

2005 Issue Number 130, October


Yu - Ai **Friendship**
The Newsletter of World Friendship Center
8-10 Higashi Kan-on Machi, Nishi-ku, Hiroshima 733-0032, Japan
Phone: (082) 503-3191 Fax: (082) 503-3179
E-mail: wfchiroshima@nifty.com
Website: wfchiroshima.net
Chairman: Hiromu Morishita Directors: Don and Pauline Hess

WHAT DID WE CELEBRATE?

Don & Pauline Hess



Hiroshima Chorus entertains guests at the 40th anniversary celebration.

Since our arrival just 4 months ago we have been reminded daily of the passion and the energy flowing from the Riji, class members and friends as they spent many hours fine-tuning the agenda for the 40th Anniversary of World Friendship Center (WFC).

What were we planning to celebrate? Certainly, we knew that the WFC has been here for 40 years and we knew that Barbara Reynolds and a small group of friends began this task in August 1965. We also knew that Barbara devoted her life to the

elimination of nuclear weapons and for the cause of world peace. We did not know until we arrived here in Hiroshima of the impact she had on so many who never had the opportunity to meet her. Learning to know the dedicated people who keep Barbara's vision alive today has been eye-opening. Listening to the stories of the Hibakushas who share their personal experiences in the horrific historical event of the A-bombing is staggering. Hearing the knowledgeable Peace Park Guides describing the Park is impressive. Meeting those former directors who served the WFC in years past has been inspiring. Participating in the daily routine of welcoming guests, sharing the story of the WFC, and hearing their reaction to the Peace Park and Museum visit is a vital part of our duties.

More importantly, it is evidence that Barbara's vision of creating a place for reflection on individual responsibilities of war and peace are still possible.

Recognition of WFC by those who came to celebrate its founding expressed itself from many sources. Representatives of the Church of the Brethren General Board, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), the WFC American Committee, Wilmington College, a Quaker delegation, and former WFC

volunteer directors were on hand. Comments from these distinguished guests are elsewhere in this issue but this column is dedicated to those who continue WFC's work in this international city of Peace. Riji members, class members and friends of WFC spent countless hours and financial resources to ensure that the legacy left by Barbara continues. The 40th Anniversary Committee wrestled with the budget, developed an invitation list, made room arrangements scheduled dinners, bus tours, and other business matters to ensure details were covered. Board Chairman, Morishita, also chaired the 40th Anniversary History Book project and with guidance from Sora, and Kurumaji and help from the translator's class prepared a draft history book that was displayed at the celebration and will be completed as a remembrance of the occasion. Our gratitude also to the Peace Guides who led tours of the Peace Park for many guests and to Sora for her Hibakusha story heard by over 60 people at the Center.

Other individuals and classes worked behind the scenes, with the Wednesday classes preparing paper cranes, the Friday class building floating lanterns, others decorating the meeting rooms and bringing food, making signs, arranging transportation and the inevitable cleaning up.

Pauline and I were the recipients of this hard work begun long before we arrived and we contributed where we could. The spirit of cooperation was evident from the day we arrived and we continue to be amazed at the dedication of these volunteers who have been responsible for the longevity of WFC. It was a delight to meet the former directors and to "swap stories" with our predecessors as well as to host the McFadden family at the Center during the celebration.

What did we celebrate? We believe we celebrated the memory and the bright future of the WFC created as a place where individuals can reflect on their individual responsibilities on war and peace. We consider it a privilege to serve such a dedicated family.

Reflections on the Life of Barbara Reynolds from T. Canby Jones



T Canby Jones, Emeritus (Retired) Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio, USA was a key speaker at the 40th Anniversary of the WFC on August 7, 2005. Translation by Mieko Yamashita.

Professor Jones previously visited Japan and the World Friendship Center (WFC) in 1971, 1976, and 1979 and has a long history with its founder, Barbara Reynolds, and the Center. He first met Barbara in 1971, and then renewed their friendship in 1974 when Barbara returned to the US and was the driving force in founding a Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College where Professor Jones was teaching. He became Clerk of the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center Advisory Board and his current visit to Hiroshima was on behalf of Dr. Jim Boland, the current director of the Peace Resource Center. The Peace Resource Center is not only a center for anti-nuclear and other peacemaking information, but now conducts peacemaking workshops by invitation in middle and high schools in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Western Pennsylvania, Michigan and West Virginia. They are called "Conflict Resolution" "Project Trust" or "Peer Mediation" workshops. Workshops teach the participating students how to defuse, calm down, and create peaceful resolutions to situations of potential or actual violent conflict. Violence is avoided, mutual trust is restored and hatred is transmitted into friendship. In some cases the whole atmosphere of the school becomes one of

reconciliation. These workshops have become a centerpiece of the Peace Resource Center and a great addition to Wilmington College. Teacher training is one of the major programs at Wilmington and the long-term potential from these workshops is unlimited.

