



Yu-Ai Friendship

Newsletter of the World Friendship Center, NPO

8-10 Higashi Kan-on Machi, Nishi-ku, Hiroshima 733-0032, Japan

Phone : (082) 503-3191 Fax : (082) 503-3179

Email: worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com

WFC Facebook Group: World Friendship Center - Hiroshima

Website: <http://wfchiroshima.com/> or <http://wfchiroshima.com/english/>

Chairperson: Michiko Yamane Directors: Dannie Otto & Barbara Shenk

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Experience& mini Report of internship at WFC

Mirabelle Chen

After a week of delay of my arrival and all the hustle from my visa, I finally arrived in World Friendship Center in Hiroshima on a sunny afternoon on May 20th and began my amazing six-weeks experience.

For two weeks after my arrival, I had to skype in for my Japanese crush course at 6 am in the morning. Even though it was only a 8 weeks course, I still learnt quite some Japanese—it was worth it totally.

I absolutely loved my one-week experience at Peace Culture Village. People today talk about peace all the time, but do they really know what peace is? As an experimental community, PCV gets people into thinking about what peace actually means. Usually, there're guests coming and going, either staying at PCV for a night or only participate in daytime works; this week, with Mr. Steven Leeper and some other directors and staffs gone, it was only me and Mary Popeo in the village—but we still had an amazing time, and I have much thank for her patience and understanding(my extreme fear of insects, nameless bugs, etc.)! Growing up in Beijing, which is a big city, I've barely had any chance to actually live in the countryside and there're lots of things that are new and interesting for me: going to sleep with the sound of frogs on a summer night; waking up by the chicken and the sunlight; planting and eating our own crops for meals...everything was exciting and brand new for me.



I can't thank WFC and Shudo University enough for giving me the incredible opportunity to join their English class. On Monday and Thursday mornings, I go there to help with their English class, and on Wednesday in the afternoon to join the English Communication and Chat Club. They are mostly freshmen students with English majors. Looking at them reminded me of myself 5 years ago in a high school classroom—a girl with poor English, too shy to speak with foreigners, always nervous when asked a question in class—and that makes me really want to try my best to help them. Also, they were the first group of younger people that I've met since I've come here. Since most people coming to the WFC are over 40, it was nice to talk to someone of my own age. Everyday it takes about 1 hour and a half to go back and forth, but I'd say the experience is totally worth the time and waking up at 6:30 in the morning. Everyone was extremely friendly, even some don't speak perfect English and could only barely communicate—their smiles made me feel super welcomed. I'm always surprised at how fast they're learning and how passionate they are for each class, of course one big reason was how funny and dedicated Mr. Ronald is, as a teacher and as a friend.



On the fourth weekend, I had the honor to be invited to join WFC's board meeting. Since most of the board members don't speak English, the meeting was mostly conducted in Japanese, and Barb was the translator for both me and Dannie. I also gave a self-introduction in Japanese which seemed to be impressive, so I'd say the Japanese crash course was actually really helpful! The meeting was conducted efficiently and it was amazing to just attend and listen to a meeting in Japanese!

I'm sure I'll be back in Japan one day! For World Friendship Center, for all the friends I've made, for Okonomiyaki—my favorite food from Hiroshima, and of course, for so much more!

My Experiences with the WFC

Kaelee Parker

July 6th - August 12th, 2018

Arriving in the Rain

I landed in the Hiroshima airport on July 6th, when the city was in the midst of the torrential rain. The highways were closed, buses and trains weren't running, and the airport hotel was completely full. Luckily, Mikiko-san and Yoshi-san helped me through this stressful venture. They were able to reserve a cottage for me, located close to the airport hotel, so that I wouldn't have to spend the night in the airport. The cottage was meant for a family of four so it was a little big for just me, but I chose to make the best of it and relax after the long flight into Japan.

The next morning, I moved over to the airport hotel lobby. The buses were still not running and now the WiFi and phone service was down too. Even the food trucks couldn't make it to the hotel so there wasn't any food available. They ended up shuttling me to the airport so that I could get food and WiFi. There, I was able to contact Mikiko-san more. It looked like I'd need to stay at the airport hotel overnight. Luckily, this time, there was a room available for me. Being jetlagged, I fell asleep around 5pm that night.

