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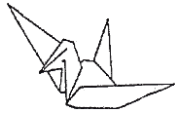
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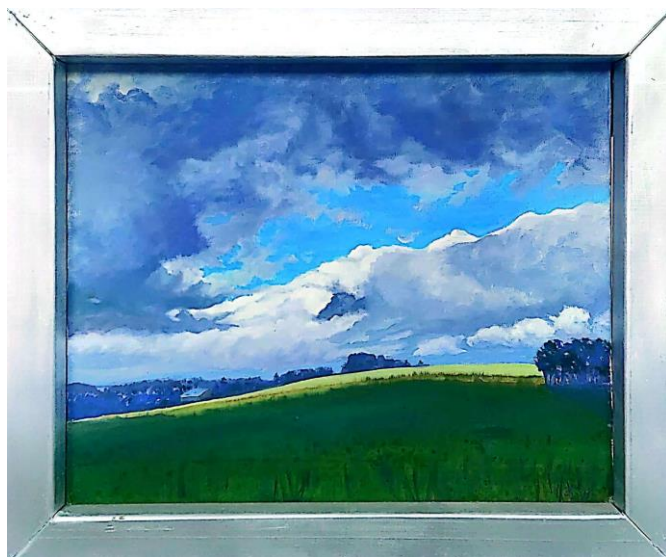
Under the Same Sky

Dr. JoAnn Sims
Former WFC Director 2011-2013

Painting has been a part of my life for as long as I remember. I had planned to major in Art Education in college, however, studio classes met for long hours on Saturday. I majored in Elementary Education instead and saved my weekends for parties and fun. From time to time after college I enrolled in community painting classes even while my children were quite young.

Once when my son was three years old and supposed to be taking a nap, I seized the opportunity to paint. I was concentrating so completely I didn't notice that he had crept into our kitchen where I was painting on an easel. I recall I was painting a pinecone and working to get the shadow and highlights "just right" when the easel collapsed. Our son had been quietly unscrewing all the nuts that held the bolts on the easel together. I remember thinking, that I would need to just put away my painting until much later in our family's life.

I continued to revisit painting off and on and became especially aware of the sky and its ever-changing qualities. I completed a painting of a favorite meadow and a beautiful rising cloud and set it aside. My life as a wife, mother, teacher of gifted students, developer of gifted and talented curriculum, and attaining my goal of earning a

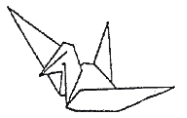


Doctorate degree filled my life with few spare minutes. It was during those busy days I became more and more haunted about the continued wars between nations and of the battles in our own country along racial, religious, and political lines. I asked myself multiple times what could just one person do to contribute toward peace and honor diversity.

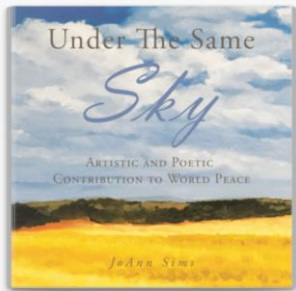


It was a foggy and rainy day in the summer and I looked up at what in Seattle we called a "sunbreak." Again I asked the question, "What could one person do to promote peace?" The answer was so clear, my voice answered in my ears... "You can paint!" Since that day I began painting a series, Under the Same Sky, with a goal to contribute to peace. The sky has no artificial boundaries of countries, politics, nationalities, or religions. Looking up at the sky invites us to see ever ending beauty, diversity, and a true expression of the love that surrounds the earth. In my heart I hoped that by realizing we all share the same sky; my paintings would help the world embrace the love of cooperation and peace.

I met PAX ambassadors from WFC in 2010. We hosted them in our home located in the Seattle area. We were asked to connect them with venues that might be interested in the stories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors. We took them to elementary and high schools. We introduced them to our friend Yosh Nakagawa, a Japanese American, who was incarcerated by the US government during World War II. The visitors from WFC told their story and then Yosh told them his story.



The PAX ambassadors were shocked. They had no idea what had happened to Japanese Americans on the west coast during that war. The WFC PAX group admired my painting of the meadow and rising cloud. I shared about my personal goal to promote peace through my paintings. I gave it to them and it now hangs at WFC.



I imagined when we traveled to WFC to be Directors that I would set up my easel and paint along the river. Not once did I have time to paint. We did however, help the City of Hiroshima open the Schmoe Memorial Museum. We created a week of symposiums to share the Japanese American story, the rebuilding of homes in Hiroshima by Floyd Schmoe and Rev. Emery Andrews, and organize the first Hiroshima One World Peace Concert, featuring our good friend and musician, Mike Stern. We paved the path for a dramatic production, "Breaking the Silence" to come to Hiroshima sharing the Japanese American story. We planned and led a 16-person, three-week PAX to the USA. We also hosted 1800 guests from around the world during our term as Directors.

COVID hit the world and the first virtual PAX from WFC was organized. I was asked to provide a twenty-minute presentation of my Under the Same Sky paintings. I agreed and wrote a descriptive script for the program. After sharing the pictures and poetic words folks from WFC suggested that I should write a book of my paintings and verse. I contacted a publisher and the book, Under the Same Sky was born. Both my husband and I agreed that the proceeds of the book would go to WFC.

It is still my hope that my paintings will provide beauty, provocative thought and inspire others to see the sky as a model that holds the world's diversity without borders and in cooperative, peaceful love.

Friends Day 2022

Malachi Nelson

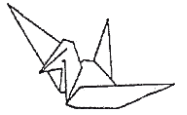
WFC, like every organization, holds the past, present, and future in tension. To forget our past is to lose so much of our inspiration for our present work. To neglect the future is to be self-absorbed. In early 2021, an idea was put forward for creating a day of remembrance for board members who had passed away. This idea evolved in early 2022 to include a remembrance of the founder of WFC, Barbara Reynolds. In mid-2022, an event was set for mid-summer: Barbara's Day—a day to remember and celebrate WFC history.

