It was only during this internship that I learned more about it. I'm honored to have heard his story, and I'll consider these issues when I hear about other hibakusha experiences in the future. His testimony highlighted the need to remember and respect the hibakusha, as well as to make a constructive impact and raise awareness of nuclear issues, in the past and the present.

The other afternoon visit was from Soh Horie-san. He immediately gave us wonderful gifts, such as a wooden pencil that he handcrafted. Receiving anything that is handcrafted is always a pleasure. His testimony was a bit different from others I had heard. He engaged in more discussions with the listeners, asking questions about peace, the environment, and war. Although these are hard topics to discuss and think about, we could all understand clearly his desire for peace in the world. On certain days, we were joined by other interns from various countries who had a strong interest in issues such as peace and nuclear weapons. We got along great, and I never imagined I'd work with other people during my internship here. It was a great experience to meet individuals, even for a short period.



Hiroshima Jogakuin University Internship Rose

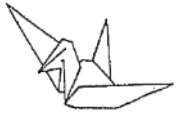
Fast forward to the August 6th event, which marked my first time attending a peace ceremony in Hiroshima after a decade of living here. I was excited to participate in such a meaningful occasion. This day commemorates the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and I was particularly delighted to meet the Peace Ambassador Exchange group from the United States. Engaging with them and exchanging ideas during the programs and activities was such a wonderful opportunity.

After the ceremony at Peace Memorial Park in the morning, we finally heard a private testimony from Shizuko Abe-san. It was profoundly moving to listen to her share her experience, and I felt fortunate to hear from atomic bomb survivors. Her story touched me deeply, igniting a longing for a world without conflict. I was also proud to see the project Tuyen and I had completed in the background during the testimony; it was a fulfilling moment for both of us as interns.

In the afternoon, I faced a new but personally challenging experience. We were tasked with translating peace discussions between Japanese high school students and American PAX members. I had to translate for about eight people at our table, making for lengthy but meaningful conversations, each filled with unique opinions and perspectives. The most challenging part was translating from English to Japanese while taking quick notes and listening attentively to each speaker. It was both enjoyable and demanding, deepening my respect for translators because, without them, the exchange of ideas would be nearly impossible.

Overall, this internship experience was really fun and taught me many new skills. Such as building a digital map, designing flyers, as well as translating in real-time. I faced struggles at first, and I'm sure my partner for this internship did as well, but I felt we grew and gained knowledge that we will use in the future. Not only did we accomplish the projects we were given, but we also learned a lot of information that we may not have obtained elsewhere. Throughout this internship, I have met a lot of people who had a unique perspective on peace and I will use these fresh perspectives in developing furthermore peace ideas. I am thankful to the World Friendship Center for taking me as their intern. It was only for a short time, but I will forever cherish the experience of interning at the World Friendship Center. Building the map makes me feel that I am part of something. Being a part of something is rewarding, regardless of how large or small it is.





WFC experience

Nick Wang

The dropping of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been a topic that I care about. I did a history research paper on the decision made by the U.S. government of dropping atomic bombs on Japan. I read sources from my school's archive, read interviews with survivors, and I also read speeches given by Oppenheimer and President Truman.

I thought I had a thorough enough understanding of the topic until I visited the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima.

At WFC, I had an extremely valuable opportunity to listen to testimony from an a-bomb survivor – Soh-san. When I first met Soh-san, he greeted me with a firm handshake and a kindly smile that reminded me of my grandfather who passed away. Before he started his testimony, he gave me a pencil made by himself and asked me why we have to stop war and conflict. The sudden question had my mind blank. I wanted to say something more than “we have to stop war because wars kill a lot of people”. He smiled when I was shocked and started his testimony.

He told me that his father died 6 days after the bomb, and his mother, his siblings and himself all had disease caused by the atomic bomb. However, when he was asked if he hates America for what he has experienced, he immediately shook his head and said: “the government and the people are different.” Losing his father when he was five years old and witnessing everyone in his family including himself getting diseases caused by the radiation of the atomic bomb, and living under the fear of suddenly dying one day and losing another family member could have brought him hatred against America, but he chose to stay open-minded.

After he talked about his experience, I discussed my interest in environmental science with him. After learning about energy sources in my Junior year of high school, I became interested in nuclear power. Soh san feels strongly against nuclear power, and he believes that all countries should stop using nuclear energy as a source of energy. He showed me statistics of people who had cancer living near nuclear reactors. He said nuclear power could be dangerous and very harmful to the environment.

After the testimony, he asked the question “why we have to stop war and conflict” again. But after listening to his experience, I had a much better answer than “we have to stop wars because wars kill a lot of people”. Not only do wars kill the people during the conflicts, but wars also bring pain to the future generation who have nothing to do with wars. The pain can be physical as a result of chronic pain caused by diseases brought by chemicals used in the war, but the pain can also be psychological—endless fear of suddenly passing away, losing family members, and being alienated for possibly carrying a disease caused by chemicals used in war.

I am incredibly lucky to have such an opportunity to talk to an a-bomb survivor in person because such a chance will be smaller as the survivors become older day by day. I sincerely appreciate WFC for giving me an opportunity to study a topic I care about and have an opportunity to talk to Soh-san and listen to his story and thoughts.