Waking up around 4am the next morning, I had a lot of time without much to do (since there was no WiFi and it was raining too hard to explore). I ended up reading a book until about 11am, at which point I took the shuttle over to the airport to get some food and to contact Mikiko-san again. While there, I discovered that the airport had created an alternate route to the city! They had a free bus to transport people to Higashi Hiroshima Station where they could then take the Shinkansen to Hiroshima Station. Mikiko-san told me that this route would work (through a series of emails where I'd send her pictures of Japanese

signs and she'd respond with whether or not the route would get me to the right place), so I quickly got my luggage and set off on the bus to Higashi Hiroshima Station. It was a very beautiful bus ride going through rural areas of Japan, past traditional houses and lush rice fields.



Mikiko-san and Yoshi-san met me at the Hiroshima Station and drove me over to the World Friendship Center. It was so wonderful to see them again and to finally arrive at the WFC.

Familiar Faces and New Friends

Upon arriving at the WFC, I met the directors, Barb and Dannie, along with their daughter Sophie. They were very welcoming and I immediately felt like I was at home. Even though I landed in Hiroshima on July 6th, it wasn't until July 8th that I managed to get to the center (with lots of help!). July 8th was a Sunday, which turned out to be an important day for the directors. Every Sunday, they eat popcorn and apples for dinner while “binge” watching a television show called “Doc Martin.” They quickly welcomed me into their tradition, which resulted in a much-needed relaxing evening. From then on, we would watch an episode every night after dinner.

On July 9th, the day after I arrived at the WFC, a peace choir event was canceled so they came to the WFC for lunch instead. This was a great chance for me to see many of the amazing people I had met three years ago, and for me to meet a few others for the first time. I learned about Michiko-san's adorable dog named Luke and Mikiko-san helped correct people on the pronunciation of my name. Asaka-san led us in some songs while Youko-san played the piano.

One of Dannie's English classes was focused on reading John Hersey's book "Hiroshima." I was reading this book at the same time so I joined the class for a few weeks. It was really nice to get to know those in the class a little better. Occasionally I would also attend some of the other English classes. Once, while Dannie and Barb were in Osaka, Sophie and I led an English class. It was with the Thursday class (self-named "The Tangential Class") and we had a lot of fun going off on tangents. I would test out my Japanese "speeches" for them, along with practicing my astronomy quiz that I was preparing for Mutsumien, the nursing home.

Bakeries and Cafes

Sophie was working on her Master's dissertation so we'd often go out to study at cafés. This gave me a chance to work on some of my Japanese speaking and listening skills. We also loved to frequent bakeries. Japanese bakeries are so much more exciting than American ones—where else can someone get bread filled with curry?!

Astronomy at Mutsumien

On the day that Barb and Dannie went to Osaka, Mikiko-san, Michiko-san, and Youko-san took me to Mutsumien to visit the people there. I brought along an astronomy themed quiz that consisted of the following questions:

1. What planet is closest to the sun?
A) Mercury, B) Venus, C) Jupiter
2. Which is bigger:
Earth or Neptune?
Earth or the moon?
Earth or the sun?
3. Who was the first person to walk on the moon?
A) Buzz Aldrin, B) Neil Armstrong, C) Thomas Edison
4. True or False: The moon causes the tides on Earth.
5. The Big Dipper constellation points to which star that is used for navigation?
A) The sun, B) Aldeberan, C) The North Star

The people there seemed to especially like the questions about the moon. Since the rivers of Hiroshima change so dramatically with the tides, it seems that many of the people here are very interested in the moon and know quite a bit about it.

As always, Shin-chan was a huge hit at Mutsumien. Asaka-san led us through some more songs, and then I helped present flowers to everyone who had birthdays that month.

Nagasaki Nekos and Other Nagasaki Adventures

On July 21st and 22nd, I traveled with Mikiko-san and Michiko-san to Nagasaki. There, we met up with one of Michiko-san's friends, Yamakawa-sensei, who helped guide us around Nagasaki. We went to a Nagasaki Champon restaurant where we ordered "what the locals get," and then headed for the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb. It was very interesting to compare the Nagasaki museum to the Hiroshima one, and of course, it was a very sad and moving experience. Our English guide was named Sachiko Maruyama-san and she was very kind as well.



