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Yu - Ai **Friendship**

The Newsletter of NPO 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: worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.wfchiroshima.net/>
Chairman: Hiromu Morishita Directors: Ron & Barb Siney

Beyond The Classroom By Wendy Geiger

From September 23 to October 5, 2010 I had one of the most important and pleasurable experiences of my professional career. I was honored to host a delegation of Atomic Bomb Survivors and their interpreters at the University of Central Missouri. Throughout my career as a professor of communication, I have focused my efforts on providing students educational experiences that go beyond the classroom. From my perspective, these experiences



have worked, 'ok', 'pretty good' or on occasion even 'very well'. But never has a project come together to have had such an impact on students and the entire university community than these two weeks with these women.

First, the numbers: the Hibakusha presented their stories--No More Hiroshimas: Stories of War and Peace--33 times to over 1,600 individuals during their time in Missouri; and approximately 1,500 individuals viewed the No More Hiroshimas: Images of War, Appeals for Peace art exhibition (including images from Kiyomi Kohno-san, Hibakusha; Jane Bernhard Smith, American artist/pacifist; and the A-Bomb Experience from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and Museum). The high of attendance for university programming is simply amazing.

Second, the impact: What made this project even more amazing was the overwhelmingly positive response that I received during their time here; and continue to receive, since their return to Japan. I again and again was told how 'important' this project was. Students were moved to tears on several occasions and stood in lines at the end of class, just to say 'thank you' to the Hibakusha who told their stories. Faculty

members have shared with me that their students continue to talk and write about the event, in a way that illustrates the impact that these women have had on them.

Third, the impact on me personally: All eight of the people from WFC have impacted me in such a positive way. While they were here, in a celebration after the large venue presentation, I shared with them that I was a better person by having the opportunity to know them. Their gift was multifaceted, teaching me of courage, honesty, and forgiveness. The courage of the Hibakusha to come to Missouri, a state that is politically conservative, has a large military presence, and where Harry Truman is venerated; was tremendous. I don't think I realized until at least half way through the residency how nervous they were that they might have a negative reception from the audience they were speaking to. In addition, there was the courage of the interpreters to speak for the Hibakusha. They are not trained professionals and they shared with me their concerns of their ability to convey the message of the Hibakusha story. Honesty was shown every time their stories were told by the Hibakusha and convey through their interpreters. The stories of loss, devastation, and the 'hell on earth' that they went through could not have been easy. However, again and again, they shared their story with honesty and integrity. I believe it was their pure honesty in the presentations that kept the audiences captivated and had such strong emotional impact. Finally, they embodied forgiveness. It is hard to imagine how someone so hurt by a country could honestly say they were not here to blame or make Americans feel guilty...but their forgiveness was seen in every presentation, every sincere greeting of an audience member, and every conversation we had. They taught me through their actions that revenge and anger closes hearts; and that forgiveness opens hearts.

All eight of these individuals opened many hearts while here, and open hearts share with others. The stories the Hibakusha shared have not ended, but rather they have just begun. They will continue to open hearts as these students share the story of No More Hiroshimas with friends and family, now and in the future.

Kohno-san, Kasaoka-san, Okada-san, Michiko-san, Sachiko-san, Nobuko-san, Naomi-san, and Barb-san...thank you.



The Missouri Experience

By Barb Siney

We have returned from the most remarkable experience of my life. I don't say that lightly. I am truly saying that this, the UCM Project, will stay in my memory forever. It started with insight and grew with a vision to educate others. I'm thankful to have seen the reception and reaction to the stories shared.



When we were first invited to UCM I knew that I would be going home for a brief time; that

I would be able to enjoy the company of family and the comfort of being in a familiar place. What I didn't know was that it would enrich my relationship with Japanese friends. It was remarkable to see the efforts that were being made by Okada-san, Kohno-san and Kasaoka-san as they endeavored to refine their stories to fit into the parameters that were necessary for classroom and joint presentations. It was new for them, and they met the challenge. There were many occasions when the interpreters, Yamane-san, Morikawa-san and Hiraoka-san, struggled with just the right word, pronunciation or phrase to express exactly the thought or feeling of the story tellers. Their practice and preparations made for effective presentations that conveyed a story of not only sadness and suffering, but also a story of hope. I further saw the excellent work of Kurihara-san as she spent endless hours to perfect PowerPoint slideshows to enhance the presentation. She was tireless in work to create bilingual schedules, ready travel documentation, and insure the comfort of the team. We would not have been prepared if she had not participated.

