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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

A Day of Remembrance

By Don & Pauline Hess

WFC Directors and board members joined with thousands of seekers at the Peace Park on August 6 to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony. The dedication of the Register of the Names of the Fallen Atomic Bomb Victims this year for the first time included the words, "Many Unknown" added to the ledger of victims' names placed in the cenotaph to commemorate the many victims whose names remain unknown.

After the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial ceremony WFC members and guests heard the Oleander Drama group and a Hibakusha story by So Horie, who will also be a PAX delegate to the U.S. (See separate story on page 2) A children's program in the afternoon included a choir including many WFC members, a solo by Asaka Watanabe and a children's story by Don Hess. Evening events ended with preparation and participation in the annual floating lantern festival. We were pleased to be joined by about 30 members of the ICBUW International Conference (see page 4 for

more information on this important Conference.



Oleander Drama group performs for members at the WFC August 6 ceremony.



So Horie relates his Hibakusha story to WFC members on August 6 with Mieko-san translating..

PAX Team Departs for USA

By Don Hess

The WFC PAX team departed on September 11 for their 23 day journey to the U.S beginning in Washington, DC, and ending in Seattle, WA. Their mission is to share their Japanese experiences and knowledge about peace-making in a variety of settings and locations. In return they will hear from the American peace-makers of their efforts to turn today's war culture to a peace culture.

This visit will continue the series of visits to the U.S. and will focus on dialogue between the participants to learn new ways to seek peace through the exchange of culture, ideas and personal experiences.

Team members will "tell their story" in their own unique way. The team make-up includes two male Hibakusha, one female and one young male university student. A brief profile on each member is shown below:

Hidetaka Komine from Nagasaki. Born in 1940 in Nagasaki. Raised 3 children by himself after a divorce. Attended Barber School and owns his own barbershop. Peace-making activities include sharing his A-bomb experience in a number of situations and he is currently the Secretary General of the A-bomb Youth Association. He published his autobiography, "What did you do with your foot, Granddad?" He is actively telling his story to students on school excursions.

So Horie from Hiroshima. Born October 17, 1940 in Kure City. Married with two sons, one living independently and one married with two children. After graduation from Okayama University with a major in Agricultural Chemistry he worked at pharmaceutical companies for 38 years. His peace activities include talking to peace organizations and

elementary school students about his experience and lecturing on how wars destroy the natural environment and waste immeasurable resources. His volunteer activities include teaching woodwork to handicapped persons, teaching Japanese to foreign students and instructing in outdoor activities as a forest volunteer.

Mieko Yamashita from Hiroshima. Born in 1939 in Kure City. Married with two children, a daughter and son who gave her five grandchildren. Majored in English literature and continues to study English today. Certified for the first grade STEP test and S level English Proficiency by the National Council of YMCAs in Japan in 1986. Taught English to children and also at Trident College, worked part time as an English teacher and a tutor. Now mostly as volunteer interpreter and translator.

Kohei Ueyama from Hiroshima. Born in 1980 in Okinawa. Unmarried student working on Masters in Peace studies. Employed at bookstore and does home tutoring. Participates in Article 9 Association activities and volunteers in many peace activities.

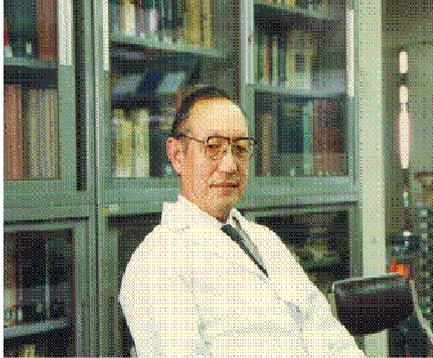
Their itinerary will include visits to Washington DC, North Manchester, IN, Bluffton, OH, Goshen, IN, Chicago/Elgin IL, and Seattle, WA. At each location these Peace Ambassadors Exchange delegates will have an opportunity to tell their unique peace activist stories. They are also eager to learn of the efforts of American peacemakers toward our mutual goal - the abolishment of nuclear weapons.