Professor Jones reflected further on Barbara Reynolds' work at the Peace Resource Center. She arrived in 1974 with six cardboard boxes full of atomic bomb memorabilia. She first lived in a college dormitory room before moving into a home across the street from the campus which had been the temporary home of the College Business office. That home is still the headquarters of the College Peace Resource Center. Barbara's first major undertaking as head of the Peace Resource Center was to organize the 30th anniversary of the dropping of the A Bomb Conference, August 4-7, 1975. Over twenty Japanese representatives came to participate, many of them Peace Studies teachers from Japanese schools led by Dr. Tomin Harada. The closing ceremony was a great circle of people holding hands for twenty minutes of silence around the College Tower of Bells in memory of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki dead. Dr. Harada commented to Professor Jones that the climatic moment for him of the whole gathering was that circle of memorial silence.

Professor Jones related that Barbara Reynolds spent part of the 1980 decade with her daughter, Jessica, in California, but her concern again led her to return to Wilmington in 1990 not long before Christmas. She immediately got involved in the Peace Resource Center Work. On the weekend of February 11, 1990 Barbara's son visited from Ann Arbor, Michigan. They went together to see a lovely movie that evening and upon return, while stopped in the car outside her apartment, Barbara collapsed and died. She passed away at 9:30 PM on February 11, 1990. According to Barbara's living will, her body was cremated and her ashes were scattered over the sky of Yellow Springs, OH.

Our dear friend and founder, Barbara Reynolds passed away, ending a great life of witnessing for peace, but her vision did not die. The World Friendship Center, since its founding forty years ago, has become a beacon of light for world peace and a red flag of protest not only against nuclear energy and nuclear bombing but also a red flag against all violence and war for any cause whatsoever.

Professor Jones concluded with this statement: "Jesus came and preached peace to those who were near and to those who were far off and has reconciled enemies into one new humanity. World Friendship Center has witnessed for peace in the same way. May you be blessed in your continued efforts to bring peace and harmony to humankind through your inspired and faithful efforts."

Greetings from the Church of the Brethren



BVS Director Dan McFadden reads a resolution from the General Board of the Church of the Brethren. Translation by Yoshiko Sakuma.

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Director Dan McFadden, representing the Church of the Brethren denomination, brought greetings from the Brethren who have been connected to the WFC through a steady supply of volunteer directors through the years. He also presented a world map to WFC to replace the faded map used to identify the homes of the many international visitors coming to the center. This was the first visit to Japan by Director McFadden

who is responsible for securing the volunteer leadership for WFC and other volunteer positions around the world. Dan's family accompanied him and they shared the same experience as thousands of guests before him by staying at the WFC, visiting the Peace Museum and experiencing a Peace Park tour by our guides.

Dan also presented the following **Church of the Brethren Resolution** commending the World Friendship Center:

“On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, the Church of the Brethren General Board commends the center for its tireless efforts to work for peace, share stories about the personal suffering caused by nuclear weapons, and build friendships across borders. We in the Church of the Brethren recall our many years of partnership with the center, particularly through Brethren Volunteer Service. We celebrate the profound, interfaith witness of the center that has been born from the ashes of Hiroshima. We honor the past and express hope for the future by reaffirming, with you, our commitment to creating a world free from both nuclear weapons and war.”

Former Directors Return to Hiroshima

The 40th Anniversary of the World Friendship Center was celebrated by many persons from the United States who traveled to Hiroshima to bring their personal and professional expressions of gratitude for the work of the World Friendship Center. Former WFC directors Mary Ann Albert, Joel and Bev Eikenberry, David and Evie Bertsche, Liz Bauer, and Ed Dougherty and Beth Bentley returned to participate in the celebration. Each shared their remembrances of their memorable time with the WFC. A few comments below reflect the very positive experiences they encountered while serving as directors.