Reflecting on WFC's 59th August 6th Memorial Events

Matthew Bateman



As we solemnly marked the 79th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, we were joined by friends—both new and old—from homes near and far, symbolizing solidarity across time and distance. That is what every August 6th should represent: a day of remembrance and unity.

Reflecting on the current state of global peace and nuclear disarmament, it's clear that progress in these areas has faced setbacks. No one can claim it's easy, and there's no simple path forward. But this is not a new challenge. The pursuit of peace has always been difficult, especially when it follows a catastrophic event that altered the course of history. Hiroshima's story is one that must be remembered, even when the journey toward disarmament and reconciliation feels slow.

We began the day at the memorial ceremony, accompanied by our GSE interns, PAX delegates, and WFC volunteers. Although this marked our third year as directors attending the event, seeing it through the fresh eyes of the PAX delegates and interns offered us a renewed perspective. Their reflections and engagement reminded us of the power of witnessing the ceremony for the first time.

Afterward, we moved to Astor Plaza, where, thanks to the efforts of Kaori-san, we had the privilege of hearing Shizuko Abe-san's testimony in the form of an interview. Set against a backdrop displaying the map of her experiences on that tragic day, Abe-san's words offered a profound reminder of the human cost of war. This moment allowed us to shift from listening to reflecting on our own roles in peacebuilding, as we engaged in small group discussions. We are especially grateful to the previous interns who ensured that these conversations were bilingual, making the exchange of ideas more inclusive and impactful.

Following lunch, the PAX delegates explored Peace Park, observing various ceremonies and reflecting on the many ways people come together to honor the victims. We gathered again that evening at Barbara's Monument, where this year's event placed a greater focus on the PAX delegates' experiences in Hiroshima. The group shared discussions on peace while enjoying each other's company, further enriched by the crucial translation work done by the interns. Their role reminded us of the essential contributions our WFC translators make to these moments of connection.

The day ended with the floating lantern ceremony. In small groups, we observed this solemn tradition and then parted ways for personal reflection or further engagement with the community. It was a fitting close to a day that blended moments of deep introspection with opportunities for dialogue and connection.

Looking ahead, I can only imagine what the 80th anniversary will bring to the city of Hiroshima. As we move forward, this event continues to remind us of the resilience of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable suffering. With that resilience comes a responsibility—to remember, to reflect, and to keep working toward a more peaceful world.



Testimony of the August 6, 2024 Atomic Bomb Victim

Kaori Kurumaji

This year's August 6th Atomic Bombing Testimony was held in the Japanese-style large hall on the 4th floor of Aster Plaza, welcoming Shizuko Abe(97 years old). Due to her advanced age, we interviewed her according to the questions prepared by WFC board member Kaori Kurumaji, and asked Mariko Komatsu, a member of the WFC Archives Project, to act as interpreter. On a table at the back of the venue, we arranged old photos borrowed from Abe, with captions, as well as newspaper articles, and when Abe spoke, we displayed a wedding photo of the Abe couple on the table in front of her. This wedding photo was originally black and white, but was colorized by Niwata Anju in consultation with Abe, making it a valuable item. Two Jogakuin Interns created a PowerPoint presentation showing the route Abe took to evacuate to her home in Kaita-cho after the atomic bombing in Otsuka-cho near Tsurumi Bridge. Abe's testimony was calm, yet touching, as it was a person with strong conviction. I also believe that Komatsu's excellent interpretation helped to convey her message well to the foreigners at the venue. During her testimony, Abe recited a poem she wrote herself, "In Sorrow and Pain," on the night train on her way back from Tokyo in March 1956, when she went to the Diet to petition for relief for atomic bomb victims. This poem was set to music and was often sung at Hidankyo meetings at the time. As an aside, the WFC Peace Choir practiced this song and sang it at the gathering in front of Barbara Reynolds' monument this year. I hope that this song will once again be sung widely among the public.



The venue was filled to capacity with about 70 people, including members of American PAX, WFC people, and members of the public, as well as media representatives from NHK and other TV stations and newspapers. What was particularly noteworthy was that Abe's family attended. Her four great-grandchildren were also well-behaved in the front row and listened to Abe's story. Testimonies about the atomic bombing are often given to students on school trips and people visiting Hiroshima from both inside and outside of Japan, but what about among family members? According to a recent newspaper article, 60% of the second generation of atomic bomb survivors have never heard about the atomic bombing from their parents. Incidentally, my parents are also atomic bomb survivors, but neither of them spoke much about the atomic bombing when they were alive. Considering this, it was a memorable event that Mrs. Abe's family, including her great-grandchildren, participated in the event. After the testimony, it was also a moving sight to see the young people from American PAX go up to Mrs. Abe one by one to greet her, shake her hand, and exchange words. I hope that Mrs. Abe's testimony will be something they will never forget.

This summer, the record-breaking heat continued for a long time, and there was not a day that went by without hearing announcements on TV to refrain from going outside. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Abe for willingly accepting the atomic bombing testimony and coming to the venue in spite of the situation. I pray that she will continue to be in good health and guide us in the future.



The U.S PAX Report

Chair of the US PAX Committee Yoko Mimura



This PAX was the first delegation from the U.S. since COVID.