Left to right: Yamakawa-sensei, Mikiko-san, me, Maruyama-san, Michiko-san

After the museum, Yamakawa-sensei's wife visited the Catholic Center where we were staying. She is a hibakusha from Nagasaki's bombing so she told us her story and that of her family. Thankfully, most of her family made it out alive even though they lived only 1.4 km away from the hypocenter. The room had collapsed on her (a young child at the time), her older sister, and her mother,

but luckily one of her brothers and her nanny were able to dig them out from the ruins. That brother died a month or so later from radiation, but their family was still considered lucky because so many of them had survived.

While staying in Nagasaki, I learned about the Nagasaki Nekos—stray cats in Nagasaki that have somewhat bent tails. We saw many of these cats during the two days we spent in the city. The Catholic Center left food out for them so some would congregate nearby.

On our second day there, we spent the morning at the Nagasaki peace park. There, I learned about the prison that used to exist where the peace park now is, the evacuation tunnels under the big hill, and the memorials that now scatter the park. Many of them were donated from other countries, in memory of those who were killed or suffered from the effects of radiation. Some were water structures, to provide water to those who once were crying out for it.



After the peace park tour, we visited the Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum. Dr. Nagai is a famous figure in Nagasaki, the first honorary citizen of Nagasaki even. He was a radiologist who allowed himself to be exposed to the radiation from his X-rays because he refused to stop his practice even though X-ray film had become extremely scarce. From this, he developed cancer, estimating that he had about three years left to live. When the atomic bomb was dropped, he was exposed to even more radiation. The community built him a two tatami mat house where he stayed when he became too sick to walk, and it was there that he wrote his novels. His novels were calls for peace, spreading awareness of the horrors of the bombing. We were able to visit Dr. Nagai's

small house, named Nyokodo, or “Love Thy Neighbors,” while we were in Nagasaki. The Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum was originally a library that Dr. Nagai set up for the children of Nagasaki after the bombing. It is still a library today, but it has a museum component as well.



Nyokodo

After going to the Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum, we walked over to the Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum. This museum was a little like the peace museum in Kyoto, where they show some of the realities of Japanese aggression during WW2. It was yet another sad museum but it was also eye-opening for me because it was the first time I was learning about much of it.

On the way back to Hiroshima, the train stopped on its way to Hakata due to rain. We were stuck there for a couple hours. Michiko-san and Mikiko-san were very cheerful despite the hassle though, and eventually we got back to the WFC.

Oleander Project (and Other WFC Guests)

One role the World Friendship Center plays is to accommodate guests. Oftentimes these guests were from countries from all over the world. Every morning, we would provide breakfast for our guests, which was a wonderful time to listen to their stories and learn more about their countries and cultures. While I was at the WFC, we had had guests from places including France, Germany, Australia, La Reunion Island, Italy, the US, and Belgium.

The Oleander Project was a group of teachers from the Middle East and the US who came to Hiroshima to learn about peace and how they could introduce it into their curriculums. Eight of them stayed at the WFC while the others were at a hotel. It was very busy while they were here, but it was also extremely interesting. Breakfasts, especially, were amazing since everyone was sharing about their countries and Samia (from Morocco) had often prepared some Middle Eastern dishes for everyone to try.



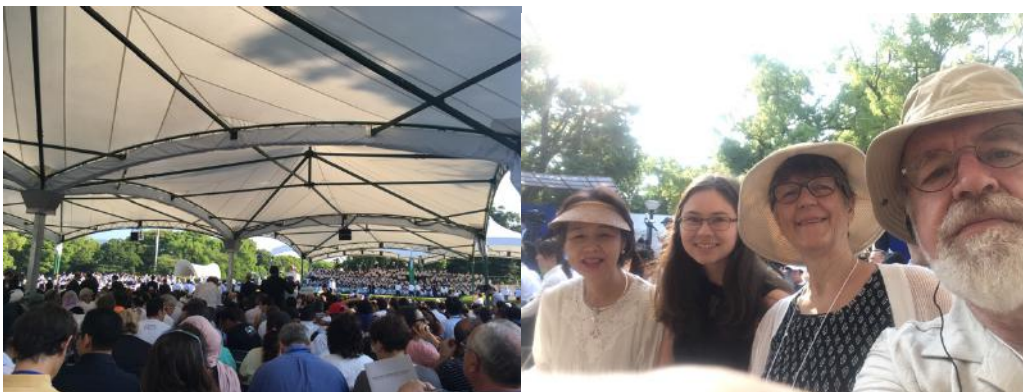
I got to know Samia better than the others because she asked me and the WFC intern, Ryo, to take her to the grocery store. We struggled to find everything she needed—she'd tell me what she needed to find in English and then I'd try to convey it to Ryo who could then read the Japanese labels and find what she asked for—but in the end, we found enough for her to make the dishes she had in mind.