A committee was formed to begin planning Barbara's Day. I was part of this committee along with Michiko Yamane, Megumi Mozume, Jim Ronald, and Mirei Tashiro. We soon settled on a new name and purpose for the event—Friends Day, a day to honor our organization's past while extending a welcoming hand to our Hiroshima community.



We had a relatively short amount of time to plan the event—just over six weeks. And looking back, I'm happy with what came of it!

On July 2nd, 2022, at the Ryugakusei Kaikan Hall, WFC held its first Friends Day. Thanks to the hard work of the committee, we remembered the history of Barbara Reynolds and the WFC, heard from classes and Peace Program leaders, sang along with the Peace Choir, and played a few games together. The afternoon ended with each participant writing their message of peace on a sticky note.



Dispatched as a WFC Archives Volunteer to Peace Resource Center, Wilmington College

Junko Hattori

In December 2019, the moment I saw the ad on SNS for this open position by Shizuo Tachibana-san of WFC, I thought of the memorable story of Barbara Reynolds' life and the Peace Resource Center, where she donated her materials as Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorial collection and bequeathed them to future generations. I had previously heard this story from Barb Shenk and Dannie Otto, the 40th WFC Directors, at Hachidori-sha. Since then, I had hoped to learn more about her thoughts and feelings, and to pay a visit to the Peace Resource Center (PRC) if I had the chance.

The application guidelines stated the purpose of the dispatch and the type of person they were looking for: someone who could understand English and research materials closely related to the Japanese side (WFC). Although I am not an archivist, I had studied librarianship through correspondence courses when I was in my 20s, so I submitted a CV, had an interview, and I was told I'd be sent by WFC to PRC sometime around Spring 2020.

In January 2020, Shizuo Tachibana-san gave me a brief orientation to the WFC archives, which are closely related to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Memorial Collection materials that Barbara donated to the PRC. The boxes containing the materials in WFC were like vacuum-sealed boxes containing the activities of the time, Barbara's communications with people overseas and in Japan, the thoughts of the staff, etc. My dispatch was postponed for a long period of time due to the pandemic of the novel coronavirus infection but was finally realized from February 4 to March 2, 2023.

Despite needing more time to get the word out to our community, a number of community members outside WFC came and connected with our community for the first time!

As I write this article, I'm in the midst of planning for 2023's Friends Day, and I'm excited—last year was experimental and interesting, but with relatively little time to prepare. This year, Matthew, Michiko Yamane, Kaori Kurumaji, and I have been carefully planning and hope to build on the successes of last year. As I consider the elements of this year's Friends Day, I'm eager to see how this year's event will hold the tension of honoring the past, valuing the present, and looking to the future.

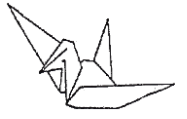


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Since the dispatch cannot be repeated, in the Fall 2022 before the trip, I was careful to re-confirm its goals and tasks with both WFC (Tachibana-san) and PRC (Dr. Tanya Maus, current director of PRC). There were six tasks split into two main goals: The two major tasks were: Goal one: to research PRC materials related to WFC (Tasks 1 through 5). Goal two: to act as a bridge between WFC and Wilmington College through PRC. (Task 6)

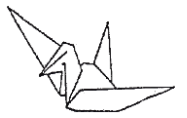
The tasks were as follows: Task (1): Confirm the contents of documents from the first five years of WFC's establishment thought to be stored in PRC, not in WFC. Task (2): Materials collected from the "HAC (Hiroshima Appeal Committee)", chaired by Dr. Tomin Harada, the first chairperson of the WFC, were given from 1974 for ten years to Barbara, who was an archival volunteer at the PRC at the time. These were given in response to her enthusiasm for shared historic materials between Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the PRC. I was tasked to provide an overview of the current status of books, slides, photos, films, etc. sent to the PRC from HAC for those 10 years. Check to see if there are any materials in existence that have been translated into English by Translation Team. Task (3): Are the English translation materials sent by the translation group of WFC preserved and being utilized? Task (4): WFC does not have the original of the valuable letter dated September 2, which describes the situation of Barbara after her temporary return to the U.S. for a month in September immediately after the establishment of WFC in 1965. Is this letter at PRC? Task (5): Reconnect the archives of WFC Honorary Chairperson Hiromu Morishita-sensei to materials stored at the PRC. In particular, we would like to confirm the connection between the PRC archives and the Morishita Papers, which are held by Mr. Morishita and linked to the archives of both WFC and PRC, as well as the materials that are only available at PRC. If possible, we'll try to find materials that could be used for peace education for future generations, and to consider the possibility of using them as teaching/learning materials for peace education.

Task (6): To be a connection between WFC and the university-affiliated institutions, to participate in student classes and discussion meetings with faculty members requested by the faculty through PRC, to exchange opinions, and to contribute to mutual learning. Thanks to everyone's support, I was able to finally realize this important mission while going through drastic changes in my work and caregiving environment due to the prolonged pandemic. With the help of Tanya-san and Tachibana-san online, I worked hard every day to accomplish the missions during my stay while feeling Barbara-san's breath at PRC.

Unfortunately, the state of preservation of the donated materials at the PRC was not good from the beginning of their donation, as I later saw written by Barbara. Tanya, the current director of the PRC, has made every effort to improve the preservation and classification of the donated materials since her arrival at the PRC in 2015, and two years later she became the director of the university's Quakers Heritage Center (QHC) as well.