We welcomed Sean, Horacio, and two students from Wilmington College, Benjamin and Charles. Since it was scheduled to start at the end of July, it was expected to be hot, but it eventually turned out to be the hottest summer since the beginning of the Meteorological Agency in 1898.

Directors Matthew and Malachi had to guide them and keep up with the schedule in 15-minute increments in the heat every day,

With Hiroshima on 6 August and Nagasaki on 9 August, everything was expected to be very crowded, so we started booking hotels and venues at the beginning of May, before we had even received the schedule from the U.S. side.

On the first day, we welcomed Kuniko Iwatani, a longtime friend of WFC and a hibakusha—from Nagasaki, to speak to us privately.

Ms. Iwatani participated in the second Peace Pilgrimage in 1964 and also had a deep relationship with Barbara.

On the second day, after having the tour in the Peace Memorial Park, they visited the National Peace Memorial Museum, read various materials, watched a video of Hibakusha testimonies, and spent free time at the National Memorial Hall. After that, we went to the Fukuromachi Elementary School Museum. What I found fascinating was on the first two days was that immediately after the sessions, the delegates, the directors, and former directors Roger and Kathy sat down in a circle and had a debrief session to exchange their opinions and impressions. I learned that by doing so, I was able to understand things more deeply by taking in other people's opinions and not just my own experience. I don't know if I understood every detail, but it was something I had never experienced before in the Japanese community.

I expressed my surprise and told everyone about it, and I thought that the Japanese lack the attitude to properly express their thoughts in words. In Sean's presentation, I learned about the reality that the U.S. in order to gain its position as the world leader, pours huge amounts of taxpayer money into military equipment (especially nuclear equipment) and neglects health insurance in the U.S. which seems to be a wealthy country. I learned a lot from the very clear illustrations.

Charles' presentation made me keenly aware of the importance of the concept of equity, not just equality.

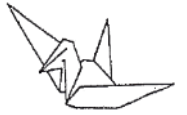
After a week in Hiroshima, the group left for Nagasaki on the 8th.

Unlike the previous PAX trip to Nagasaki in 2010, we had difficulties in making reservations, starting with places to stay.

In the past, the accommodations that WFC board members Yamane-san and Watanabe-san had arranged, the A-bomb testimonies they had requested, and park guides had to be discontinued due to the coronavirus pandemic and the suspension of activities due to the aging of the people involved. Also, at an inopportune time, they encountered an earthquake on the day they left for Nagasaki. They were affected by the Hyuga Nada Earthquake, and Director Matthew was concerned about transferring trains, etc., but with his prompt action, they made it through safely, albeit with some delays.

I will leave the impressions of Nagasaki to the directors, but I believe that PAX delegates were able to learn a lot during the eight days in Hiroshima, even in the intense heat. I am deeply grateful for the cooperation of all the board members and everyone who helped out.

Thank you very much.



U.S.-Japan PAX Program 2024

Matthew Bateman

The 2024 US-Japan PAX program successfully achieved its primary goal of introducing peace ambassadors from the US to the history and legacy of Hiroshima. Through testimonies, tours, and other critical experiences, the participants were able to deepen their understanding of Hiroshima's story and the ongoing relevance of peacebuilding. This year, two additional aspects stood out: fostering intergenerational connections and reinforcing international relationships.

Much like last year's PAX program, which connected hibakusha with school-age children in the US, this year we focused on engaging younger participants, specifically college students and individuals under 30. This created an important platform for building new relationships within the Hiroshima community. Another key element of this year's program was the opportunity to strengthen ties between participants from Wilmington College, where the Peace Resource Center is an essential part of their academic community. We also had the privilege of bringing back long-time supporters Roger and Kathy, further deepening our connections. The group, along with the directors, also visited Nagasaki, forging new relationships with the Urakami Cathedral community.

What surprised me most as we moved through this year's PAX was the evolving nature of the program itself. Initially, I saw it as a way to present the story of Hiroshima in a somewhat structured, perhaps static, format. But this year, new discussions emerged organically, such as honest conversations about bias and personal shortcomings. Participants asked thought-provoking questions, engaging deeply with the material and bringing a fresh sense of energy and curiosity. Logistically, the program was packed—while more time for presentations would have been valuable, this could be incorporated into future visits not constrained by the busy schedule of early August.

Our daily schedule was intense: we would start breakfast around 8:30 a.m. and remain together until around 8:30 p.m. While the program was full of activities, there was still room for reflection. We began the week with more serious events, like hibakusha testimonies, museum tours, and visits to key historical sites, allowing participants to immerse themselves in Hiroshima's history. Later in the week, we balanced the intensity of the earlier days with social events and a visit to Miyajima, which allowed the group to unwind and reflect.

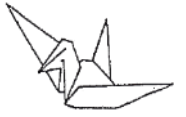


Personally, visiting Nagasaki for the first time was one of the most eye-opening experiences of the program. Seeing the Peace Park, hearing the stories, and engaging with the community offered a new perspective. While Hiroshima's story is deeply ingrained in my experience, seeing Nagasaki for myself made the tragedy feel just as visceral, and it was a stark reminder that the same devastation unfolded there as well. However, Nagasaki also had its own unique character and lessons to offer, and comparing the two cities deepened my understanding of the broader impact of nuclear weapons and war.