Because the Oleander Project was using all of the rooms at the World Friendship Center, I moved into Mikiko-san and Yoshi-san's house for about a week. I stayed with them three years ago, with my family, when we visited for the World Friendship Center's 50th anniversary, so it was wonderful to be invited back. It was so nice to catch up with them and to get to see them in the evenings. Yoshi-san would make me a cup of coffee in the mornings before I'd head to the WFC to help set up breakfast and Mikiko-san taught me how to make rice correctly, along with other cooking advice. They helped me practice my speech for August 6th, specifically the Japanese portions, and overall it was just so wonderful to spend more time with them.



August 6th: A busy day and a sinking lantern

August 6th was a very long day with the World Friendship Center but I am so glad I was there for it. It started off early at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held in the peace park. I've heard that over 50,000 people were in attendance that day. We were given flowers to present at the Cenotaph and then we found seats near other members of the WFC. Unfortunately, the sun rose above the tree line during the ceremony and shined directly on us for the majority of it, so it was very very hot. We couldn't see very well from our seats, but some of the speeches were still quite moving and I am glad I could go in person.



Once we returned to the World Friendship Center, we watched the short film "Claw Marks" and then listened to Komiyoshi-san's hibakusha story.



A group picture with Fujii-san (front left) and Komiyoshi-san (front middle)

In the afternoon, we met at the Memorial Mound in peace park. There we listened to a number of speeches and then songs by the Peace Choir. Other than giving my speech, it was relaxing and actually rather cool since we were in the shade.

After the ceremony there, we moved over to Barbara's Memorial where we held another shorter ceremony. Once again, I gave my short speech, and we sang some more songs. After this, we built our lanterns for the river, writing on them our wishes for peace.





By the time we had gotten to the river, it was starting to get dark out. The lanterns on the river were absolutely beautiful and the pictures don't really do them justice. When I put my lantern in the water though, it tipped and capsized. It was still close enough that I was able to pull it back in and set it upright, but now the candle had gone out. The second time it was released, it made it a little farther before it flipped over again and was swept away under the water. Yoshi-san had a nice way of looking at this though—maybe my lantern actually made it to the ocean because it wasn't picked up like the others.





Performances

Following August 6th, life became much calmer. On August 7th, Tatsushi Amano-san came to the World Friendship Center to perform his one-person performance of “Living with Father.” It was so touching and Amano-san was able to switch between the two characters with such ease and distinction that you always knew whether he was playing the daughter or her father. The play itself was about the daughter who was having to deal with things such as survivor’s guilt after many of those she was close to were killed by the bomb. On August 10th, we watched another performance, this one called “The Grandchildren of Hiroshima.” Mirei-san and her children were performing in it and they did such a wonderful job. The play itself told the stories of multiple hibakusha and the performers spanned a few generations.

Miyajima

On August 9th, Mikiko-san, Barbara, and I finally made it out to Miyajima. We had been meaning to go for a while, but since it was so hot out for my entire visit, we kept postponing it. It was still hot that day but thankfully it was occasionally cloudy. We took cable cars up to near the top of Mt. Misen, then we climbed the rest of the way and ate onigiri at the observatory. The view from there was spectacular, overlooking many of the surrounding islands.



The thought of ice cream kept us going on the long walk back to the cable car. By then, the sun had fully come out from the clouds so it was very hot out. After the cable car, we found our way to the Daisho-in Temple where we saw hundreds of unique jizos with hats. We “went on a pilgrimage” by walking over tiles from 88 different temple sites and even saw a monkey near the stairs up to the temple.



Other pictures from Miyajima:



The monkey is in the middle of the picture



Saying Goodbye (For Now)

I had such a wonderful experience in Hiroshima with the World Friendship Center this summer. It was amazing to see everyone again and to meet so many new people. I am excited to bring my stories back to my family and friends at home, spreading what I've learned about peace and about the effects of the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I really hope to visit again and to continue working with the World Friendship Center. I have made so many friends during my stay and I really hope to stay in touch with all of you. Thank you for this opportunity.

