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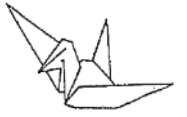
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Schmoe Family Welcome Party

Hiroko Nishimura



Tom Schmoe and his family came to WFC from Seattle. A welcome party at WFC was planned for February 17th. I was invited to the party and gladly joined. Tom and I had met in Seattle in 2019, and we were very happy to see each other again.

At the welcome party, we had a reading and performance of Mr. Floyd Schmoe's picture book, "Mr. Schmoe Came to Hiroshima." (published by Schmoe ni Manabu Kai). Mr. Floyd Schmoe built houses for the atomic-bomb survivors and was Tom's grandfather.

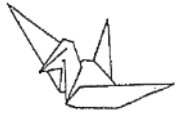
A musical performance was given by "The Schmoes." They formed "Schmoes" to express their desire for peace through music. The name "Schmoes" naturally comes from Mr. Floyd Schmoe. The Schmoes challenge themselves to various genres with vocals, keyboard, and shakuhachi. Two of the songs they performed were original compositions evoking images of him. The songs expressed gratitude for the hope and smiles he gave Hiroshima during the reconstruction period. The performance provided a very heartfelt welcome to Tom Schmoe's family. Tom said "Thank you, they were truly wonderful performances. I especially enjoyed the shakuhachi performance." We were overjoyed with the comment because we were pleased that Tom's family was able to experience Japan's ancient musical instruments and culture.

Above all, the welcome party provided a gathering that really brought out the spirit of WFC. There were people from different generations and different countries, and various religions gathered around a table enjoying Zenzai (Sweet Red Bean Soup) together. Tom and his family enjoyed the Zenzai very much, and they looked just like Floyd Schmoe's face in the picture book when he eats his favorite jam. Needless to say, it was a heartwarming and peaceful time with smiles spreading all around the room.

I was touched that the bridge of hope between America and Japan which was given by Mr. Floyd Schmoe to Hiroshima in 1949 has been passed down. The most touching and wonderful thing about attending this welcome party was the heartfelt hospitality of the WFC director and his wife and the wonderful fellowship with the WFC people. I am grateful to everyone at WFC for providing me with this opportunity. It was also a good opportunity to learn from everyone's dedicated approaches from the preparatory stage.

I sincerely thank you.





The Panel Exhibition 2 Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki World Peace Study Mission

Shizuo Tachibana

The Panel Exhibition 2 commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki World Peace Study Mission was held at NHK Hiroshima Exhibition Gallery from March 18 to 23, 2025. We appreciate everyone's cooperation. A total of 229 people visited the exhibition over the six days, some from as far away as Fukuoka. Some passed by NHK and saw the sign and came in. Many of them told us that their parents had been exposed to the atomic bomb and they were glad to hear about Barbara and the World Peace Study Mission because they did not know about it. There were also those who expressed their appreciation for the importance of the materials.

In addition to the materials previously displayed on panels, this year's panel exhibition featured new materials. These included materials related to the meeting between Dr. Naomi Shono, a member of the Study Mission group, and Dr. Oppenheimer, as well as materials kept by university students who participated in the Study Mission as interpreters. One of the new materials on display was "An Appeal to Reason" written in English by a member of the Study Mission group, Mr. Nobuzo Yamada. Here is a quote from "An Appeal to Reason".

Indeed, we human beings have reason, but we do not always act according to reason, but often according to feeling which may make us even resort to violence. However intensely we advocate peace we will not be at ease as long as countries have weapons. Because if war were break out, all the weapons they have be used in the long run. We must remember that weapons will lead us to self-extermination, and that the most fundamental measure for winning lasting peace is disarmament for all nations of the world.

Finally, here are some responses from the questionnaire.

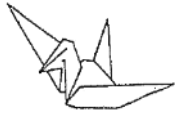
"Nuclear weapons have not yet been eliminated and could potentially be used at any time. It is now evident that the reason they have not been deployed lies in the efforts of individuals who have tirelessly traveled the world, advocating for their abolition, as

highlighted in this exhibition."

"I learned a lot from these valuable materials. Ultimately, it is essential to preserve documents and historical materials."

"I reflected once more on importance of each of us taking up the baton to carry forward the thoughts of our predecessors and to discuss what actions we can individually take. I will think about what I can do as a citizen."