During my stay, she took time from her usual intensively busy schedule of preparing for a special exhibition (one of the QHC's regular exhibitions) and teaching classes on modern and contemporary East Asian history to diligently search for the whereabouts from a group of unsorted materials. Materials related to task 2 were not located during my stay at the PRC, as the Watson Library, which catalogs and stores some books in the PRC including those donated by HAC was temporarily closed for reasons beyond our control immediately after we had sent a request. However, thanks to the dedication of the librarian, a catalog including books donated by the HAC and all Japanese language books of the college was obtained.

Therefore, additional research in Japan is required, such as cross-reference with the HAC's donation record made by Miyoko Matsubara-san at the time. Materials related to task 3 were still being searched for. Tasks (1), (4), and (5) were accomplished.



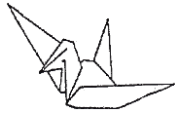
From Top Left to Bottom Right) ①PRC ② Mme.Sawae Nii whose name was finally identified the PRC-WFC collaboration ③With Fundamental Sociology Class at PRC ④With OT Class at WC ⑤PRC ⑥Barbara's former home

With Tanya's permission, I scanned the documents from Task (1) to (5), which are only available at PRC and are particularly relevant to WFC, and shared them internally as joint resources between PRC and WFC via the Cloud, and they now serve as backups for PRC's records. I'm happy to share that Task (6) was also accomplished! During my stay, I had the pleasure of meeting so many people. Attending classes of Sociology, International Politics, World Foods, Occupation Therapy Course, performing arts at Pebble Theater, and discussion with the Dormant Research Society of the WC faculty and locals. Dialogues with socially conscious artist and educator Jeff Hazelden and a photographer Blake Frazier.

I am forever thankful for the warm welcomes I received from Tanya and her family, the Wilmington College President and faculty and staff members, Chip Murdock and his WC Diversity staff, PRC student volunteers, campus chaplain Rev. Nancy McCormick (who accompanied Tanya to Nagasaki-Hiroshima (including WFC) in 2019 for the return of the A-bombed cross in Nagasaki with handmade doll gifts), and her family, and the local NGOs, Quakers, Rick Polhamus of the CPT, and so many others.

The greatest learning experience for me was the daily contact with Barbara's vast materials at PRC, which inspired me a lot by her spirit and passionate commitment to the hibakusha and her constant prayers and activities, even in difficult circumstances, with the conviction "to foster peace, one friend at a time". Being invited to local Friends' Meetings on campus and in the community, I was deeply inspired by Barbara's silent meditation and prayer as a Quaker.

I was also allowed to participate in a weekend study tour of the college, which included a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the International Peace Museum in Dayton, the U.S. Air Force Museum with an actual "Boxcar" on display, interaction with transgender people on and off campus, and a tour of the exterior of Barbara's former home, all of which were deeply educational. Through a request from Ms. Hiromi Morita, a reporter for the Chugoku Shimbun, we've provided information for a couple of articles to raise awareness of the need to preserve and utilize valuable materials that will pass on the lives of A-bomb survivors to future generations. I hope to have another opportunity to share and discuss these issues in more detail. Thank you in advance for your continued support.



Reflecting on my Summer with WFC

Aja Golliday

All my childhood, I dreamed of going to Japan and the six weeks I spent as an intern at the World Friendship Center made that dream come true. The most amazing part about living in Hiroshima was the little things such as sleeping on a futon in a bedroom with tatami floors, having my bento heated in the microwave at 7/11, playing games at Taito Station in Hondori, and riding a bike past the A-Bomb Dome at sunset.

As for the organization itself, all the members of the World Friendship Center were very welcoming, so although I was a foreigner I never felt excluded. I was excited to see behind the curtain of a peace organization, and what I discovered within my first few days at WFC was that everyone involved held great love and respect for the work they conducted. I find this to be admirable.



I participated in many activities and events through WFC from the Peace Park Tour, A-Bomb Tree Tour, Peace Doll Making, Peace Choir, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, Grandchildren of Hiroshima Theater Production, Tea Ceremony, and so much more! The hibakusha testimonies are the experience I am most lucky to have participated in. Meeting the A-Bomb survivors made every historical text I read come to life, and allowed their story to become a part of my own. This is an irreplaceable gift.

I will never forget my time at the World Friendship Center. I learned so much and intend to spread the messages of peace that I received here for the rest of my life.

Reflecting on my Time at WFC

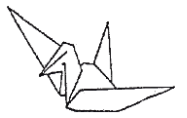
Laura Westpfahl

For as long as I can remember, coming to Japan has been my dream. Coming to intern at the World Friendship Center has allowed me to realize this dream in a fulfilling way. I was elated to be able to experience my bucket list items such as seeing shrines at Miyajima and trying okonomiyaki. What made this internship particularly worthwhile was being able to see and do things I would likely never have otherwise. I was able to both encounter exciting experiences in Japan and participate meaningfully at WFC.



Everyone at the World Friendship Center cared deeply about their work and welcomed us. We got to see behind-the-scenes of peace work and got to contribute with our own skills. On August 6th we were able to join in on the activities hosted by WFC. Individually, I worked on the layout and logo for the Yu-Ai newsletter. This was a great project for me because I was able to apply my skills as a graphic designer.

I was delightfully surprised to see that everyone was so enthusiastic about showing us around Hiroshima and giving us interesting educational activities. A few of the learning activities that we were given included tours of Peace Memorial Park and of the A-bomb trees around Hiroshima. Aja and I were even given gifts from several amazing individuals. All of the gifts and guidance I received from those associated with the WFC are unforgettable and I will cherish them.



My personal highlight was us sitting down personally with hibakusha who wanted to tell us their stories. I had studied Hiroshima several times in my schooling and thought to have decently understood the tragedy. After hearing from those who faced the effects of the atomic bomb head-on I realized that there is no classroom education that can replace human connection.