Thanks to the American Committee and especially to the PAX Coordinators, Beverly Eikenberry, Alice Petry and Jeanette Lahman for their hard work in organizing the PAX tour.

Riji Member Shoji Watanabe Passes Away

By Michiko Watanabe

What my husband's death means



Shoji Watanabe

October 3, 1925 – May 16, 2006

It was Sunday, December 6, 2005. On that afternoon we had an exceptionally deep snowfall for Hiroshima. After attending Sunday worship at Fuchu Church, we, my husband and I, joined the Christmas Party at World Friendship Center. We took our minister with us.

At WFC they asked my husband to play the role of Joseph for the pageant, because they could not find a man for that role. When he appeared on the stage in a bright blue gown with a smile, I thought he looked handsome in his gown. I did not even imagine he would suddenly die five months after that day.

It was May 16, 2006. He made an appointment with Dr. Kawamura for the morning examination. After seeing the doctor he came home, lay down and watched TV. When I noticed something unusual about him, I called an ambulance and they took him to a hospital. However, it was too late. While I was tending him, he died without feeling any pain. Acute cardiac infarction was the cause.

The story of Enoch in the Old Testament crossed my mind at the moment of his death. The Bible says, "He disappeared

because God took him away." His death does not mean hopelessness nor nothingness. It means his ascension to heaven and disappearance from this world.

The lives of some people in the Bible are long and others short, but in both cases, their lives end with the testimony, "And he died." I feel that my husband was taken up without seeing death.

Dr. Maruya read his message of condolence at the funeral. Later, he sent a letter to me writing, "I envied your husband." He is a sympathetic doctor and poet, so he emphasized my feeling. Then I was relieved from my sorrow by his words.

My husband attended a general meeting of the Committee for Treatment for the Korean A-bomb Victims and the party for the 45th Anniversary of Asian students in Hiroshima Home Asia. He also supported the victims of the accident at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant who suffered PTSD and he researched that disorder.

He was very busy everyday. He shared the spirit and prayer for absolute pacifism with Barbara Reynolds. He tried to assume the historical responsibility because of his own social stand. I am sure he is now enjoying a talk about WFC with Barbara in Heaven.

WFC Home Page

Do you have internet access? If so, we will be pleased to add your name to our email address book so we can notify you of any changes to our WFC home page, including the posting of our Yu-Ai newsletters and other significant activities of WFC. We welcome your comments at: wfchiroshima@nifty.com.

International Conference to Ban Uranium Weapons Sending Out the Hiroshima Appeal to the World Aug 3-6 2006

Haruko Moritaki

Executive Director of NO DU Hiroshima Project



DU Conference participants listen to evidence of irreparable damage of radiation effects

Since it was first used in the Gulf War in 1991, huge amounts of DU weapons have been used in the Balkan War, in the attack of Afghanistan and again in the war in Iraq. It was reported that Israel might possibly have used DU weapons against Lebanon. DU weapons are produced in 6 countries including the U. S. and proliferated into about 20 countries that possess DU munitions. Furthermore, DU shells are deployed at American bases in Korea and Okinawa.

Hiroshima has been involved in the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons because of its a-bomb experience. In the anti-war movement in Iraq in 2003, 6,000 people gathered to form the "human message": not only "NO WAR" but also "NO DU". That was because we know the horror of radiation effect through our experiences.

The serious radiation damage from DU weapons is most conspicuous in Iraq. The children who are sensitive to the effect of radiation are dying of leukemia or kidney cancer. The number reaches no less than 6,000 to 7,500 a month. The rate of cases of congenital disorder is unusually high, and the cases of double or triple cancers in one person leading to death are increasing in number.

Many people are still suffering from radiation effects in the Balkan area. Not

only the attacked people, but also American soldiers on the user's side, are developing serious diseases as well. An American veteran, Gerard Mathew, who was invited to Japan last year, had been dispatched to Iraq for 4 months since April, 2003. His health failed and he was sent back to America. His daughter Victoria, born in June, 2004, had no fingers on her hands.