One of the surprises for me was realizing how much I didn't know about Nagasaki's story despite being so familiar with Hiroshima. Going to Nagasaki made the experience feel more immediate, reminding me of the importance of continuing this work and expanding our knowledge of nuclear history. We are incredibly grateful to WFC for facilitating this visit and allowing us to participate in Nagasaki's peace ceremony.

As always, much of the program's success came down to WFC's support and hospitality. From the tours and testimonies to the Honkawa program and home stays, WFC made sure that every element of the program was meaningful and impactful. Even though the participants weren't official overnight guests, we treated them as part of our community, starting each day with breakfast and conversation, creating a strong sense of connection and friendship.

Looking ahead to the 2025 PAX program, I believe it will be one of the most rewarding yet. With the upcoming 60th anniversary of WFC, next year's program will undoubtedly be the most involved and impactful. I'm particularly excited about how we can build on this year's experiences to create even stronger connections and learning opportunities for participants.



PAX 'USA to Japan' Summer2024

Roger and Kathy Edmark

PAX went very well and the four delegates were well received in Japan. Here are a few excerpts from our trip. We hope this helps you understand what a great activity PAX is and has been since Barbara Reynolds took her first trip back in 1962. It was important then and it is still important to exchange stories as we seek to “foster peace, one friend at a time”.

Hiroshima

The eight-day Hiroshima schedule was very well laid out by WFC with a good mix of activities to immerse the delegates in the history of the atomic bomb and aftermath; the peace witness of Hiroshima; the culture of Japan; and many interactions and discussions with people associated with the World Friendship Center.

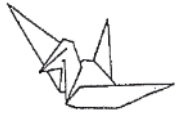
Each of the four delegates gave their presentation twice. Each delegate provided different perspectives on peace. Sean told of the work of WPSR (Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility) and WANW (Washington Against Nuclear Weapons), laying out a compelling story for the elimination of nuclear weapons and how people in Seattle and Washington State are disproportionately affected by them in the United States. Horacio talked about his cultural heritage and how dance is used to connect his people to a sense of inner peace. Charles talked about healthcare justice and how there is no peace without justice. Ben focused on his experiences lobbying for peace and justice in Washington DC and how non-violent activism can make a difference. WFC made a very good brochure promoting the main public presentations on August 4. WFC was well represented at the August 4th talk and at the wonderful potluck that followed, but there were very few from the public in attendance.

Contrasted to that was the WFC August 6 hibakusha talk by Abe Shizuko-san to a packed room of close to 70 people, with many from the outside including the media, reporters and cameras. The four delegates were introduced and were very moved by Abe-san's talk. They were able to spend time with her after the talk was concluded and met many other people as well.

Of course, being a part of the Commemoration Service on the morning of Aug 6 was a very important reason for coming to Hiroshima in the summer, even in the sweltering heat. It is a very large production, as was the one in Nagasaki on Aug 9th. Because of that, it was important to stay focused not on the pomp, but on the event that it sadly commemorates when thousands of people, predominantly the very old, very young, and women, lost their lives so suddenly and horrifically, and thousands more were exposed to radiation they would live with forever. It is a memorial but also a time to once again remember that in working for peace and the elimination of nuclear bombs we each work together to never forget.

I do not want to be too critical of any aspect of these two commemoration events. They are to remember, and they do that well. On the other hand, we never want this to happen again, so it is a little sad that politicians are in charge of the events rather than peace activists and hibakushas that would bring a much stronger message to the people – no more Hiroshima's, no more Nagasaki's, no more nuclear bombs; Now!!

We did so many other things in Hiroshima, that it would take a long time to talk about them all, but here is a quick “popcorn” summary: Hibakusha talks with Kuniko-san, Morishita-sensei and Tamiyuki; welcome dinner at Danryu; Peace Park Museum; Peace Park Tour; Memorial Hall; Atomic Bomb Trees Tour; Honkawa School program and tea ceremony; Fukuromachi school; Barbara's story; the story of Floyd Schmoe and Schmoe House; Korean experience DVD; Hiroshima castle grounds; Shukkeien and a part of the Prefectural Art Museum; okonomiyaki; Hasegawa ramen; a lot of Bento boxes (we love them); Tea Ceremony with Kido-sensei at her house; Miyajima; home stays (delegates only); good small group discussions and processing times with Matthew and Malachi; the program at the Mound (Roger, Kathy, Malachi and the WFC Choir); Barbara's monument event; observed lantern floating; and a farewell dinner “Yakiniku Night”. Whew, that deserved a gigantic run on sentence, so I obliged! Kathy and Roger were also treated to dinner at Tamiyuki's home along with Matthew and Malachi, and then also met at lunch with the four October PAX members that came to Seattle, Tami, Soh, Mariko and Yuko. We both felt so pleased to see and talk with so many of our good friends from when we were there just a year ago. We even found time to sit down with Ron Klein for breakfast and see Mirei and her daughters at the Grandchildren of Hiroshima performance.