I loved to hear that the hibakusha we talked to had not just survived but are living on with joy. This is an activity at WFC that I hope never goes away. As a foreigner, I never felt out of place at the WFC. This was a great opportunity to learn more about Japan and meet unforgettable people. I am inspired by the messages of peace that the WFC delivers and I hope for continued success for everyone involved.



What I didn't know about Hiroshima I learned through my internship

Yuto Horiuchi

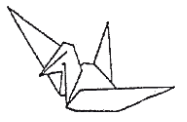
We worked on compiling data on the addresses, addresses, contact information, names, nationalities, comments, etc. of guests who had visited in the past. In the process of this work, we were able to learn how the guests felt about staying at the WFC and what kind of impression they received. I was very surprised to learn that in some cases the facts of the atomic bombing were not given in education in other countries. In the practical training that followed, I participated in conversation classes, translation classes, and English conversation classes for children (from elementary to high school) organized by the two directors of the WFC.

It was a very good experience for me, as I aim to become a teacher in the future. I realized that it is important not only to learn English but also to communicate using English and how to utilize English in the future. In the English conversation class for children, I carefully planned in advance the order of the lessons so that the children's concentration would not be distracted. In some cases, when an interpreter was needed, I had to stand beside the interpreter.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park tour left a completely different impression on me than it did when I was a high school student. I was not a high school student who went voluntarily, but rather as part of a school program. However, after learning a little about the history of Peace Memorial Park and Barbara Reynolds during my internship, I thought that going to the park voluntarily would change my perception of the park and my interest in its details. I thought this was because background knowledge (similar to top-down reading in language teaching methods) changed the way they read information and their interest in details. From this, I thought that having students input background knowledge and then having them read or listen to the information would be an effective learning method, and that I would like to use this method when I become a teacher.

In addition, it was a very good opportunity for me to listen to three hibakusha share their experiences. I was also able to share my grandmother's experience and learned many facts and realities that I had never known before. I felt as if my own common sense was overturned, as there were many things that I did not know not only because I live in the area but also because I am close to the area.





Wishes of Hibakusha

During my internship, I heard from hibakusha and participated in a tour of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Mr. Nishida, an A-bomb survivor, said that as a survivor, it was his mission and his role to pass this story on to the next generation. I thought it was necessary for me to pass on the facts of the atomic bombing and the history of Hiroshima, which I learned during my internship, to my generation and to the generation after ours.

Conclusion

My participation in the WFC internship program has given me more opportunities to think about what peace is and what is normal around me.

I also learned that the most difficult part of managing money, goods, and people from a managerial perspective is moving people, and that in order to get people to move, you need to gain their trust, and that being trusted is also difficult when you enter society.

In addition, I was made to think deeply about what I will do with English when I become a teacher in the future, and how English will expand my own possibilities, rather than just studying English. I believe that we need to start with what we can do to pass on the wishes and thoughts of the A-bomb survivors to the next generation and to the world.

Sharing my Experiences at WFC

Prissilia Siswanto

I'd like to share some of my experiences during my internship from 22nd August until 15th September, which is almost a month. At first, I was so nervous because it was my first time doing an internship and I didn't know much about the Hiroshima atomic bombings, compared to many of my classmates who were born and grew up in this area.

After that, in my classes at Hiroshima Jogakuin University where I am enrolled, I also took a look at the WFC website and learned more deeply about the history of the WFC and the kind of events they do. Before doing the internship I had an opportunity to take part in an event called "Friends Day".

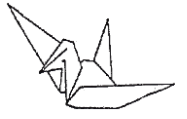
The WFC trusted us to design a banner for the event, which we did during the internship classes, and I really enjoyed doing this. At the event I could feel a great atmosphere, and also meet a lot of new people. We played mini games and had a good time, and I met many different people connected to the organization.

During my internship, I learned a lot about what had happened in Hiroshima on August 6th. Even though COVID was impacting many activities at that time, I was still able to do some work towards my internship by working online, and with the support of the staff, things went smoothly. I helped with managing data related to the "Yu-Ai Newsletter" which was a new challenge for me.

By hearing testimony from Hibakusha I was able to understand how they felt at that time, such as how terrified they felt losing an important person in their lives. I know it is not easy to talk about horrible memories, and that is why I'm so grateful to have a really rare opportunity to listen to them. One thing they said that stayed with me is that they want their stories to be remembered by a lot of people, especially young people. I hope that I can also share my experience with a lot of people, including people in my country.

I also really enjoyed the tour we did related to the atomic bombing. I had been to that place more than 10 times in the past but never knew about the history behind it. Even though I am no longer an intern at the WFC, I'd love to take part in future events.

The best part of my internship experience is that I was able to learn about things that I had never thought about before which widens my knowledge. I also had a great time with WFC members, and we had a pleasant check-in discussion before ending work each day. Even though my English is not perfect, they always took the time to explain things carefully to me, and I am grateful to everyone at the WFC for giving me this great opportunity, and for their friendship!



Learning on All Sides: Reflecting on WFC's 2022 Internships

Matthew Bateman

As we move into FY23, we look ahead with anticipation to welcome new interns, building upon the substantial growth and lessons learned during the initial year that Malachi & I handled interns here at WFC. This reflection about the depth of understanding and the relationships we've nurtured and formed. Both the interns and our team have embarked on a journey of mutual learning and shared discovery.

The program's inception with Aja Golliday and Laura Westphal from Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) marked a period of adaptation and learning for everyone. Managing a team where age differences are minimal presented its challenges, but it was a rewarding experience that fostered growth and understanding. Their projects, notably the creation of labels for donated items and art around the center, were not just tasks but were instrumental in deepening the understanding of WFC's history and culture for us as Directors alongside Aja and Laura.