Talk Event at Panel Exhibition 2 Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki World Peace Study Mission

Junko Hattori

On March 20, during the Panel Exhibition#2 commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki World Peace Study Mission, we held a public talk event titled “Past and Future of the Peace Ambassadors Exchange Program (PAX),” in which the following five PAX alumni from Hiroshima spoke on stage by answering common preliminary guiding questions (No.1 through 4). The four questions we sent to the speakers in advance were: 1) The reason why you applied to PAX, 2) What was your most memorable experience and what did you learn from it, 3) What message would you like to convey to the audience as an alumni and lastly, 4) What do you expect from PAX in the future.

Each of the five speakers had prepared manuscripts and photos in advance and spoke about the deep connection between their life themes, their PAX experience, and their thoughts on peace. They also talked about how their peace-related activities had changed after their particularly memorable experience and what they especially wanted to convey to the audience through this study, etc., in their truly gem of a message from their hearts. The 45 audience members of various age groups, from high school students to adults, who gathered at the venue also listened attentively to the presentation, which was very impressive. TV and newspaper coverage was also there, and the Sohtoku High School Newspaper Club members actively interviewed the presenters, which was very encouraging to see.

【Presenters and Topics (in order of presentation)】

Asaka Watanabe, Germany PAX 2001 / Chizuko Taguchi, Korea PAX 2009 / Mieko Ozaki - Korea PAX 2016 / Naoko Koizumi, USA PAX 2013 (before, after, and up to today) / Mariko Sunawaki, U.S.A. PAX 2023



【The Event Outline】

Date: March 20, 2025 (Thursday, the Spring Equinox national holiday) 14:00-15:45

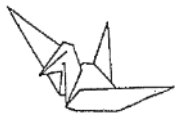
Venue: Essor Hiroshima, Seminar Room 1 & 2 (Admission free) <Part 1: Presentation Part 2: Q&A, etc.>

【Event's background】 In 1962, Barbara set out on a “Peace Pilgrimage” with Miyoko Matsubara and Hiromasa Hanabusa to various cities in 12 countries, including nuclear weapon states, to tell about the real sufferings of the atomic bomb survivors and to appeal against nuclear testing and for nuclear abolition. Inspired by the insights gained from this experience, the “World Peace Study Mission” (1964) was born.. After the establishment of the WFC, this aspiration to build a foundation for lasting peace through dialogue and exchange with the people one meets on such pilgrimages was taken over as a voluntary peace ambassador exchange program, which has continued through the Youth Peace Seminar (YPS), Teacher Exchange Program (TEP), and Peace Ambassador Exchange Program (PAX) to the United States, South Korea, and Germany, (which ended in fiscal year 2004). The program has continued with a total of about 300 participants to date. This fiscal year, we are hosting 2 PAX programs: receiving a PAX delegation from Korea from May 1 to 6, and sending another PAX delegation to the U.S. from September 19 to October 3.

【Purposes of the Event】 (1) “to use the 60th anniversary panel exhibitions as opportunities to inform more people about our activities to convey the reality of the atomic bombings and to build peace through grassroots exchanges, and to encourage each of us to think about how we can convey our A-bomb experiences and build peace” and (2) to “share with the audience the underlying significance of PAX for peacebuilding, by gathering and sharing of learnings of the alumni of different year PAX programs to enhance the interests and motivations for PAX, although we hold outcome presentations after every single PAX program after they return.



After the event, echoes were heard: “It was educational to hear valuable experiences and learnings that I would not normally hear about.”; “I gained a lot of new insights and new energy.”; “I learned a lot from the experience of participating in various PAX and saw through the underlying values of the PAX through their real-life words.” We also heard “the Second part needed more time for floor discussion.” We’ll use the feedback for next time.
We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all the presenters and participants. Thank you very much.



Korean PAX2025 Report “Past, Present and Future” Shizuo Tachibana

Korean Peace Ambassadors Exchange Program (KPAX) 2025, which took place from May 1 to 6, has been successfully completed. We would like to thank all the WFC community members who participated and cooperated in the program, as well as all the people we visited and those who gave testimonies and guided us around. The eight members from Korea this time were: Ms. Hye Sun Ryu (leader), Ms. Min Seo Yoo, Mr. Jang Hoon Son, Mr. Ki Chan Kim (who participated for three days from May 1 to 3), Mr. Hyun Min Bae (Restorative Justice Instructor), and Mrs. Min Ji Park, Ms. Nan Cho Jeon, and Ms. Yoon Kyung Choi. This year's host families are Ms. Masue Matsumoto (a member visited Korea in 2019) and Keiko Capper (a member who visited Korea in 2024, whose daughter Minao participated in 2019), Ms. Michiko Yamane (a member who visited Korea in 2013), and Bradley and Susan Cox (WFC directors). And we cannot forget Coris, a traveling volunteer from Hong Kong who attended the program with us, took pictures, and posted on social media for WFC.