Kyoto We added a beginning and an end to the trip to Hiroshima, by starting in Kyoto first and ending in Nagasaki. Each offered something new and different from our time in Hiroshima, so they were good “book ends” to the trip. Kyoto had two things to offer to our delegates – the Kyoto Museum of World Peace and their first immersion into Japanese culture. This was the first time any of the four delegates had traveled to Japan, so Kyoto, a place not bombed during the war, had so much to offer about Japan dating back hundreds of years. It was a fitting first setting.

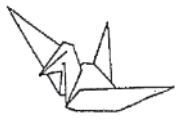
The first event planned in Kyoto was at the Kyoto Museum for World Peace on the Ritsumeikan University campus. Tanya Maus made the arrangements and it was a great way to start the PAX trip. The former museum director, Kazuyo Yamane-san greeted us at the museum and had arranged for several other distinguished guests, Mr. Joyremba Haobam from the Imphal Peace Museum, and Junko Kanekiyo, Ritsumeikan University, Division of Research Administrative staff, as well as four university students to act as guides in the museum. The museum gives a good historical context to the war as well as insightful analysis about the use of nuclear weapons at the end of the war. The hosts were wonderful. We learned a lot, and it was a great way to start the trip! After lunch in the university cafeteria with our hosts, we said our goodbyes and walked about 10 minutes to the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji Temple). This was the first real indication of how hot and humid it was going to be on the trip. After seeing the Golden Pavilion, and walking through the gardens, we walked for about 30 minutes trying to find the peaceful nightingale floors of the Daitoku Zen Temple. Once we found it, we walked through the temple and the gardens, resting briefly before continuing on. With the heat we were experiencing, that was it for sightseeing.

The next day, our last full day in Kyoto, we all went to Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine to experience the 10,000 torii gate walk to the top of the mountain. Five of us went to the top while one, Charles, wisely picked shopping over sweating after seeing the first part of the walk. The other three (not Kathy and me) after getting to the top took an alternate path down, or as Sean called it “an unexpected detour”. After Kathy and I completed the whole trip, we were so tired that we had to have a gigantic strawberry shaved ice parfait just to get the energy to get back to the hotel. Everybody was on their own the rest of the afternoon and evening. Charles and Ben went to the Imperial Palace and thoroughly enjoyed it. The next day several of us toured Chion-In Temple which

was right across the main street from our hotel. It is a big temple with an enormous entry gate with two gardens. For those that know Buddhist religious sects, it is the head temple of Jodo Shu, the “Pure Land” sect of Buddhism. We were surprised as we walked near the main hall to hear the tunes to “Jesus Loves Me, “Joy to the World” and “Amazing Grace” being played on some type of flute at a service there. Perhaps just another example of practicing more than one religion beside another, something often done in Japan; or maybe the only three tunes the flutist knew. I am not sure we will ever know.

Nagasaki The end of the trip was in Nagasaki. The first event in Nagasaki was the commemoration service on Aug 9th. It was again a very big event much like the one in Hiroshima. A couple of differences were a hibakusha gave a speech and there was a stronger tone in the speeches imploring Japan’s leadership to work harder towards peace and an anti-nuclear world. After the service we saw the museum about Dr. Nagai; the hypocenter, which compared to Hiroshima’s little monument is much larger and grander in scale; the atomic bomb museum which is good, but does not add any context to the dropping of the bomb; then finished with the memorial hall which is, much like Hiroshima’s, a peaceful quiet place to reflect. The next day we went to the Urakami Cathedral. Tanya, once again, used her connections between the Urakami Cathedral and the Wilmington Peace Resource Center (PRC) to organize a talk and tour of the cathedral. We were allowed into many places that tourists are not allowed to enter due to that connection. Our host was Archbishop Emeritus Takami-san. He was warm and friendly and answered every question we asked. He told us the history of the cathedral and told us the story of the cross which was repatriated from PRC to the church. Because of the August 9th event being the day before, the special cross which the PRC sent back to Urakami was prominently a part of the main altar, rather than being in the chapel where it usually is kept. We were given access to both the-sanctuary and chapel and also saw other special artifacts (including the remains of the bombed statue of Mary).

We ended the day by meeting with a Nagasaki hibakusha, Ohba-san, near Nagasaki station, to hear his story. Ending with a hibakusha talk was a fitting ending to the “program” part of the trip. It helped us remember again why we were there. We thoroughly enjoyed the four delegates as well as those we interacted with from WFC, as we toured, did sightseeing, ate meals together, visited and listened, studied and talked about peace. We could say more about the four delegates, but we will let them tell their own stories. Peace!



PAX participant

Sean Arent

I write with immense gratitude on my experiences with the Peace Ambassador Exchange program to Japan. This trip was made possible for me, as an early career organizer working towards nuclear weapons abolition by the World Friendship Center, for which I'm eternally grateful. I've learned considerably about the value of this kind of international exchange.

My time in Japan with the World Friendship Center has fundamentally changed me. Many things feel different. As I've reflected on my experiences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I haven't always liked what's looking back at me. And I'm not someone who has had a rosy view of the United States of America. I've read at length about the repression of the labor movement, the history of slavery, racism, COINTELPRO, Cold War coups and the like enough to hold that view, as well as living through US wars of aggression, climate change, and extreme wealth inequality at home. But my view of the United States is now worse. I had accepted the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as static points in history rather than crimes that call for justice. Perhaps that's the perspective I've gained now that the atomic bomb is something that was done to my friends.