Mary Ann Albert, Chairperson of the American Committee of WFC, presented a companion gift to purchase framing for the wall map donated by the Brethren. For 40 years WFC has provided a place for the forming of friendships between people of all nationalities and she urged the continuance of what Barbara Reynolds envisioned for many years to come.



Mary Ann Albert, Chair of the American Committee of WFC presents a donation for the framing of the map presented by the Church of the Brethren as McFadden children display the map. Translation by Sachiko Hiraoka.

Joel and Bev Eikenberry brought more than 1200 cranes folded a month earlier by children and adults attending the Brethren Annual Conference. They shared that their lives have been touched and changed by their experiences at WFC.

David and Evie Bertsche expressed their memories of WFC as a special place where friendships can grow, where they were nurtured and challenged, and where time, energy and talents are devoted to friendship and new emphasis on peace.

Ed Dougherty and Beth Bentley shared that the one enduring lesson they learned from their work in Hiroshima was that in the face of terrible events around the world the most powerful forces are love and hope. This theme of hope remains strong in their hearts and in the work of the WFC where people from around the world come to the door.

Liz Bauer brought greetings from her husband Bob who was unable to come and shared their remembrances of the students and friendships which made their tour such a memorable success.

Many other former directors who were not able to attend shared their thoughts and remembrances of their time together in writing to the WFC and their comments will be printed in the 40th Anniversary History Book to be published in the near future. Their willingness to devote themselves to the mission of WFC is an outstanding witness to others of their love of mankind and their commitment to peace.



Past and current directors of WFC share their remembrances.

Jessica Reynolds Renshaw Returns to Hiroshima

The WFC was delighted to host Jessica Reynolds Renshaw, the daughter of our founder, Barbara Reynolds, and her husband Jerry, on September 21 and 22. Jessica and Jerry, who live in Long Beach, California, visited Hiroshima, Japan and spent two nights at the Center. The Riji members planned a welcoming party for them and over 20 friends, old and new, were on hand to greet them.

Jessica shared with us an update on her busy life since her last visit to Japan in 1995. Her husband, Eric, passed away and she married Jerry one year ago. She is a freelance writer whose articles appear in a

number of newspapers and magazines and she is the author of three books. She shared with us her experiences as a young girl sailing around the world with her family, and her mother's passion for peace. Barbara was a people person and she was inspired by God to become involved in the peace movement leading to the founding of the WFC. Jessica donated Barbara's favorite three books which greatly inspired her. Chrysanthemum and the Sword by Ruth Benedict; Love the Law of Life and Christ and Japan, both by Toyohiko Kagawa. Barbara was so much inspired by these books and Jessica presented them to our library.

Jessica's whirl-wind tour of Hiroshima included a visit to the Peace Museum, a guided tour of the Peace Park, a visit to other sites connected to her upbringing here in Hiroshima and time with old friends active with her mother in the early days of peace activism. She also spoke to our Wednesday evening English class and visited the Sadako monument to place the 1200 paper cranes received from the Brethren Church Conference.



Jessica and Jerry place the cranes made by the members of the Church of the Brethren at their Annual Conference as Michiko Yamane assists.

Jessica left us with these thoughts, "I am so grateful – and I know my mother would be too – for what WFC has stood for over the past 40 years: preserving the memory of what Hiroshima and its people went through in the past and helping to forge a future on which such an experience will become

unthinkable anywhere in the world. You have played a significant part in providing that bridge between the two. Blessings to all of you."

Jessica Reynolds Renshaw (and Jerry)

Jessica also left us with a poem written on Hiroshima Day, 1990, after the death of her mother. It was published in Friends Journal and the Japan Times at the time:

Hiroshima Day, 1990

(after my mother's death)

Once more, upon these graves
without a corpse,
where grass now grows
and folding chairs in rows—
we sit respectfully
at break of day
and try to fan
the flames away.

Only cicadas scream
and clouds of smoke
rise as our foes'
housewives and children rose;
rising, too, memories
threaten to choke,
such leveled dreams as they evoke.

She did not burn with them
but she was here—
her ghost with theirs
this cemetery shares
and all their horror, thirst
and agony
with my new grief
explode in me.



Riji members and staff at the welcoming party for Jessica and Jerry.