On the morning of May 1, the group arrived ahead of schedule at Hiroshima Airport and took a limousine bus to Hiroshima City, where they were picked up and driven to WFC in the cars of the board members who met them. Lunch was a welcome potluck by members of the Peace Choir and others. Songs performed in Korean were heartwarming. Brad talked about WFC and Barbara during the Orientation. We walked to Peace Memorial Park, visited Barbara's monument, and toured the Peace Memorial Museum. After that, they went to the homes of their host families, who took care of them for the next four days.

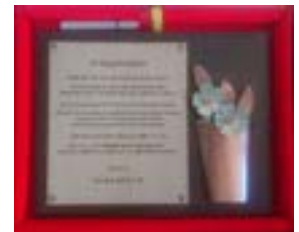
On May 3, we had a “Restorative Justice and Restorative Discipline” workshop in the morning and a time of interaction in the afternoon. This is the second time we have had a public session on restorative justice, the first in 2023. With a desire to learn from each other, we planned an opportunity to learn about restorative justice, which is one of the important works of the Peace Building Community, our counterpart organization in Korea. After the program, we had free time. Everyone seemed to be fascinated by the newly opened Minamoa.





On the morning of May 4, Ayaka Fujita and Kou Motokura, two second-year students of the Hiroshima Jogakuin High School Signature Committee, led us on an English-speaking tour of the Peace Park monuments. They came to WFC in advance and worked hard to prepare for the tour, with support from Susan, the director of the WFC, who helped them with the guided study. **For lunch**, we had okonomiyaki near WFC. **In the afternoon**, we had a circle talk time to reflect on the four days and talk about what Japan and Korea mean to us through the KPAX experiences and words that were imprinted in our hearts.

On May 5, the PAX enjoyed a sightseeing tour of Miyajima, joined by members who participated in the Korean PAX in different years, including a university student who returned home during the week, as well as members of the English class. Miyajima was so crowded with many visitors during the consecutive holidays, but they seemed to have had a good time enjoying the beautiful scenery and nature as well as the cultural heritage and historical sites (although there was an incident in which a deer tried to eat their lunch boxes...). All the members stayed at the WFC that day. After the curry dinner we prepared together, we shared the message from each person and what we felt through this year's program. We received a commemorative plaque from the Peace Building, Korea, as a sign of our friendship over the years. Some members went to Minamoa at Hiroshima Station again at the end of the last day.



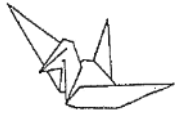
May 6. We were blessed with good weather during the Korean PAX, but it rained on the day they returned home. However, the weather was fine in the hearts. I am sure that each of us has various feelings and memories left in our hearts.

Korean PAX began in 2003. Over the 22 years since then, we have continued to visit each other, learn from each other's past, and exchange ideas. Some of the members were surprised at how welcoming we were at the potluck lunch on the first day. Having visited Korea twice myself, I will never forget the warm hospitality I received from the Korean people. Likewise, I am sure that those from Korea will never forget the hospitality they received from their host families and the WFC members. The photo shows a commemorative plaque given to us by the Peace Building as a gift of gratitude. It reads, "We deeply appreciate WFC's hard work and dedication to peace. We would like to express our gratitude for the long-standing friendship between the WFC and Peace Building and hope that solidarity for peace will be further strengthened."

However, this was not accomplished overnight. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has visited Korea, everyone who has hosted members from Korea, everyone who has been involved in the planning and operation of the Korean PAX, and everyone who has supported the program.

And the relationship between WFC and the Peace Building will continue. This will require the presence of people who will be the carriers of the program and efforts to pass on what we have gained through learning from each other. This year's Korean PAX included past participants of the Korean PAX program who have accepted host families, those who accompanied us for part of the program, and young members of last year's KPAX who joined us during their "Golden Week" break from universities. We would like to share with those around us what WFC has accomplished and cultivated through the Korean PAX programs, and would like to pass it on to the next generation.

A unique part of the program this time was a visit to a Korean school and hearing Hibakusha testimonies from a Zainichi survivor, a Korean resident in Hiroshima. The Korean participants mentioned this as one of the most moving parts of this year's KPAX. Just as the starting point for the abolition of nuclear weapons is the atomic bombing, we must never forget the starting point of our relationship with the people of Korea: why did people from the Korean Peninsula have to be exposed to the atomic bombing? Hibakusha are getting older, and it is becoming more difficult for them to participate in PAX. The same is true in Korea. Last year, we were unable to meet with the residents of the House of Sharing because they were hospitalized. KPAX is now entering a new stage of its history, while still valuing the importance of learning from each other.