When we arrived at University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg I saw the preparation that had been taking place on the other side of the Pacific Ocean. Dr. Geiger had arranged for 30 classroom presentations, 3 public presentations, and numerous special events. The warm welcome was remarkable. Kindness was extended from students, faculty, staff and friends of the university. The facilities from accommodations, to transportation, to meals and to leisure activities were only signs of the hours of work in anticipation on the arrival of the hibakusha and the team from WFC. Dr. Geiger had also prepared an introduction to each hibakusha presentation. It was powerful. It expressed, with few words, the facts of World War II and the tragic end of this war. The end result was the most professional and moving presentations I have experienced.

My viewpoint is, of course, that of an American. Because of that I know what I saw in the faces of the audience. While in the classroom, during the first presentation, I watched. I saw, at first, obligation to attend a university class, nothing more. Then I saw interest; interest led to shock; shock led to horror; and horror led to questions.

I saw these same expressions played out over and over again as the week continued. The momentum of this project grew with each class as well. Students began talking to other students, faculty were having their classes join others that had scheduled presentations, people were asking if their sister or friend could attend the presentation, parents were making sure that their children attended, with them, the public presentation on the evening of September 30. A combined total of over 2000 people heard these lectures. It was nothing short of astounding.

Questions are the goal of education, not the means. We, who hope to educate the world on the futility of war and weapons that can eliminate mankind, know that young people cannot be forgotten. We can't forget that this side of history and these stories are new to them. American children have always lived in a world that sees war from the sidelines. War is a movie, a story on the Internet, or a 30 second spot on the nightly news. For us to expect change we must continue, as the hibakusha have for the last 65 years, and say, "no more Hiroshimas".



Special "Thank You's"

By Barb Siney

On behalf of World Friendship Center I would like to extend a special thank you to Kent and Sarah Sweitzer. Their presence at University of Central Missouri, the Truman Library and at Warrensburg Church of the Brethren provided expertise and assistances that was much needed. Kent's professional photography and videography will provide an electronic record for years to come. Sarah's warmth and calm was refreshing and necessary amid many hectic days. Thank you both; you were a God-sent.



I would further like to extend a special thank you to Warrensburg Church of the Brethren. Your warmth and welcome was touching. You displayed a welcome that was the perfect example of Christian hospitality. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak, and share a fellowship meal.

After telling my A-bomb story in Missouri Kiyomi Kohno

From September 22 through October 6 2010, we traveled to Missouri to tell our A-bomb experiences.

This project was made possible by Dr. Wendy Geiger, Associate Professor, at the University of Central Missouri. She made every effort to carry out the plan and World Friendship Center sent us to the University of Central Missouri. During our stay at



UCM, Wendy and Barb were very busy to support us. Kent made visual documentation and Sarah took good care of us. Thank you for all the kindness and generous hospitality given to us during our stay.

We saw posters and fliers for our presentations everywhere at UCM so that Wendy and faculty members were ready to receive us. In addition, Peace art exhibition was held at Art Center Galley. I was most impressed. Before our presentations, Wendy gave an outline of the history during World War II. It was very easy for students to understand our stories and they listened to my story attentively. After my presentation, they said to me with tears in their eyes.

"I'm so sorry. I didn't know about that story."

"It was very touching. I changed my mind."

"I will tell my family and friends your story"

Some of them kissed and offered their hands to me. I was really amazed by their pure in hearts. Some of them listened to my story again and I was very happy to see them many times. However, it was really hard to tell my A-bomb story because this was a new experience for my daughter and me. Before my presentation, we promised to tell sincerely with our whole heart. Now, I'm sure that my sincere message reached the younger generations.

While I presented my story at Hendricks Hall, drawings of my book were shown on a screen. The picture of my friend Fumiko appeared, and in my heart I said to her, "I told American people about you." It seemed that she smiled at me then. In my heart I also said to photograph of young victims who they were killed like mere worms, "Your sacrificed souls brought me here." At that time, I was relieved to carry out a wish that they were shouting in my dream, "Draw about us."