August 6th Speech

Kaelee Parker

Three years ago, I came to Hiroshima with my family for the first time to attend the World Friendship Center's 50th anniversary. My great-grandmother, Barbara, had founded the World Friendship Center, but until visiting this city, I knew very little about her and her peace efforts.

We were only here for two weeks, but those two weeks were life-changing for me. Listening to the Hibakusha stories of devastation and death imparted upon me the horrors of nuclear weapons and why we should never use them again. After I went back to America, I always had a longing to return to Hiroshima and to help spread the desire for peace and nuclear disarmament. This summer, I had the opportunity to come back to the World Friendship Center as a volunteer for six weeks.

This opportunity has been allowing me to learn more about my great-grandmother and peace education. For 53 years, the World Friendship Center has been continuing her vision, advocating for peace and spreading awareness of Hibakusha and their stories.

My great-grandmother, and others who spread the ideals of peace, inspires me with hope every day. I believe that so much violence is caused by people who do not know or see the effects of what they do.

My great-grandmother helped people understand the tragedies of nuclear weapons and radiation through the stories and drawings of Hibakusha—not with the intent to provoke guilt, but so as to show the realities of war.

The more people who see the effects of war and nuclear weapons, through a lens of equality and empathy, the more peaceful the world will become. Barbara Reynolds's legacy continues and with it, lives like mine, continue to be changed.



American PAX report Youko Mimura

I applied to join American PAX at the end of June. It was privilege for me to be chosen as one of the participants and to have such a precious experience. We visited four places and met many people who welcomed us. I think that the warm welcome was only thanks to the years of relationship cultivated between each person or group and the WFC.

I deeply appreciate the organizers and WFC committee members for working kindly to preparing our trip and give accurate information. I also thank each host family for accepting us, and making delicious breakfasts!

The first place we visited was Elgin, northwest of Chicago. A director of this church, Dan Mcfadden hosted us and gave us a guided tour here. The

headquarters of Brethren Church is here, their publishing department is here, too. The book “Sea-going Cowboys” was published here.

One of the works they undertake here is Brethren Volunteer Service. After a couple weeks of training, volunteers are dispatched all over the place, in the USA and overseas. The WFC co-directors, Dannie and Barb were also sent to Hiroshima from here.

In Illinois Wesleyan University, we participated in the International Peace Conference, held over International Peace Day on September 20, 21, and 22. Josie, one of the interns at the WFC last June, was a leading organizer for this conference. We visited several classes from the first day soon after we arrived there. In each class, after we introduced ourselves, students asked us some questions related to Hiroshima and the atomic bomb. It was a good chance for us to know how they think about A-bombing. In this university, we saw that students learned seriously about Hiroshima. But those questions were not so easy for me to answer smoothly without preparation. I felt sorry about my poor English.

My presentation here was held from 6.30 in Turlfer room, with dinner and a small panel discussion. Hank Campbell was the following speaker panelist who works to make bridges between Jewish Israelis and Arab Palestinians. When I was nervous, my PAX pals sat in the front row and said they were there for me. That helped me relax. During this trip, I had a lot of experiences with the other participants – joking, singing, chatting and discussing. In my presentation, I talked about the WFC and some victims of the A-bomb in my husband’s family.

In Wilmington, we visited Tanya Maus at the Peace Resource Center. In the evening we were welcomed by local people with a potluck party. I felt this community has a close relationship with college. I learned that the number of Japanese books related to nuclear here is the largest outside Japan.

At Bluffton University, director Louise Mattheu gave us a campus tour and showed us some art on the campus. I felt their strong will to convey peace through the arts. There was also a cozy library in the Peace Center, the Lion and Lamb, where schoolchildren learn about peace through the “Sadako” or “Swords to Plowshares” stories. Our presentations were held in this center. Because one of the organizers, Alice Ramseyer, announced this through the

local newspaper, many people in the local community people came, as well as a few students of this university.

They seemed to learn about Hiroshima and the bomb. Most people we met through this PAX visit were relatively knowledgeable about Hiroshima. Still, though, the U.S. is one of the nations which possesses a large amount of arms, especially nuclear weapons. It might have been a small step for me to join PAX, but connecting with each other makes us stronger.

Thank you again for all the people I met in the U.S.A and the WFC.



The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts in Bluffton University

American PAX 2018

Tatsushi Amano

I had a chance to participate in the PAX-USA 2018.