KPAX Report: May 3 “Workshop on Restorative Justice” & “Social Exchange” May 4 afternoon “4-day PAX reflection circle”

- memorable words and experiences, what Japan/Korea means to us-

Junko Hattori

On Saturday, May 3, WFC held its second public program with KPAX, featuring Part 1: a workshop on “Restorative Justice” in the morning and Part 2: an Exchange Time with Korean PAX in the afternoon, at Essor Hiroshima, following the 2023 Korea PAX event. In Korea, the Korean Association for Restorative Justice (KARJ), headed by Mr. Lee Jae-Young of the Korean Peacebuilding Community/KOPI, has been conducting certification training for many practitioners and has been working with crime victim support centers, schools, housing complexes, and communities experiencing division and conflict throughout Korea. RJ has been widely adopted throughout the country, and most recently by the police. This RJ overview and the history of its development in Korea were explained by Ms. Yoo Ji-sook and Mr. Lee Hyung-woo, members of PAX2023 and KARJ facilitators during the 2023 RJ Basic Workshop, where the participants also experienced a role play by being divided into the following five groups: “victims,” “perpetrators,” “concerned parties (PTA / elderly welfare facilities / local communities)

The first part of this year's event was facilitated by Mr. Hyun-min Bae, a member of Korea PAX, who has been facilitating “Restorative Life Education” and “Peace Sensitivity Enhancing Circle Activities (actually done in a circle)” at Korean schools, including practicing and sharing the activity to foster the foundation of Restorative Justice (RJ). Since two hours were not enough time for discussion last time and we had to extend the session by 30 minutes, I requested in advance that the history of the development of RJ in Korea not be included in the PowerPoint presentation of Chapter 2 this time but be included as a handout so that we can have more time for discussion. Hyun-min san, who facilitates daily school life learning activities of restorative justice (RJ) in educational settings, prepared a new full-length PowerPoint presentation “Restorative Justice and Restorative Life Educational Guidance (RD)” before coming to Japan, and prepared Japanese translation along with handouts. Mr. Hyeon-Gi Kwon provided consecutive Korean-Japanese interpretation throughout the day.

Open to the public and pre-registered, regardless they had participated in the previous 2023 basic session, 42 people attended the Part 1 session, including a total of 14 PAX members with the Working Team (WT), and 34 participated in the Part 2 session.



After a lunch with Nita rice balls, we saw off Mr. Kim Ki-chan, who was leaving for his dedication, and Part 2 of the afternoon was a session of “exchange with PAX members”. Hattori acted as facilitator, and Hyeon-Gi san continued to provide Korean-Japanese interpretation. The 1st activity was the Birthday Line-up through non-verbal communication. Next, we formed four circles and got to know each other through ice breaking to deepen the exchange. Japanese, Korean, and English were mixed for communication, which was such a unique experience for most of them, whose ages, affiliations, backgrounds, and nationalities were diverse, enjoyed interacting with each other. At the end of the event, we formed another closing circle together to reflect on today's experience. Once again, we wish to thank everyone for their participation, support, and warm encouragement.



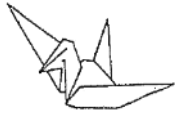


The afternoon of Sunday, May 4, was the time I facilitated. During the last PAX 2024 in Korea, since the foundation of mutual trust and heartfelt fraternal exchange that has been built up since the first year of the event, a local elder friend who has had painful and traumatic generational experiences under Japanese colonial rule, beginning with the so-called “Japan-Korea annexation” in 1910, broke her silence concerning the Korea-Japan relationship. In the conclusion, the rep of KOPI told us, “This trauma affecting the relationships of Korea-Japan citizens till today was a consequence of the State's acts of violence of invasion, and war, so PAX is essentially a space for learning living peace among both citizens. We shall continue PAX.” Based on the above, I proposed and was given the charge of the 2.5-hour Circle Talk session. Some of Korea PAX members wrote in their profiles that they were looking forward to this time of dialogue on Japan-Korea relations, and one of them wished to know if there was any literature that she should read in advance. Until just before the event, Hyun-min san had planned to shorten the first half of the lecture using a PowerPoint presentation and have a longer Q&A session, while the second half would have time for a circle experience to enhance peace sensitivity. He decided that it was more important for the participants to understand the basics of RJ, so he carefully maximized the Q&A time to receive many enthusiastic questions from the audience. For the last 30 minutes of Part 1, we sat in five small circles (taking into consideration the language used by the PAX members) and reflected on Part 1. Finally, the entire group formed a large closing circle to share the reflection. There certainly felt a deep connection between interpersonal peacebuilding & peace sensitivity, and restorative approaches, as well as having an environment and mindset in which both parties can participate equally with each other in a CIRCLE. Again, the Part-1 workshop required 2 hours and 30 minutes.