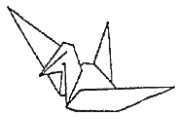
Yuto Horiuchi's tenure from Shudo University is an example of the adaptability of the program. Initially focused on the business side of WFC, the program's direction shifted to embrace his unique background as a third-generation hibakusha. This pivot highlights the program's flexibility and its commitment to personalizing the internship experience to foster a deeper, more meaningful understanding of peace and history.

The involvement of Prissilia (Puri) Siswanto and Danushi (Danu) Thamanjalee from Jogakuin University demonstrated the program's capacity to offer a diverse range of experiences. Their work, particularly in reviewing and cataloguing our past Yu-Ai newsletters with a focus on stories from Korean PAX, was not just about preserving history but about making it accessible and relevant to today's context. Their curiosity and dedication to understanding WFC's past activities brought fresh perspectives to our ongoing work.

This internship program is more than a platform for professional development; it's a bridge connecting diverse cultures and histories from not just America and Japan, but also the specific demographics of our interns. It's a space where learning transcends the conventional and ventures into the realms of personal growth and global understanding. The stories of hibakusha are not just narratives from the past; they are lessons, warnings, and inspirations for the future. Sharing these stories with the younger generation is not just an educational endeavor but a moral imperative to foster a world that values peace over conflict, understanding over ignorance.

The city of Hiroshima, with its rich history and vibrant culture, offers a backdrop that enriches this learning journey. The interns' explorations of the city, both socially and educationally, are integral components of their overall experience, providing context and depth to their understanding of global peace and cultural exchange.

As we look to the future, our goal is to not just continue but to enhance the structure and impact of this program. Discussions about expanding intern recruitment and establishing the program as a year-round offering are underway. This initiative is seen not just as an expansion but as a strategic step towards deepening our commitment to fostering global understanding and peace, one intern at a time.



Comments from our Internship Partners

We have sent students to WFC for three years prior to the pandemic. Each time our students come back with a better sense of the importance of nuclear disarmament and a strong appreciation for Japanese culture and the work done at WFC to promote peace in the world. One previous intern in 2017, Josie Blumberg, continued her engagement in the promotion of peace by organizing the visit to the IWU campus of a panel of peace advocates doing a speaking tour in the US. A 2019 intern, Natalie Kuca, continued her engagement with Japanese culture; she returned to Japan as an English teacher at the Yamaguchi Prefecture in 2022 under the JET Program. The two students in 2022 had their own share of challenges having been the product of two years of virtual classes and lack of person-to-person social engagement due to the pandemic. But without a doubt, just like in previous years, the internship at WFC has contributed not only in the shaping of their worldview but also in their development as mature and professional young adults. Aja Golliday said about the tour of the Peace Park: "It was a very good tour that added so much more background to the monuments than the plaques ever could. Please if you ever visit Hiroshima one day, take a guided tour of the Peace Park with WFC. It's worth it!" Laura Westpfahl's reflections on the story of a hibakusha demonstrated the impact of the experience on her; she said: "Being able to talk and understand differences is key to fostering peace. Furuya-san closed by stating communication and nuclear disarmament are vital for humanity's survival. I believe her beliefs are very notable and just. I am glad to have gotten to hear her story and I'm happy to see that she was able to thrive after August 6th, 1945." I hope that more students would have the experience made possible by WFC!

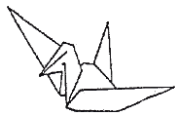
- Dr. Teddy Amoloza, Illinois Wesleyan University

In the Global Studies in English (GSE) course here at Hiroshima Jogakuin University, our students spend much time in the classroom learning about important global topics from multiple perspectives. However, through their internship experiences with the WFC, they are able to go one step further by glimpsing the reality of how a small organization operates to understand and propagate peace, giving them invaluable opportunities for learning by doing. Over the last two years, students from HJU have returned from their work at the WFC with new friends, new ideas, and perhaps most importantly, a sense that they have the power and potential to take action in their local communities and beyond. I hope that my students have more chances in the future.

- Bobby Dormer, Jogakuin University

An internship is a different kind of educational experience: an opportunity to learn through experience rather than mainly in a classroom. It is also an immersive experience: interns become, for a short time, a part of the institution where they do their internship. An internship may also serve various other roles. For some companies, offering internships is a good way of identifying possible future employees. Conversely, for students, getting an internship at a popular company or similar often represents an opportunity to learn about that place from the inside, and even a step towards being employed by that company. The internship offered by the World Friendship Center, as an NPO, is not typically career-oriented, although for some students it has been a vital first step in a career with peace-oriented NPOs. For many, though, the attraction of the WFC internship lies in two things: the opportunity to learn about peace-related matters, and the chance to meet people from other countries and interact through English. For students from Hiroshima Shudo University, an internship is structured as an academic course. This includes pre-internship classes on business manners and communication skills, the internship itself of about ten days, post-internship classes for reflection and guidance on preparing written and oral reports, and the submission or presentation of those reports.

- Jim Ronald, Shudo University



Reflecting on August 6th Events

Ron Klein & Malachi Nelson

For the second year, WFC sent “A Hibakusha’s Message of Peace” to our friends around the world through a Zoom event from Hiroshima. Begun last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was a way to reach a wider audience interested in learning about what happened in Hiroshima on August 6th. This year, about 50 guests joined us.

The one-hour event began with WFC Director Matthew Bateman describing the World Friendship Center and its mission, emphasizing its motto, “To foster peace, one friend at a time,” and described WFC’s various activities. WFC Board Member Mikiko Shimizu then described what happened in Hiroshima on August 6th. Malachi Nelson, WFC Assistant Director, then explained the importance of listening to hibakusha stories and WFC’s role in providing guests with the chance to meet and listen to hibakushas’ stories for almost 60 years.