The more time I spend with nuclear impacted communities, the more unimaginable the atomic war crimes committed throughout the Cold War become. In Washington, it's hard to believe that the Marshallese, Yakama, and Wanapaum people had been treated this way. These are kind people, self-sufficient with no designs on world domination. But being at the sites of these atrocities makes it more than imaginable. In Hanford, Washington, I sailed past the plutonium reactors that would feed the atomic arsenal, on land stolen from the Wanapaum people. The radiation has taken away the self-sufficiency of these cultures and caused a myriad of health issues.

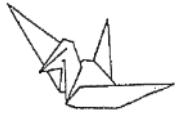
In Hiroshima, I visited the A-bomb dome, saw the destroyed schools, the tattered clothes, and the people turned into shadows. I spoke with Hibakusha like Morishita-Sensei and Abe-san and felt but a fraction of their pain. I was amazed by the kindness of my hosts and benefactors, the beauty of Japanese culture, and the dedication of local peace activists just as I was revolted by the destruction unleashed by the atomic bomb. Both of these forces pulled at me, belief and disbelief, compassion and anger, shock and horror.

In 2023, I was proud to help organize events for the World Friendship delegation in Seattle. I never expected that in 2024 I'd have this opportunity to experience Hiroshima and Nagasaki. When I returned to my home in Tacoma, Washington, I had the opportunity to tell the story of Barbara Reynolds and the World Friendship Center to a diverse audience welcoming the Veterans for Peace Golden Rule project to our port. This is a story I'm committed to continuing to tell. I'm proud to know many of the great folks behind the World Friendship Center and to share in this struggle against nuclear weapons and war. I'm proud to do my part for World Friendship.

I've written some additional reflections on the blog of our coalition, Washington Against Nuclear Weapons.

<https://www.wanwcoalition.org/wanw-blog>





Japan Report – Hiroshima, Mon Amour

Gratitude

Horacio Perez-Morales

Before entering into the report itself, I'd like to begin by thanking our newfound friends of Japan and the World Friendship Center. The people who have both directly and indirectly have in their own ways, helped shift our collective experience towards a more peaceful one. All of the people have challenged and had patience and immense generosity towards our delegation. I can only hope that these gifts, tangible and otherwise, return to you tenfold. If "the devil is in the details," I am incredibly grateful to have found angels, existing there too.

Semi no nakigoe(Cicada crying)

A little less than a month ago from writing this, there were still cicadas in my ears. I remember not being able to hold a thought for too long because of the chitter. Due to the nature of the history and present-day realities of the communities affected; suddenly not being able to hold onto a thought for too long turned into somewhat of a blessing. Little did I know of or was I prepared for, the horrors of nuclear warfare. From the mouths of the hibakusha, we listened in awe as we heard stories of children, now elders, and of adults, now passed; living through things we might think that no one should have to. But they did. And so did many, many others.

Prior to Arriving

Early 2024, prior to knowing anything about PAX trips or the World Friendship Center, I had a friend, Randy, tell me that they would be visiting Hiroshima for 3 months and staying with their friend living and working in Hiroshima. "Come visit!" they told me and while I did want to I was having trouble imagining the possibility as I was in the middle of sweating through my studies and working full time. Then, in what I could only conservatively describe as a case of synchronicity, I was invited to apply to be a delegate.

In Memoriam

In so many facets of Japanese culture, I came to quickly observe that there is an adherence to intention. A cultural *mise en place* that I had only heard about and was somehow supposed to find my own place in, albeit temporarily. In that sense, Japan was in a way I had never experienced, quiet and noisy at the same time.



I was very surprised to see what was left of the visible scars on Hiroshima and also, what was no longer out in the open. The bomb left degrees of devastation according to proximity to the hypocenter, the museum reflected this. The surrounding park, statues, and hollowed out buildings were reminders of that. Memorials are made to remember and the memorials of Hiroshima did that regardless of who you were. When I think or am presented about my own country's or people's history, there is a facet of empathy that spans generations. The memories of Hiroshima were not my own yet they made me feel as if someone had sent me a personal invitation to a loved one's funeral. I may not have met the person (or place) in question intimately, but I could absolutely witness and feel perhaps an iota of the terrible grief that this event had placed upon those closest. When I asked people I'd met, I would ask, "Are you from Hiroshima?" in some ways I think what I was also asking was, "Are you with the family?"

Preparing for home

Even if not by blood, I saw the residents of Hiroshima were tied together by this event. That the people of Japan were. That the US was, and is. That we handful of individuals are as well. The paintings done by hibakusha in the Hiroshima museum were not only expressions of terror as well as pleas to those moved by them to work in whatever way I could, within my sphere, to ensure that no one would have to go through that again. And it was when I laid eyes and was moved by those works, that I felt a responsibility. What our hosts and new friends have done so well however, is to have provided an example of the better parts of humanity after the fact. I am absolutely astonished at the level of hospitality and attention to detail I encountered. Our mission as a team of delegates was to simply share who we were, my goodness, I wasn't prepared to receive as much as I did. This is a debt of gratitude that will stay with me always and can hopefully pay it forward with interest.