I searched and consulted with Jae-young san about the literature in Korea while working hard to respond sincerely to their expectations to explore various options and avenues of approach. Mr. Keisaburo Toyonaga informed us he regrets he'll be unable to join the session, but he wishes to introduce the Korean version of the booklet “To Hiroshima...”, messages from Korean A-bomb survivors to the Korean PAX members. So we did. Furthermore, I explored topic options such as looking into differences in history textbooks, the possibility of debate, etc. Also, I consulted with Pastor Junko Otsuki of the Fuchu Church. The topic was finally decided based on the given attendees, focusing on engaging them through dialogues and sharing insights from the PAX experience and what Korea-Japan means to us. For an interpreter, Pastor Ohtsuki kindly introduced us to Ms. Kin Ryung-hee, the former Director of Academic Affairs of Hiroshima Korean School. The PAX members reflected that this encounter was another deeply moving experience for them.

On the day of the event, participants (KPAX members except resting 14 yrs-old Yoon-kyung+ WT members) sat in a circle formation, and at the beginning of the session, touched upon the perspective that not only our figures can be seen here, but that the words and interactive experiences of the people we met to get here are what make us who we are today, and that Japanese citizens have a heavy responsibility and role to play in peace building in Korea and other East Asian countries. We spent time reflecting on our experiences during the four days of PAX2025 so far, writing on cards and sharing what we learned and realized that made a particularly penetrating impression on us. In the closing circle, we reflected on “Korea-Japan for me,” discussed how each of us should take steps forward as individuals and as communities in Japan (WFC) and Korea (Peace Building) to explore the heart-to-heart connection between the people in Japan and Korea and, by extension, to walk forward in the future as a shared community that envisions a peaceful future for Asia. We wish to continue exchanging and walking side by side as a grassroots peace community that bridges between people of Japan and Korea.



Participating in K-PAX Jang Hoon, Son

"How can the past help the present?" I wanted to get an answer to this question. After spending six days in Hiroshima, did I get an answer? The author said, "Why is the world so violent and painful? How can the world be so beautiful at the same time?" and, "How much can we love? How much is our limit? How much do we have to love to remain human?" Hiroshima did.

The answer I got is summarized into three keywords.

The first keyword is "water temperature." The host filled the bathtub with warm water every day. I relieved my fatigue in the evening and filled my breakfast with delicious food. The couple's bright expression brightened me as much as the weather. "How much can you love us?"

The second keyword is "memory." "Who am I? Where am I?" They wanted to remember and had to. Identity is found only when the 'memory' is lost. My hometown is the south, and my country is the north. However, it has never been divided in the memory of our school. Young descendants of victims of forced labor are being discriminated against. "Why is the world so violent and painful?"

The third keyword is 'curious connection'. Like a grain of wheat, from one person, Barbara and WFC and PAX and restorative justice, Peacebuilding people and me, Hiroshima and citizens shouting for peace in the ruins of the atomic bomb, so connected. It's a curious connection. "How is the world so beautiful at the same time?"

Due to the space relationship, a photo and poet Jung Hyeon Jong's visitor are introduced in Japanese.



"A visitor" Jung Hyeon Jong

**Meeting a person in life
Is actually an enormous event in life.
Because he is coming with
His past, present, and
His future.**

**Because one's whole life comes into the other's
The heart, which is fragile,
The heart which may have shattered before
Is coming
The heart, which the wind can only read
If my heart were to mimic the wind,
I will only end up being a clown.**



PAX Participant

Hye Sun, Ryu(Angela)



I served as a host for three times during the PAX program. Whenever a guest came from Japan, my husband, Dong-wook, who participated as a member of the Parks program, always said, "I don't know how warm the hospitality of the Japanese people is, let's make food at home again this time."

I was happy to be a person who shared hospitality and received hospitality. The hands you prepared while waiting for the visitors, the hard work you put in your heart, and the time you gave me the time and energy. The WFC staff and the time filled with the love of the members were truly appreciated and warm. The songs you sang in Korean touched my heart.