Nine Military Police members, dispatched to Samawa in Iraq during the same period, lost their health and received a urine test at an independent laboratory in Germany. DU radiation was detected similar to Gerard Mathew, and the issue of "inside-exposure" was brought to light. They filed a lawsuit against the American Government to admit their deteriorated health was caused by DU exposure. Among them was Iraq War veteran, Herbert Reed, who participated in the last conference in Hiroshima.

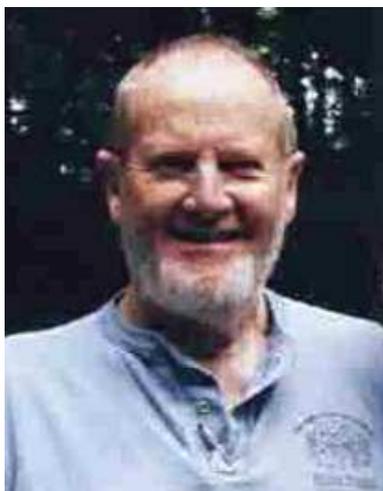
The International Conference to Ban Uranium weapons held in Hiroshima from August 3 to 6 was very significant and ended in success supported by many people. I am really grateful to those who contributed to the success. As many as 400 people, including 40 from 12 countries were registered as participants, and a total of 1000 people gathered in the large scale international conferences, which boosted up the movement for the ban of DU weapons.

Numerous presentations were made in 10 different sessions by Iraqi doctors, Iraqi scientists surveying environmental effects, American, British and Italian soldiers suffering from DU, medical scientists from other countries involved in research of DU effects, lawyers and activists working to enact a ban of these DU weapons. Enthusiastic acceptance followed each presentation.

DU shells are made of waste material in the production process of nuclear

(continued on page 7)

Former WFC Director Bill Chappell Dies



William David Chappell
June 27, 1926 – August 11, 2006

Bill was born in Philadelphia, PA on June 27, 1926. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne and four children: Carol, Nancy, Deborah, and William, Jr.

During the WWII years, he enlisted in the US Navy. and returned to graduate from Souderton High School and Pierce Business School, in Philadelphia, where he received his degree in 1949.

Most of his life he worked as an Insurance Underwriter for various companies in PA. He was active in church activities, having been a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, and choir member. Community activities included scouting, service clubs and hosting exchange students.

In 1984, the Chappells quit their jobs and entered BVS for volunteer assignments in Refugee/Disaster Relief in New Windsor, MD; **World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan**; Camp Koinonia in Elum, WA; Hatfield Church of the Brethren in PA; and to the Heifer Project International Ranch in Perryville, AR.

In 1996 he and Jeanne “retired” from their volunteer duties and moved to Uplands Retirement Village, Pleasant Hill, TN, where they continued to serve their new

community in various activities until ill health stopped most of Bill’s activities. He entered Wharton Nursing Home in June of 2006. He passed away on August 11, 2006. Memorials may be sent to the Wharton Visions program, Heifer International or the **World Friendship Center, Hiroshima, Japan**.

New Riji Board Member

Sachiko Hiraoka was elected as a Riji board member at the May Annual Meeting. Sachiko-san has been an active member of WFC for the past four years as an English student and as a Translation Group member. Having majored in English Literature at university, she is an English tutor for high school students. She is married with two children, both living independently. Her hobbies are flower arranging and reading. She is also interested in becoming a Peace Park Guide now. She joined WFC to improve her English and has remained very active because she was impressed with the contagious commitment of the people working at WFC. She was recommended for the board by the directors who believe her many talents will be a valuable addition to the board of directors.

Welcome aboard Sachiko-san!



Sachiko Hiraoka is the newest WFC Riji member.

Malawi Life in Africa

By Larry and Alice Petry

At a June 3 Friendship Afternoon, Sue Zuberbier talked about her life in Malawi. Malawi is a small country in Southeast Africa bordered by Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania. Sue is a nurse and her husband is a school administrator. Sue was brought to WFC by her cousin, Ruth Maschmeier, who lived and taught English in Japan for more than twelve years.