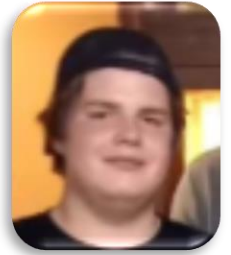
Now that I am home, the cicadas are not physically here, but I certainly hear them.

Tlazocamati – thank you.



PAX Participant

Charles Mountjoy

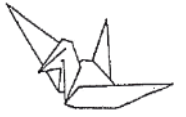


Our first stop on this PAX trip took us to Kyoto, where I met the previous directors of WFC, who would be acting as our traveling host through this PAX experience. Roger and Kathy were such amazing and welcoming people, and I am truly inspired by them and the work they continue to do after retirement. I am blessed to have shared this experience with them.

While in Kyoto, we had the pleasure of touring the Kyoto Museum for World Peace located at Ritsumeikan University. The Museum was beautifully organized, and I appreciated the material's progressive element by acknowledging Japan's responsibility in the war and inhumane actions before the war. This demonstrated that global reform must come through self-reflection of one's own nation, an idea that is often overshadowed by ignorant nationalism.

After Kyoto, we traveled to Hiroshima where we were introduced to the World Friendship Center, and the current directors, Matthew and Malachi. I can not put into words how much I appreciate everyone at WFC for organizing and funding a lot of this PAX trip and the many planned events with it. While we were CONSTANTLY busy and walking in the immense heat, every event planned was meaningful and shared the peaceful message of this still-recovering city in its own way. Having the opportunity to listen to many first-hand testimonies from many hibakusha moved me and motivated me in a way I never knew was possible through stories. I was also able to share my story of how I am working for peace in my own way through the healthcare system here in America. I really enjoyed learning all of the different ways people spread love and peace. I had the opportunity to talk to two high school students Shiori and Taka who were spreading the message of peace through their school newspaper club, and it was truly inspiring seeing the amount of love and effort everyone, not only the folks of WFC, but even younger high school students, spreading the beautiful message of peace through their own means.

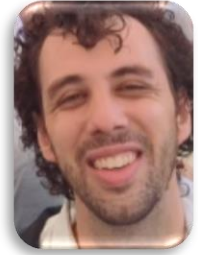
I came back home with a lot of takeaways from this trip, the biggest one being that there are many pieces of peace, meaning we cannot achieve peace until all of the little pieces are put together. I gained perspective on how everything is connected, and all forms of peace work are important. I used to be very pessimistic in this field of work, feeling like even if I was able to help some people or some issues, larger issues would still be present. The PAX trip opened my eyes to the importance of unity and peace-loving individuals all doing their little things, coming together for big change. That is why I love the World Friendship Center, and Wilmington's Peace Resource Center, as well as cooperative groups able to organize PAX trips across the world. Multiple buildings, organizations, and nations with one common goal, to do their job of spreading peaceful messages through what they know. WFC and PRC are more than just nuclear weapon abolitionists, they are beacons of global, international progress. They are proof that different races, cultures, and languages can come together from across the world and work towards the world we all dream of. They are symbols of hope and optimism.



Farewell letter from Malachi

“There Are No Strangers”

Malachi “Dot” Nelson 2024 10 09



To the World Friendship Center, American Committee, and Yu-Ai readers,

In the face of the worsening climate crisis and societal upheavals across our world, I feel it is appropriate to frame my closing thoughts in gratitude--religious and social leaders remind us again and again of how the practice of gratitude sustains us and strengthens our bonds to each other. What I have written below is insufficient, but I hope it conveys some measure of my gratitude and hopes for you, and lays the groundwork for our connection in the future.

To my superiors in the Riji and the American Committee:

Thank you for giving this once in a lifetime experience to travel to your beautiful country, to your city which has recovered from war but in so many ways is still recovering and grappling with its complex identity. You took a risk in taking on Matthew and I, and we did our best to make your investment well worth it. I deeply appreciate the chance I was given to bring my energy, youth, and admittedly challenging perspectives to the organization you so faithfully guide.

To staff and volunteers:

Thank you for welcoming visitors with unending hospitality and warmth. Your regard for and kindness to international visitors is one of the greatest strengths of WFC, and I learned from your example every day. You embody the words of Yeats: “There are no strangers, just friends you haven’t yet met.” This radical acceptance grows ties of peace between people which strengthen bonds in ways none of us can fully understand or appreciate.

To the entire WFC community, especially staff:

Thank you for your patience as I learned to be your Director. Facility maintenance was a constant challenge for me and your grace was unending.

To countless WFC community members:

Thank you for connecting me to the wider Hiroshima community. Because of you, I’ve joined game nights - having fun playing games at night with friends in Hiroshima, open mics, cultural festivals, and met the activists and community leaders I’ve spent so much time with in the last year since the genocide in Gaza broke out.

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms, providing endless laughs, delicious meals, and the security of knowing that I am loved and cared for. As a young person, healthy communities are especially important to me so that I can grow and develop within them, and so that I can contribute to something I feel proud of.