Perhaps because of that, my heart was always open as I completed my six-day visit to Hiroshima. The historical conflicts and pains that Korea and Japan should resolve are still ongoing, but the hospitality of the WFC members and the people I met in Hiroshima were able to discover the power of transition beyond conflict and pain.

I sincerely thank the WFC staff and members for carefully planning the progress, composition, and flow of all these processes. Writing it down now, in the space of 5 nights and 6 days, we were able to have an experience of dreaming of the past, present, and future time together.

I cannot forget the food that you prepared for every step of the process. The food that I made at home with sincerity, and even the memo that was translated into Korean explaining every single dish I made at home. The hospitality filled with love made me feel with all my body that this place is a safe space. Thanks to you, I was able to meet a variety of people with difficult topics, which came as rich and meaningful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Hosting a couple with Korean PAX

Sue Cox

We were pleased to host two members from the Korean PAX group this year., Hyun Min Bae and Min Ji Park. As co-directors of WFC, this was an amazing opportunity for us. It was our first experience with one of the PAX teams and we were a little unsure as to what to expect.

We do know how wonderful exchanges can be as we have hosted exchange students at our home in Virginia. After the wonderful Pot Luck lunch and welcome party, when we gathered together after the tour of the Peace Museum, we sat down to a nice dinner with our two guests and our conversation flowed easily. We discussed topics about Korea, America, and Japan. Learning about other countries always gives us a wonderful opportunity to see our own country through a different lens, an experience that really gives us hope for Peace. Realizing there are things other countries do better than our own, is an important thought process that keeps us accepting others regardless of where they are from. Sharing leads to ideas and to friendships around the world.

Over the six days we enjoyed several dinners together as well as some tours of sights in and around Hiroshima. Being a host family is an experience we will always cherish. If you get the chance, you should definitely try hosting next time and be rewarded with a great exchange of ideas and valuable friendships from around our world.



Friendship with Peace Coris Sze

What is “peace”? It is always difficult to define. When we look at the state of the world, it can be hard to say that we are truly at peace. However, we can still contribute to making the world a better place.

I joined the Korea PAX 2025 as a volunteer for WFC from Day 1 to the morning of Day 4. The following is my PAX report.

Exchange Programs

From May 1-6, 2025, the World Friendship Centre (WFC) organized an exchange program for the Korean Peace Ambassadors (PAX) in Hiroshima. This year, eight Korean PAX participated. Through friendship and peace-focused programs, they explored the idea that peace is about **sharing, caring, and connecting with people**.

The exchange included open dialogue, Hiroshima’s history studies, and sightseeing.

Open Dialogue

To foster open dialogue, the “Restorative Justice Workshop” introduced participants to the principles of Restorative Discipline and its application in education. Participants from Korea, Japan, and overseas engaged in discussions on Peace-Sensitive Communication, self-reflection, and mutual understanding through ice-breaking and interactive activities.

Additionally, a circle talk session was arranged for the Korean PAX and WFC members to share their reflective thoughts and insights regarding the relationship between Japan and Korea based on the 4-day PAX experiences.

Hiroshima’s history studies

Hiroshima, the city where the atomic bomb was dropped in 1945, has become a symbol of peace. To understand its history, Korean PAX visited the Peace Memorial Museum on the first day, learning about the effects of the atomic bomb through pictures of the ruins and survivor stories.

During the Flower Festival, 2 students from Hiroshima Jogakuin High School volunteered to guide the Korean PAX to tour around Peace Park. From the meaning of the Victims Memorial Cenotaph to the reflection of the A-bomb Dome, students explained in detail with good preparation. They visited the Korean victim monument specifically so that the Korean PAX can understand the Korean situation in Japan during the Asia-Pacific War and the period under Japanese occupation. The Korean PAX were deeply impressed by the students’ dedication to peace-related activities and appreciated the meaningful exchange. The learning of history not only from the facts, but also from the communication and connection among different generations and nationalities.

Sightseeing

Most of Hiroshima’s ruins were rebuilt after the war. One such place is the Shukkei-en Garden, which was destroyed by the atomic bomb and later restored. Korean PAX and WFC members explored the garden, enjoying the scenic beauty while a tour guide explained its history and architectural significance.

The day before their departure, the group visited Miyajima Island.

Lastly,....