This year’s hibakusha testimony was given by Toshiko Tanaka. Toshiko was six years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She is now 83. Miraculously, her family survived the initial blast. She grew up and went to art school, becoming a famous enamel artist. She began telling her story when she was 70.

Since 2007, she has made four round-the-world trips on Peace Boat, visiting more than 80 countries. She spoke about the war in Ukraine and the President Putin’s suggestion to use nuclear weapons, saying, “For a survivor who knows the inhumane tragedy caused by nuclear weapons, this is totally unacceptable, and I feel strong anger.”

She also acknowledged ICAN’s successful campaign to promote the UN Treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. She ended her talk with the inspiring words, “I know that one day, we will live in a nuclear-free world, and a beautiful blue sky will continue to shine above the heads of our future generations.”

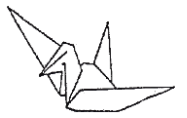
Toshiko then took some questions sent in by Zoom participants.

After a break, the August 6 activities continued at Barbara’s Monument in Peace Memorial Park, where 42 WFC members and members of the public met to share reflections of peace. Several members of the Hiroshima Coventry Club shared poems of peace with the community, and Asaka Watanabe led the WFC Peace Choir in song.

Because of Covid concerns, the floating lantern ceremony was limited to City staff releasing the lanterns into the river.

The positive response to the Zoom event may develop it into an annual outreach event.





Visit from America

Malachi Nelson

In March I had the fantastic opportunity to welcome my father, Paul, and his friend, Meg, to Hiroshima. They were traveling in Japan for 14 days, which meant that they only had about 6 days in Hiroshima! Luckily, we made the most of it.

It was important to me that they listen to the testimony of the hibakusha while they were here, and to tour the Peace Memorial Park. I am so grateful to Nishida Goro-san, a hibakusha who shares with WFC, and Miho-san, one of our dedicated WFC office staff, for making time with Dad and Meg to hear Goro-san's testimony during their visit. Miho-san and Sumiko-san were so hospitable in giving Dad, Meg, and I a tour of the Peace Memorial Park.



We got to visit with a dear friend of mine, Masako Kido-Sensei, to participate in her tea ceremony, play music together, and make okonomiyaki at her brother's restaurant.

When Kido-Sensei told me that she had prepared a table to prepare okonomiyaki with Dad and Meg, I remember thinking, "Hiroshima okonomiyaki is such an art form! Why would Kido-Sensei trust Dad, Meg, and I to make okonomiyaki? We are going to ruin it!"

But, I kept my fears to myself. When we walked into the restaurant, I was surprised to find that we were making Kansai okonomiyaki! For those of you who don't know, there is a big difference between Kansai and Hiroshima okonomiyaki.



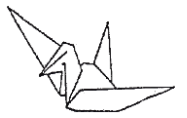
A native Hiroshiman will be proud to tell you that Hiroshima okonomiyaki is far superior in every way—it is the perfect savory pancake of soba or udon noodles, cabbage, pork, shrimp, egg, and green onion all layered on top of each other as the ultimate culinary masterpiece. I've seen it made—it is quite an involved process that I was certain we would mess up!

I was relieved to find that Kansai okonomiyaki, however, mixes all of the ingredients together, with the noodles forming a base—it was much more manageable to make together! By the end of the afternoon, we were all laughing, and we were all absolutely stuffed. Kido-Sensei's brother's wife helped us prepare the okonomiyaki and we were so grateful for her guidance and welcoming smile.

On another day, Dad, Meg and I went to Miyajima. The weather was absolutely beautiful, and it was a little early for cherry blossoms, but we did see a couple blossoms begin to bloom on the island.

One of the highlights of my time with Dad and Meg was the afternoon we shared with the WFC Peace Choir. It was a hilarious afternoon of singing, Hawaiian dancing from Sachie-san, and eating food. Dad and Meg even performed music on the old WFC guitar! I played accompaniment on my ukulele for a few songs.





After each full, interesting day, Dad, Meg, and I would return to their Airbnb for a full, interesting evening of relaxed conversation. We found that the time did not seem to pass too quickly, or too slowly—we had found an excellent cadence for our short time together. I saw them off at the Hiroshima Station Shinkansen, and began reflecting on my time with them.

Being a young professional with WFC has been challenging in the best ways. I push myself to my limits to thoughtfully serve our community, though many times I do not feel it is enough. However, I found I was proud to introduce Dad and Meg to the many community members of WFC. I was excited to engage with the two about WFC's ongoing work toward peace. WFC has really expanded my sense of what I can do as a professional, and I hope that I've contributed to WFC's work in some small way. Ultimately, sharing time with Dad and Meg really expanded my confidence in myself. I hope that this confidence results in stronger efforts to fulfill my role as a Director here.



Lastly, I was profoundly moved by the hospitality and kindness which all members of WFC gave Dad and Meg. Each of us felt incredibly honored and humbled by the attention given to us. I hope to welcome my Mom, Denise, to Hiroshima sometime next year, and cannot wait to introduce her to this gracious community.

Thank you to everyone who made this visit so memorable.

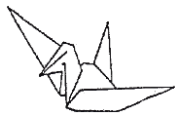
Welcoming my Parents & Greeting the Community

Matthew Bateman

My parents' visit to Hiroshima was a special time for us both as a way to spend the holidays together and introduce them to the work we're doing, the community that supports us, and the area's cultural history.