She worked in a clinic in the bush country for pregnant women and young children. It was a very simple clinic for very poor people. Usually, only women and children were brought in, but as their reputation for healing became known, even men came. Sometimes people went to the medicine man and if a serious infection resulted, Sue and the nurses would give proper antibiotics to save the life. They also taught nutrition and encouraged birth control. A child needed to breast feed for two years. It was critical that they not be too young, because the diet was not good for young children. Immunizations were given to children for seven diseases; pneumonia, hepatitis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and TB.

In the cities children usually went to school, but in the bush, parents often didn't have money for school. If twins or triplets were born, the oldest girl or boy had to quit school and help care for the new babies. No books or paper were available for school children so they memorized all their lessons. Teachers were men and English was taught to all. There are fifty-seven different tribal languages in this tiny country.

People eat small mice –even the tail and hair--boiled or fried. A cheap

popular snack. Ox carts were the usual transportation for supplies and people. Donations from the U.S. helped to alleviate hunger and provided needed medical supplies. They worked with World Health Organization (WHO).

Women did most of the work; cooking, cleaning, gathering water and fire wood, caring for crops and children. Sue's group encouraged the men to work, since the hunting was over, because the animals were gone. Her organization rewarded families with seeds, when they all worked to produce more crops for the hungry mouths. The main crop was maize (corn). Maize was pounded into flour from which they made nsiona, their staple food.

Sue told many stories about the people and many questions were asked by the ten attendees.



Alice and Larry Petry shown with WFC staff member Naomi Kurihara during their interim.

Thank you to Larry and Alice Petry, and Don and Pauline Hess, and Michiko Wantanabe for their articles; to Mieko Yamashita, Michiko Yamane, Takako Hiramoto, Yoshiko Sakuma and Sachiko Hiraoka for their translations and to Michiko Hamai for her editing.

HPI Forum Lecture

By Don Hess

Robert Jacobs from Hiroshima Peace Institute presented a lecture on "What Do Americans Think About the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Why?" Several members of WFC attended this interesting lecture which outlined what Americans tell themselves about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (1) It ended the war; (2) These acts actually saved American and Japanese lives. These two stories are still very commonly held beliefs in the United States today and he related why so many Americans believe this story. It is the story of American greatness, in which Americans look at their accomplishments as benefiting society. America brought peace to the Asian countries.

He raised some very interesting points that the present generation can discuss but the reality is that most of us, on both sides of the issue, are too emotionally involved to be rationale. History will have to be the judge. Our major concern should not be about the past which we can't change, but about the future which we can. No more Hiroshimas' means no more nuclear weapons!



WFC members attending the Peace forum.

ICBUDU Weapons Conference

(From page 4)

weapons and the fuel for nuclear power plants. Their high density and hardness make them superior weapons. Though they are called "depleted", their half-life is 4.5 billion years, and their radiation is 60% as strong as that of natural uranium. Once brought into the human body, or polluted environment, they cause irreparable damage. DU weapons, being inhumane weapons of mass destruction with radioactive and heavy metal toxicity combined, must be prohibited as soon as possible from producing, storing, exporting and using. As a potent first step of international campaign, NODU International Conference sent out "Hiroshima Appeal" to the world for the immediate ban of DU weapons.

You can see video clips of the conference at the following site: <http://www.nodu-hiroshima.org>

Expected date of publication of ICBUDU Hiroshima Conference: Collected Papers: beginning of 2007 (Special advance price: 2000 yen or 20 dollars)



US Army veterans Dennis Kyne (left) of the Gulf War and Herbert Reed (right) of the Iraq war with Director Don Hess at the DU Conference.



WFC members and guests hear the history of the floating lanterns as they prepare their lanterns.



Lanterns float on the river to console the souls of the victims who died crying out for help.



Peace Memorial Ceremony August 6



Children's address at Memorial Ceremony



Children's Program on August 6



Riji members celebrate another successful year during the May 2006 Annual meeting.