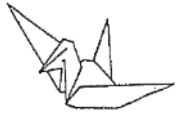
The exchange program I witnessed was fulfilling for both WFC and the Korean PAX. Participants put in great effort, showing sincerity and dedication throughout the experience. They treasured the opportunity to converse, listen, and care for one another despite language challenges. The exchange process itself was rewarding.

While an individual may seem insignificant in the vast world, peace can unite people from different backgrounds. Sharing, caring, and learning from one another creates a peaceful world. Even the impact of a single person may be small, but the power of love can be incredible.

The world is beautiful because of the love of the people. By being caring, sharing, and connecting, we can form friendships that help build a peaceful world.



Thank you Coris ♥ See you again!



The 60th Anniversary of World Friendship Center Yukari Takasugi

World Friendship Center held its 60th anniversary event in June. Although it was founded on the seventh of August, it was decided that with the many events of August 6, the day before, we would celebrate the day on Barbara Reynold's birthday this year. For the event, we received some greeting videos from former Directors and friends in the U.S. who are involved with World Friendship Center. We were able to watch the videos during the event in Hiroshima. We planned to stream our celebration live, but it was not possible. We were delighted to share the event later on You Tube.

One of the highlights of the anniversary celebration was the performance of the play, "Living with Father" by Hisashi Inoue, performed by Tatsushi Amamo. He had performed this over 125 times in the past and it was wonderful to have him perform it live for our anniversary at the JMS Aster Plaza. He had retired from performing but agreed to perform it for our anniversary with a warmup performance first for a group from the University of Michigan. It was a very impactful performance, and we are grateful for having the opportunity to watch the one man show.

World Friendship Center was founded in 1965. At that time, black-and-white TVs were more common than color TVs in Japanese households. Air travel was not as convenient as it is these days. If Barbara Reynolds had not come back to Hiroshima and had not created the hospitality center called World Friendship Center, there would be no World Friendship Center in Hiroshima. She had been sympathetic towards Hibakushas in Hiroshima when most people who lived overseas would not even have known the word, Hibakusha. We cannot thank her enough. World Friendship Center has been supported by many kindnesses from people from America and around the world. We are deeply grateful to you for your support.

As you know, wars have not ended in the world. It crossed my mind what a Hibakusha said to me one time, "America didn't rob our language."

So that means Japan invaded and tried to take languages away from some countries in wars. I think what humans did was wrong.

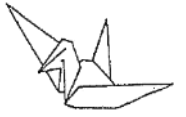
I know that there are a lot of different thoughts in this world and life is not easy.

I believe World Friendship Center, the hospitality center is cozy place.

World Friendship Center can connect across borders with people all over the world! Let's keep World Friendship Centers Message alive for the next 60 years! Happy Anniversary WFC!

**WBC 60th
Anniversary
June 14, 2025
JMS Aster Plaza**





In Celebration of the WFC 60th Anniversary Yukiko Tanaka

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to WFC on reaching the brilliant milestone of your 60th anniversary. I have very much respect for your efforts and support you from the bottom of my heart.

Six or seven years ago, Mr. Tatsushi Amano, a friend of mine told me about WFC.

I looked up at the framed words of Barbara "I, too, am a hibakusha." Her words inspired me, and I became a member of WFC.



When I watched the play, "Living with Father" performed by Tatsushi Amano for the first time, six years ago, I was so surprised at his good acting.

His gestures were so skillful and made it so easy for me, a Deaf person, to understand the play.

I was impressed with his performance. I was sure that his acting should be able to convey the message to international guests.

I was in the midst of wishing to show many international guests his storytelling performance conveying the importance of peace and friendship when the COVID-19 pandemic began. I wasn't expecting that.

Finally, He was able to perform in front of them for the WFC 60th anniversary event.

I felt relieved to see people were intently watching it, laughing, and crying.

I hope that Mr. Tatsushi Amano will continue performing in Hiroshima in the future.

I will always be cheering for him. Please be supportive of him.

I was impressed with warm messages from Jessica, the former Directors, and everyone involved in this celebration event.

I will devote myself to WFC for the rest of my life.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the foundation of WFC.

Thank you.

Yukiko Tanaka who lives in
Kure, always delivers
handmade goods to WFC.
We appreciate her warm
hospitality♥



Internship at WFC

N. T. Trang

Hiroshima Jogakuin University



Over the past 2 months, I've had the privilege of interning at the World Friendship Center (WFC), a place where peace, people, and purpose gently come together. My internship at the WFC has been filled with meaningful interactions, cross-cultural learning, and opportunities to grow, both professionally and personally.