More important than the story I will tell below, I'd like to share the note mom sent me when I told her I was writing this article: "What do you want to highlight? From a World Friendship Center perspective, we enjoyed our in-depth learning from our guided tours of the Peace Memorial Park and A-bombed Trees, hibakusha talk, and the museum's audio tour. We appreciated the incredibly warm welcome and admired how hard the staff worked to promote the message and keep the organization moving forward. Finally, we were grateful for the generous hospitality of those that had us to their homes or took us out and gave us the gift of their time."

Upon their arrival, they settled in and prepared for the days of adventure ahead. After catching up on some sleep, our first day out together was walking through the Peace Park, to the Atomic Bomb Dome, and on to dinner at a fun little izakaya with Mirei. I did manage to slightly annoy my parents, as I didn't want to tell them anything about the park that their guided tour would later cover; our guides always work hard & I didn't want to take anything away from the tour experience! After walking around the Park and through a bit of Hondori, we strolled through each block of the Dreamination displays on Heiwa Odori. Each section was very unique, and there were some fascinating and beautiful setups, including the iconic castle of lights and the pirate ship with the tidal wave that visitors could walk through (and take lots of pictures). Still, more than that, this was an unexpected continuation of my family's tradition of seeing holiday light exhibits in Seattle, which was pleasantly nostalgic.



The next day was a milestone I'd been waiting for for a decade: enjoying Mitaki-Dera together. After JoAnn & Larry insisted I check it out during my initial visit in 2013, I've considered it one of my favorite places in the world as a peaceful sort of "happy place" and enjoyed finally sharing it with my parents—although I mentioned that they'd have to return during the Fall when it is vibrantly red.



An absolute highlight for us, well beyond what my parents were expecting, was the generous invitation to Kido-sensei's house for a full tea ceremony. My parents marveled at her beautifully designed tea room, her masterful ikebana, and the entire tea-making process—with instructions on each step and the opportunity to try making the tea ourselves. It was a fun challenge and something entirely new for them to experience.

Of course, any visit to WFC should include a Hibakusha talk and a tour of the Peace Park! I'm very grateful to Okahara Tamiyuki-san for providing his moving account of his father's experience and what he himself has learned from that history. My parents joined alongside a couple of travelers from Germany and were all able to have a unique and moving discussion on the peace characteristic of the experience we hope to cultivate with each visitor—family, old friend, or new friend.



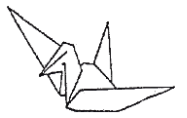
The following day, we took the ferry from Peace Park to Miyajima, then took the ropeway up Mt. Misen and walked back down to Momijidani Park. We walked nearly 15,000 steps most days, but this was one of the peak days at 18,164 steps! Needless to say, we had worked up an appetite by the time we met up with Malachi to introduce my parents to okonomiyaki near Hondori—finally, and crucially, getting them connected after they had heard so much secondhand information about each other.

We welcomed in the New Year with a day trip to Iwakuni to visit Kintai Bridge, Kikko Park, and Iwakuni Castle. We were surprised as we approached the bridge—and saw many people in serious costumes and carrying tall banners in formation as they crossed. We later learned that they were the historical reenactment musket corps and heard them firing some shots a little later.

For the Peace Park, Shimizu Mikiko-san graciously served as our tour guide and was kind and knowledgeable in answering my parents' many, many questions—being "komakai" is a strong family trait for us. We ended that tour treating ourselves to some coffee atop Orizuru Tower and interacting with their many exhibits.



They also got a chance to experience the A-bombed Tree Tour led by Takahashi Katsumi-san, which both Malachi and I feel is a powerful and unique approach to learning about Hiroshima's history, and it was impactful for my parents. Of course, we also enjoyed the walk through that area of the city and our chance to see Hiroshima Castle (and they went back another day)!



Besides the city's history, the other impactful experience of their time here was the immense hospitality from everyone!

Ikeda Miho-san treated all of us to the nicest bento boxes I've yet seen in Hiroshima, with introductions to lots of different foods from the area (the mountain ferns were a winner) and great conversation that helped round out the picture of our office team for my parents. Her homemade ozoni soup was a great New Year's celebration item!

Towards the end of their time here, Taguchi Chizuko-san generously hosted us for dinner. It was a colourful feast that had diverse flavors, good conversation with her and her husband, and a tour of their lovely house and traditional Japanese garden.

My parents' final tour wasn't with WFC but with Mimura Yoko-san at the Naka Ward Incineration Plant - designed by the same architect that designed the famous Museum of Modern Art in New York City. They enjoyed the tour and lunch and gave me a hard time for how I let them know about the kind invitation ("Yoko wants to take you to the incinerator" was not the right message).

And of course, last but not least, we achieved one final goal: meeting my classes - it was a long time coming, and my parents were so happy to meet each student in my classes! Many photos were taken, and they shared some of their travel stories with everyone.

Throughout the visit, my parents and I enjoyed the warm welcome and the historical, cultural, and social activities they experienced. Our time together was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the holidays together, a strong family tradition, but it went beyond that to be a full WFC engagement with activities and the community, and I was proud to be able to share our work with them.

Thank you all for making this experience such a great one!

Reflecting on the Holiday Party

Niko Sekine & Malachi Nelson



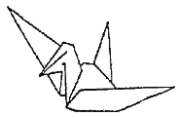
In December, the 2022 WFC Holiday Party was held! WFC has had Christmas parties in the past, but one goal of the party was to be inclusive of other holidays beyond Christmas! So, we started off the party with Matthew and I sharing about various holidays celebrated by religions and cultures in the winter months—Hanukkah, Christmas, the Winter Solstice, Kwanzaa, and secular traditions.

Then, each class and Peace Program shared about its year, putting on dances, performing music, playing games, or simply reminiscing. The Peace Choir sang a Christmas carol, and at the end of the party we all took a picture together.