It all started last April when Yamane-san, the WFC chairperson, asked me if I would like to perform the one-man play, "Living with Father", in the U.S.A. I had already performed the play with English subtitles before the WFC members, including the co-directors. I agreed to the proposal with pleasure. It would be a precious chance for me to perform the play about the A-bomb on Hiroshima written by Hisashi Inoue, a prominent Japanese playwright. I was nervous because I had no confidence in my English, but thanks to the strong support of the other PAX members (Mimura-san, Nishi-san and Tashiro-san), each of my performances at four places ended in great success. I am really grateful to each person who gave me a helping hand.

During the tour, everywhere we went, the local people gave us a warm welcome. A lot of people helped us out. Before the performance at the Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Illinois on September 19, Dan was busy setting up the equipment to the last minute. On September 20, at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Josie was a key person and a college professor there worked as my translator. The theater was filled with laughter and tears, and they gave me a standing ovation. While there, Raymond G. Wilson and his wife Akiko gave us three panoramic photos of Hiroshima after the A-bomb, which we, in turn, later passed on to Dayton International Peace Museum, Alice Ramseyer, and the WFC. Tanya of Peace Resource Center kindly climbed up a ladder for us to set up the lighting equipment at Wilmington College in Ohio on September 25. Our host family, Christine and Gene Snyder and a large number of local people and college students came over to see the play. On September 29, there were many local people at the First Mennonite Church in Bluffton, too. Barb's brother Ken was there. Alice, who celebrated her 89th birthday, was there and vigorously took care of us.

Looking back on this PAX tour, I must give my thanks to all the people I met who guided us, who let me stay at their home, who came to see my play, and to each fellow PAX member. I must thank the people of the WFC who gave me this precious opportunity. Thank you.

I will make use of my experience of this tour to tell the message for peace through my future performances. I aim to learn more about what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the A-bombing, and how people, such as WFC founder Barbara, have endeavored to abolish nuclear weapons for world peace. I will try to pass on this history to the new generation. In this, I look forward to your assistance. Again, thank you very much.

Thinking back on the 2018 PAX Tour To America Peace from a True Spirit of Volunteerism Miho Nishii

I joined PAX Tour to America from September 17th to September 28th as one of 4 PAX members. We visited 4 places: Elgin and Bloomington – Normal in Illinois; Wilmington and Bluffton in Ohio, to make presentations about peace.

The experiences of having met a lot of people with volunteer spirits in America changed my understanding of volunteerism. I learned that family units in America are open to society and people naturally work for the community as volunteers. It seemed that volunteering work are not hard obligations but delightful opportunities for each of volunteers to help people with needs. They seemingly valued individuality.

I was invited to make my presentations, including short self-introductions, at least 12 times in all during the tour. Although I was not sure if I could make my presentations understood because of my clumsy English, I was very impressed that the people I met in America tried to sincerely listen to and understand my presentations about peace. Thinking back on my presentations, each opportunity was so precious to me, even if I was not satisfied with my poor English.

As the length of this paper is limited, I am not able to introduce every presentation and what happened in this tour, but here I would like to write about the very impressive one, the panel at Illinois Wesleyan University on September 22nd. It was so impressive because during that 2-hour panel I had been so

nervous, had felt uneasy and had been very moved by the presentations of the other panelists. I was aware that the other panelists could speak near-native English and had been very experienced with peace issues. On the other hand, I believed that the heart of my idea about peace (the title was “the Spirit of the Memorial Cenotaph for Atomic Bomb Victims”) was connected to theirs and those of each of the persons working for world peace.

About 30 minutes before the panel was finished , one Chinese man from the audience had very strong comment on my presentation, blaming the Japanese people for atrocities in China during WWII. I apologized him for the Japan’s atrocities and explained the idea of my presentation, quoting the words of the former Hiroshima Mayor Shinzo Hamai: “There is no winner and no loser in a war. The cenotaph exists for mourning the dead and taking an oath not to bring about wars”.

I don’t know if my response was persuasive to him and I also hope my response was understood by the audience. I remember the moment when I was relieved to hear the clapping of hands from the audience.

I appreciate all the people who were involved in organizing this PAX tour and those who hosted us PAX members for giving us this precious opportunity.



In retrospect of the PAX Tour USA

Foundations of Peace

Mirei Tashiro

The 12 day PAX Tour was, for me, an experience of many “beginnings.” My daily experiences and realizations led to seeing Hiroshima through an outside perspective and to think of “peace” in broader ways. It also became a trip of self-discovery.