Steve Leeper Addresses WFC on Friendship Afternoon



Mr. Steve Leeper, US Representative, Mayors for Peace, addressed members and friends of WFC.

Mr. Steve Leeper was the guest speaker at the WFC Friendship Afternoon on September 25. About 30 persons attended his presentation where Steve shared his commitment to abolishing nuclear weapons.

Steve came to Hiroshima in 1984 and became a partner in Transnet, a small translation and consulting company founded in 1986. He consulted for 12 years for the automotive industry, then became a peace activist in 1998, helping to found the Global Peacemakers Association. He left Hiroshima for Atlanta, Georgia in 2001 where he founded Global Peacemakers Association Atlanta. He became US representative of Mayors for Peace in that year.

He shared with the group that last summer Mayor Akiba proposed that the First Committee of the UN General Assembly, which will meet in October, establish a special committee to deliberate and plan for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear weapon free world. This action is a result of a campaign which will begin on UN Day and Disarmament Week and focus on continuing the strong support of the UN through the First Committee. First Committee does not require consensus agreement and decisions are made by

voting. The support appears strong for a resolution to create this smaller special committee within the First Committee.

The campaign will continue to keep the focus on nuclear abolition with many special events to include a Rock concert in London to appeal for peace. It has been 10 years since the International Court of Justice stated that the use of nuclear weapons was a breach of international law. To celebrate that occasion the campaign is planning a demonstration against nuclear weapons by 100,000 people in the Hague, Netherlands.

Since Mayor Akiba spoke to the Disarmament Affairs Committee of the UN on his campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons, Mayors for Peace has grown from less than 500 to more than 1,155. In May 2005, 40,000 people attended a rally for peace in NY. Leading the rally were United for Peace and Justice, followed by survivors and others from Hiroshima and Mayors for Peace.

Our thanks to Steve for his dedication to the abolition of nuclear weapons through his service to the United Nations and the city of Hiroshima.

Directors Visit Nagasaki ***Don and Pauline Hess***

On August 24 and 25 we had the opportunity to visit the Peace Museum and Park in Nagasaki. We saw much more as we were met by WFC friends Hiroshi Suenaga, Yoshio Sekiguchi and Hiroko Takahara and escorted around the beautiful city, visiting many of the major monuments and historical buildings. Guided by 69 year old survivor Hiroshi Suenaga, who was also a WFC peace ambassador to the U.S., we learned much of the history of Nagasaki.

We were interviewed by a reporter during our visit to the Peace Park. It provided us with an excellent opportunity to describe some of the great work of the WFC during its 40 year history beginning with Barbara Reynolds and continuing to the present day

with its emphasis on hibakusha stories, Peace Park guided tours, peace exchange programs and hospitality to foreigners. The interview was printed in the Nagasaki newspaper.

These friends of the WFC welcomed us into their homes for overnight stays and introduced us to many of the Japanese customs. It was a delightful trip and our hosts could not have been more gracious. Mrs. Suenaga entertained us with a Japanese musical instrument, gave us a tour of their beautiful home and garden and ended our stay with a typical Japanese breakfast.

Dr. and Mrs. Takahara, a retired medical doctor and his wife hosted us for dinner, shared their home and garden and a video of Nagasaki professionally done by the doctor's brother. Pauline also received step by step instructions on the famous Japanese tea ceremony. We also experienced another wonderful Japanese breakfast.

Our sincere thanks to all those who hosted our visit and to the Riji who were instrumental in organizing this trip for us. It will be long remembered.



Yoshio Sekiguchi (left) and Hiroshi Suenaga (right) escorted Don & Pauline Hess on a tour of Nagasaki.

***Thank you to translators for this issue:
Takako Hiramoto, Yoshiko Horimasu,
Yoshiko Sakuma, Mieko Yamashita,
Michiko Yamane and Michiko Hamai***

Hibakusha Stories



Keijiro Matsushima tells his Hibakusha story to students from Australia

Visitors to WFC



Grotten MA jazz band students visit WFC



Sora tells her story to visitors from Thailand



Friends (Quakers) from the US stay at WFC and visit Peace Park and Museum.

Outside Activities



WFC Director Don Hess speaks to History teachers from Los Angeles.

Class Activities



Friday English Class builds paper lanterns for the Anniversary commemoration.