Attendees folded peace cranes, read about holiday traditions from our friends in the US and Korea, and enjoyed cookies and coffee made by our WFC community. One attendee, Sekine-san, was kind enough to write her thoughts on the party. Take a look!

I was invited to the Christmas party by the Peace Guide Tour Training and my daughters' Kids English Class. It was the first time for me to attend the party with my child, and I was completely relaxed with delicious coffee and cookies in a warm atmosphere. I was very moved by the various forms of entertainment that everyone presented with love and care. It was a wonderful event for my daughter and I to look back on the past year, wishing for peace with everyone. It was a great memory for my daughter and I. Thank you very much.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and we look forward to this next year!



Looking back the WFC Hiroshima Pass-on Project basic sessions

Shizuo Tachibana

The "WFC Hiroshima Pass-on Project basic sessions" which began in 2017, has provided opportunities for participants to learn and think about the A-bomb and peace over the past six years. Although there have been times when we have had to stop the sessions due to the spread of the COVID-19, we have had the added benefit of conducting the sessions online. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the A-bomb experiences of the Hibakusha and to learn about the A-bombings and peace, and to deal with the issue of how to pass on their thoughts and feelings about nuclear abolition and lasting peace in the world to the next generation.

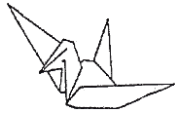
Until the outbreak of the COVID-19, the sessions were held year-round, with a limited number of participants due to the space available at the venue, and the total number of participants was only a few dozen. In 2000, we switched to offering single sessions, and now the total number of people who have taken the course at least once has exceeded 300. A total of 60 persons and groups have served as speakers. We have learned from Hibakushas, people who experienced the war, teachers involved in peace education, people involved in culture and art, journalists, people involved in peace administration, successors to Hibakusha, people practicing peace activities, high school students interested in peace, and people working in various fields.

Since the previous report, the following sessions have been offered in 2022 and 2023.

- April: Fieldwork with Morishita sensei visiting memorial monuments, Mr. Hiromu Morishita
- May: Fieldwork "The A-bomb account of Mr. Fumiaki Kajiya ", Mr. Fumiaki Kajiya
- June: Let's advance with our friends around the world with a " Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons"! Ms. Masumi Muramatsu (Peace Boat)
- July: The A-bomb account of Ms. Michiko Furuya
- September: 97-Year-Old Speaks of Siberian Internment, A meeting to listen to Ichiro Suehiro's story, Mr. Ichiro Suehiro
- October: Fieldwork "Lost Town: Tracing Memories, Retracing Shigeo Moritomi's Footsteps ", Mr. Motoo Nakagawa (Hiroshima Fieldwork Executive Committee leader)
- November: The Atomic Bomb Memorial Mound and Toshiko Saeki, Mr. Motoo Nakagawa (Hiroshima Fieldwork Executive Committee leader)
- December: To pass on to future generations - Peace activities close to our everyday lives for world peace, Students of Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School's Executive Committee to collect signatures
- January: Memory and Succession, Mr. Kakashi Hiraoka (Former Mayor of Hiroshima)
- February: "Writing Ground Zero" and UNESCO memory of the world, Mr. Kaoru Narisada (Professor Emeritus of Hiroshima University, Secretary of Hiroshima Association for the Preservation of Literary Materials)
- March: 97-Year-Old Speaks of Manchuria, A meeting to listen to Ichiro Suehiro's story, Mr. Ichiro Suehiro

I would like to thank all the participants, staff, and working team members of the WFC Pass-on Project for their participation. I would like to thank the speakers for their cooperation, not only on the day of the lecture, but also in the pre-meeting and preliminary visits. We would like to continue to plan learning opportunities to pass on the hibakusha's wish for nuclear abolition and peace.





Online U.S. Spring PAX

Yoko Mimura

The Online US Spring PAX was held for four days from February 14 to 17 (13 to 16, U.S. Pacific time). The first two days were for the West Coast, and the latter two days were for the East Coast.

On the first day of each, the broadcast was from the Japanese side, after Yoko Mimura, the Chairman of PAX, spoke about the reality of the atomic bombs, participants from the West Coast listened to Ms. Kiyomi Kono, a survivor of the atomic bomb, and participants from the East Coast listened to Mr. Tamiyuki Okahara. After listening to their stories, there was a Q&A session, followed by participants dividing into small groups to discuss various topics between Japan and America in groups of four or five people. It was very interesting with many different topics discussed.



On the second day for both the West Coast and East Coast, there were presentations from the American side.

From the West Coast, there were presentations by the group "Serving Those Around Us," which is actively volunteering to help people in need, and "The Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility," a group of Seattle doctors engaged in anti-nuclear activities.

From the East Coast, there were talks by Rick, introduced by Tanya from Wilmington University, and Steve Leeper, an honorary director of WFC.

Rick talked mainly about his involvement with Palestine. I found his slogan, "To build peace, treasure every enemy," very impressive. From Mr. Leeper, there was an interesting story about a temple bell that was relocated to Georgia from Miyauchi. Also, many students from Bluffton University's Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center participated in the Q&A.

I am deeply grateful for the great efforts of the members of the American Committee, which made this PAX possible. I cannot express enough gratitude for the many people who participated in this online event every day, allowing us to successfully conclude this program. Thank you very much.

Lastly, I would like to thank PAX members Director Matthew, Director Malachi, Ms. Mirei, Ms. Satoko, and Mr. Katsumi. Also, on behalf of the PAX Committee, I would like to deeply thank Ms. Megumi for her significant contribution as a volunteer. Thank you very much.



THANK YOU!

In 2022, many people helped WFC in various forms as volunteers. Additionally, we received donations from many people both domestically and internationally.

We sincerely thank you.