Thank you for supporting me in my non-WFC activities at the Genbaku Dome. In the Peace Park we all have complex relationships too, you have brought tea and refreshments to my friends, lit candles saying “STOP GENOCIDE IN GAZA”, sang songs of peace, recited poetry, and encouraged me to continue acting. For posterity, let me write here what I have said countless times before: the Vigil is only important to the degree that it mobilizes Hiroshima and the world to end the genocide of the Palestinian people and contribute to a Free Palestine. Please do not mistake my passion for Palestine for a shortsighted passion for the Vigil. My focus is much greater than the Vigil, which is why I sought to create educational, action-oriented events regarding Palestine at WFC. I believe that WFC and peace nonprofits like it have a unique responsibility to mobilize against injustice in the world so that all genocides cease as soon as possible, war becomes illogical, and a liberatory, just peace is the only option left. So, encouraging action in WFC against the genocide in Palestine was a natural extension of my Directorial duties. Thank you for your individual acts of care for Gaza and your acceptance of my frequently distressed, passionate demeanor.

Thank you for showing me the potential of a new life I can live--since my senior year in college, my primary guiding principle in my career has been to always pursue what is right rather than what is simple or easy. This has led to the greatest adventures in my 20s, but I confess I've never had a vision of where I am going next. But because of my experiences at WFC and in Hiroshima, for the first time in my life my future has become much more clear: my desired path is in community organizing, education, dogged insistence on Indigenous sovereignty, and the destruction of every form of supremacy. As our climate catastrophe accelerates, I feel we have time for no less than total transformation. Without a change of course, genocides like that in Gaza will become commonplace as our world's elite sacrifice the many for their interests. None of us are secure, and our solidarity with Palestine truly is solidarity with our own wellbeing. I find deep joy in the prospects of working, in my own small ways, to carve out a path for our collective survival and evolution in the disaster-laden future we will all inhabit. The witness of people like Barbara Reynolds, Norman Cousins, Miyoko Matsubara, and Hiromu Morishita motivate me and constantly push me to reject the world as it is. Because of them, “shikataganai” is anathema to me. And I have you to thank for introducing me to such titans of peace. Through you, they have forever changed me.

And lastly, to my students:

Keep studying! Keep asking difficult questions, both about English grammar and the world we are a part of! Continue to engage this world, sharing your wisdom and perspective with young activists like me--I will no longer be part of your class, so I need you to actively seek out the young people of Hiroshima. We need your perspective and we want your involvement in any way you can give it--be it over a cup of tea, through a weekly class, or through support at our protests. The Hiroshima-Myanmar Community and the Palestine Solidarity community need you. We need to hear how Japan has changed since you were our age, and why that happened. We need to hear about and learn from the successes and failures of the hibakusha and how “Never Again” for them must mean “Never Again for Anyone.” You are storykeepers--please share your stories widely and generously, recognizing their immense value. And, I hope to see you again soon!

I wish well to all my friends at WFC as you embark on a new journey at Claire Funairi Nakamachi with Brad and Sue Cox, whom I'm certain will be incredible hosts and friends.

With gratitude.



Greeting from New Directors Bradley & Susan Cox

Greetings from Brad & Sue Cox! We are the new Co-Directors of the World Friendship Center, having arrived in Hiroshima on November 4th, 2024. We are excited to work with the members of the WFC in our new facility to continue our programs of peace including our restored ability to provide simple lodging to those coming to Hiroshima to study the A-Bomb event and learn more about working for peace and nuclear disarmament.

We came to Hiroshima from our home in Forest, Virginia, which is about three hours south of Washington, DC. This part of Virginia has been our home for the past 34 years. We have two grown children. A son, Taylor, lives with his wife Katie in the northern Virginia suburbs of Washington DC with their dog. Our daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Ryan, were recently married in August. They live in Northern England with their two dogs.



Visiting Milan

We both graduated from Bridgewater College in 1986. Brad was a Physics/Computer Science Major and Sue majored in Elementary Education. Brad also received his master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia several years later. Both of us spent much of our careers working in those respective fields. Brad, an Electrical Engineer, recently retired from Framatome, a supplier of systems and services to commercial nuclear power plants. Sue retired from teaching Art in public elementary schools in 2018 so she could accompany Brad on a 1-year work assignment at his company's office in Erlangen, Germany.

We both enjoy traveling and meeting others from around the world. Sue spent several years coordinating au pairs in our local community, and we hosted one exchange student from Germany and one from Norway while our kids were in high school. When not traveling, Susan enjoys reading, walking, gardening, art of all kinds, learning languages (but Japanese is proving difficult, so please be patient!), and shopping. In his spare time Bradley enjoys home repair and remodeling, woodworking, car repair and restoration, strategy games, and reading.

For about 33 years we have been members of the Lynchburg Church of the Brethren, an historic peace church. Brad has also served on a church district Peace Affairs Committee, and on the board of a local Peace Education Center. One of our many fond memories of our church community is having been honored to host hibakusha, Miyoko Matsubara, who had a deep connection with WFC about 30 years ago. We feel her sharing with the wider Lynchburg community was one of the most impactful messages our small church has been able to share. This was our initial introduction to the WFC, and that memory stuck with us until our retirement enabled us to look for additional ways to serve in a peacemaking capacity. We are very much looking forward to being a part of the World Friendship Center and all the activities that we will be able to support.



Son Taylor & wife Katie, Daughter Caroline and husband Ryan, Brad & Sue