After our presentations, the audience stood up and gave us a big hand and it was a very moving incident. The presentation was sent out all over the world on the internet.

We had a great time with about 20 Japanese students over lunch. They are studying very hard far away from Japan, so I hope that their dreams will come true. We attended a worship service at Church of Brethren. Michiko-san told story of Aogiri very well and that was really great. Kasaoka-san also told her A-bomb story very well.

During our stay, we went sightseeing which included MISSOURI TOWN 1885, Bluegrass band over dinner, The Nelson Artkins Museum of Art, Gateway Arch in St. Louis, and so on. We also were invited to Wendy's colleague home and they welcomed us warmly. I enjoyed them very much.

We visited Truman Library early in October. There was a little chill in the air and dead silence reigned over the area. When we entered inside, there were pictures of President Truman with famous persons on display. Besides there was a bronze statue of Truman in the center, I was filled with mixed emotion looking up his statue. The director of the library left halfway through our presentations but after we finished telling, he showed us inside the library. A World War II film which showed that the Japanese armed forces were defeated was showing in the basement. The restoration of the Truman Oval Office was more simple than I had imagined. At that time, these proverbs occurred to me "Let bygones be bygones"," Please forgive and forget". Afterwards, I wrote my message and signature, "I wish for world peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons."At that moment, I felt like trembling all over but I appreciated very much that Wendy arranged for Truman Library Presentation. It was very meaningful and I had a valuable experience.

It was my great pleasure to know Wendy. While I was with her I was fascinated by her personality. Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for Wendy, Barb, Ron, Kent, Sarah, WFC, Kasaoka-san, Okada-san, Michiko-san, Sachiko-san and Naomi-san who made thorough preparations for this trip.

Thanks again for the time and courtesies you have shown to me.

As soon as I got back home and recovered from fatigue of my trip, I discovered that America conducted a subcritical nuclear experiment. I was so disappointed to hear the news and it was a terrible shock. But I don't think that our project was futile. No one tells if Hiroshima hibakusha keep silent. I think that it is very important to send Peace message in words. Right now, we believe in the power of the words and each of us should tell our desire for "No More

Hiroshimas."This time I was very glad to have a good chance to tell my A-bombed story with my daughter in America. I hope that she continues to convey the message of hibakusha story sincerely from now on.



Telling My A-bomb Experience At UCM

Sadae Kasaoka

My niece had told me that I might be requested to tell my A-bomb experience in America. In May Barb, director of the WFC, explained about the project and asked to prepare shorter scripts for the presentation. At that time I had concerns if shorter presentation could work well enough to tell the A-bombing. I had the power-point made with some photographs.



In July, Wendy came to Hiroshima and gave us more concrete outline on the activity in the UCM. I knew that this was one of the great projects for the university. I had doubt that I could be helpful, but I decided to accept the offer. However, as the departure approached, I became nervous.

On September 23, the next day when we arrived in America, the students guided us around the campus. In the wide site were big trees, flowers which are familiar to us, and big buildings. It looked like a town. Students were coming and going in and out of the buildings, which was a very peaceful scene. With the atmosphere, I felt myself grow out of strain.

On September 24, the first presentation for Kohno-san and me was made at the Wood Building Room Number 205, 9:30 – 10:30 am, following the general information of World War II and the A-bombing done by Wendy. About 30 students, who attended the class, listened intently to our presentation.

On September 26, we attended a worship service at Church of Brethren in Warrensburg, which included the introduction of us three, Aogiri story, a song of Aogiri and our presentations. The audience sometimes gave nods, wiped their tears, listened quietly to us, and asked some questions. We enjoyed heartfelt lunch prepared by Church members. At night, we were invited to Wendy's friend's house for dinner. I felt American family atmosphere while in their home.

On the 27th, I made three presentations. On the 28th, twice -once at UCM and the second at a high school in Overland Park (where only one presentation was done by me because of limited time) Michiko-san introduced the story of Aogiri and we sang the Aogiri song. I felt strained on the dark stage with the spotlight on me - I skipped some parts. It made me upset but eventually I managed to sum up the story. The

students present were all listening closely to the explanation about Aogiri and my A-bomb story.