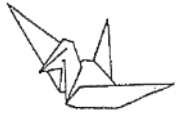
One of the most memorable experiences was supporting the WFC at their 60th Anniversary Ceremony. I was assigned to film the live event and capture precious moments for archiving. Though at first, I was nervous handling the camera, the encouraging atmosphere created by the staff helped me to quickly adapt. I also contributed to designing postcards, creating bilingual recruitment posts for the PAX program, and translating documents for peace education activities. These tasks allowed me to improve not only my language and tech skills, but also my ability to communicate across cultures.

Meeting guests from around the world, helping prepare events with WFC's elderly volunteers, and supporting Hibakusha testimony presentations made me realize the true meaning of international friendship. I felt honored to meet Tatsushi Amano-san and his son, whose powerful performance of "Living with Father" moved both staff and students. I also enjoyed making origami dolls with local community staff - small actions, but full of care and connection.



Like many interns, I faced challenges too. Balancing schoolwork and internship tasks was not always easy. But every experience, whether successful or difficult, taught me resilience, patience, and the value of teamwork. Even when facing small misunderstandings or technical issues, the kindness and support from the WFC staff reminded me of why this organization matters.

As a student from Vietnam studying in Hiroshima, I am truly grateful for the chance to contribute to the WFC's peace activities. This internship has deepened my understanding of peace, history, and community. I hope to carry forward the spirit of WFC in both my future studies and my career. Thank you, WFC, for giving me a home of friendship and learning.



August 6 Special Event A-bomb Accounts and Reports from the Marshall Islands Chizuko Taguchi

WFC celebrated its 60th year anniversary this year. Every year on August 6, WFC invites A-bomb survivors to listen to their accounts, in line with its mission of "Listening to the stories of A-bomb survivors and informing the world of the reality of the atomic bombing." Last year (2024), the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, reaffirming the significance of continuing to give testimony. However, due to the aging of the society, the number of A-bomb survivors has decreased dramatically, and opportunities to hear their testimony in person are rapidly diminishing. In addition, there are few opportunities to learn about the actual conditions of countries and islands that were destroyed by nuclear tests in the aftermath of those tests.

This year, a special event was held at ESSOR Hiroshima, consisting of 2 parts: Yasuko Kondo's A-bomb account and a report by two people from the Marshall Islands, whose homeland was destroyed by nuclear tests.

The interpreter was Carl Wirsop, who has lived in Hiroshima for more than 20 years and possesses a clear and rich vocabulary. About 70 people attended the event, including many foreign students and young people related to the Marshall Islands. Serious questions and answers continued for a full hour.

When Yasuko Kondo was 4 years old, she was evacuated to her uncle's house in Takasu, 3.5 kilometers from the hypocenter, with her 32 years-old mother and 9 months-old younger sister. Her younger sister burst into tears when the bomb exploded, and the story of how broken pieces of glass flew into her open mouth took my breath away. The three of them traveled by boat to Etajima on August 9 in search of their grandmother, and they finally found her at a military academy. The story of how they lived with their mother's family in Kure, subsisting on sweet potatoes, salt made from seawater, and other staple foods, was explained in an extremely easy-to-understand manner using PowerPoint presentations and showing actual items such as Fish mint, straw sandals with red thongs, and hooks. She talked about her classmate's sudden death from leukemia when she was in grade 6 of elementary school, and her experience of discrimination when she got a job and got married. She was overflowing with her precious experiences, and I once again felt the horror of the atomic bombing.



Two speakers from the Marshall Islands reported on the theme of "The Power of Nuclear Trauma to Resurrect".

Robin Nurn, an associate professor at Seattle University, has a father who is an immigrant from the Marshall Islands. Natasha Note, a student at Everett Community College, has parents who are from the Marshall Islands. In the 12 years since 1946, the United States has conducted 67 hydrogen bomb tests in the Marshall Islands. In particular, the test on Bikini Atoll in 1954 was the largest bomb, 1000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima type. The fallout, which caused children to mistake the white ash for snow, has spread to neighboring islands, causing lifelong health problems such as cancer, reproductive and thyroid disorders. In addition, the imperfect disposal of radioactive waste has led to contamination of the ocean, resulting in the birth of children with birth defects due to secondary health problems. They restore the right to life and overcome the nuclear trauma, stand up for the cultural revival of their homelands erased from history, repay and restore justice, work toward a world without nuclear weapons, and develop a critical awareness of nuclear weapons among young people.

This year, 80 years after the atomic bombings, the world is experiencing frequent wars and the risk of nuclear war is growing. All communities must work together quickly to eliminate nuclear weapons.