The sculpture placed at the University of Chicago where the world’s first nuclear reactor was, and the exhibit at the United States Air Force Museum both seemed to showcase the American narrative praising the achievement and development of nuclear power to this day. A statement from a Chinese man at Illinois Wesleyan pointed out the atrocities done by the Japanese imperial army to the Asian countries during WWII. Each with its own story and historical memory, how could we communicate with our eyes collectively toward the future and take steps toward peace? How should our generation pass on the history of Hiroshima?

At the Peace Conference at Illinois Wesleyan, I learned about the present state of those who need “peace” in the world due to conflicts, hate that goes back in history, income disparity, racial and sexual discrimination, etc., and of the works people are doing to better these situations. So what is “peace”? Is peace different for each individual? What are the commonalities?

These are all questions I don’t yet have clear answers for, but ones I was compelled to ask and bring home. I wish to seek answers for these questions as I gain knowledge and hopefully wisdom.

There were two things in particular I’ve noticed through our activities. First was the several class visits we did at universities. There, we mainly spent time with questions and answers rather than a one-sided presentation. I noticed an active participation along with direct connections with the students that were very meaningful.

Second was the power of art. In my presentation I gave a brief introduction on the project, the “Grandchildren of Hiroshima.” Then there was Amano-san’s one-man drama, “Living with Father.” I realized again that art is one effective

avenue that possesses an unique strength in telling the story of Hiroshima. Neither race nor nationality mattered when it came to the power that moves people and naturally leads their heart to empathize as human beings.

Above are the two points I'd like to learn from and utilize in the future. Our presentations were aimed toward university students and older this time, but I'd really like to reach a wider generation of people next time, and hopefully through many avenues including culture, history, testimonies, and art. I hope this would lead each one of us to consider nuclear issues as a humanitarian problem which we face today.

Each day was like opening up a new present. In two occasions I experienced a surprising yet a delightful reunion when a woman came up to me and told me she had known me as a baby. What I've realized through meeting many people and having many people take care of us is the importance of communicating, understanding, and connecting; to make a friend. I strongly felt there lies the foundation for peace.

Dan from the Brethren Volunteer Service and his wife, Wendy: Thank you for your overwhelming generosity. Through our nightly conversations, you gave me many new perspectives. Bagels, bacon, to the best coffee. You made my little American dream come true. We couldn't have asked for a better way to begin our trip.

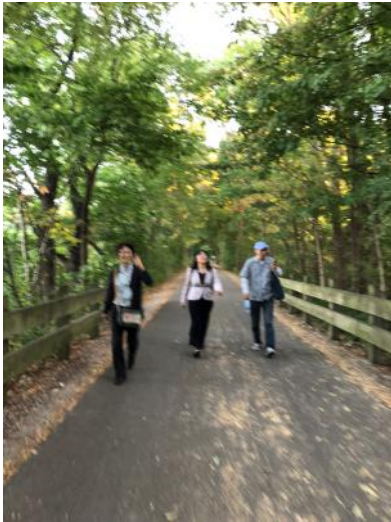
Josie from Illinois Wesleyan: Thank you for organizing the wonderful Peace Conference that led to so many irreplaceable connections and learning. I sensed a deep gratitude and importance of growing through learning. I loved talking with you about issues surrounding us as human beings and as women.

Tanya from Wilmington: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to experience and to ponder peace from various perspectives. I admire your quiet strength that continues to burn inside your gentleness. And thank you for all the food that were probably-the-best-ever-I've-had in-the-states.

Thank you also to the Snyders for helping me see the need to consider the present issues through our past history. Special thanks to the delicious homemade desserts and the extra bacon.

Alice from Bluffton: Reuniting with you after I don't know how many years and spending your 89th birthday with you was amazing beyond words. Thank you for pouring love on me unchangingly since I was little and even now.

Unsurprisingly, surrounding you was a community built on love and it felt as though I caught a glimpse of what peace needs to be founded on.



To my fellow PAX members: Thank you for every moment spent supporting each other with our quirky personalities and for all the laughter.

Lastly, I'd like to send my deepest thank you to the people at WFC who have always watched over me and for making me a part of this incredible opportunity.

Picture: I'm sorry the picture is out of focus. These are my 3 fun travel companions taking a walk and singing rather loudly into the woods!