On the 29th, I made two presentations. On the 30th, we made the large venue presentation at the big hall. I saw three flags of the USA, Japan and UCM displayed on the stage and sensed their hearty welcome. Each A-bomb survivor, in the order of Ms. Okada, me and Ms Kohno, gave our presentation from the stage to about 600 students and faculty members. I thought everyone understood and sympathized with our desires that we should abolish nuclear weapons from the earth and that a nuclear weapon must not be used again. Around 5:00 pm, I was interviewed by a reporter from the local newspaper and the article appeared the next day, which was unexpectedly surprising. I visited the exhibition of Portraits of Women Combat Veterans from Afghanistan. I couldn't read the English explanations, but still remember their faces well. I felt something deep but just from the pictures I couldn't tell exactly what.

On October 1st, I presented twice. In the afternoon we had an interview by the crew of the university TV station. On October 2nd, we gave a presentation at the Truman Library. The curator of the Library showed us around the library. We saw all the exhibitions but in large letters "Japan surrendered" were written in English, which made me feel empty. I was mortified at the President's decision to drop the A-bomb; thinking that we would not have experienced such misery if he had not.

The US national flag was being flown at half staff by his tomb stone. He is a hero forever. It can't be helped. Many visitors were there.

As an overall summary: the questions I was asked were as follows.

- What made me decide to come to America in order to tell my A-bomb experience?
- Is America like what I expected?
- Why did I start to tell my A-bomb experience even though my heart still breaks when I tell my story?
- Are my brothers and sisters healthy?
- Why did people discriminate against me because I was an A-bomb survivor? Do we have still discrimination?
- How do Japanese students learn about the Atomic Bomb and its after-effects?

Most of the audience had understanding that the A-bomb was used to end the war. After hearing my story, many of them shed tears to know about the A-bomb threat and the tragic effects and said to me "please forgive America for what we did." Instead of just insisting on the only viewpoints as the victims; I thought it important to speak out the message to let people know about the A-bomb's evil. I'll continue to tell about my A-bomb experience to abolish nuclear weapons on the earth.

America is really big, and so are their hearts. I could spend every day during my stay in America experiencing precious and new things. Thank you very much.

I love UCM. Emiko Okada

I love UCM. I love Missouri. I love WFC.

We left Hiroshima in sweltering heat and arrived at Kansas City Airport in the bracing air of autumn. Wendy Geiger welcomed our arrival at the airport by arriving in a big van. On the way to UCM in Warrensburg, we enjoyed viewing huge corn fields and cows, horses and sheep grazing in the pasture. That was the initial start of our mission to tell people about Hiroshima.

We had chances to tell our A-bomb experiences to many students. We visited many different classes such as media literacy, composition, social work practice, military history, anti-nuclear social movements, communication etc. We had lunch with about 20 Japanese students and some of them gave us a campus tour. Some of them are majoring in aviation to become pilots, ground crew and flight attendants. We visited Shawnee Mission North High School where native Americans lived. About 1,700 students in all including the high school students listened attentively to our hibakusha stories.



Questions and answers were as follows.

Q: What happened in my family?

A: My elder sister perished in flames of the A-bomb. My parents have already passed away after going through a lot of difficulties. My two younger brothers live outside Hiroshima. My youngest brother doesn't want to visit Peace Memorial Museum even when he comes back to visit my parents' graveyard.

Q: Did we receive any assistance after the war?

A: We received clothes, canned food and baseball kit from Licensed Agency for Relief of Asia through church. Swiss doctor, Marcel Junod brought 15 tons of medical supplies. "Hiroshima maidens", young women with keloids were invited to Mount Sinai Hospital in New York to receive medical treatment. American

"foster parents" supported several hundred orphaned children in Hiroshima, which was called "Moral Adoption".

Q: Were we discriminated against?

A: It was difficult for a hibakusha to get a job. Many engagements were canceled.

Q: What do we expect of America and Americans?

A: We want them to know about A-bomb disaster in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and take action to eliminate 23,000 nuclear warheads that still exist in the world. I hope their mayor will become a member of "Mayors for Peace".

We attended a worship service at Church of Brethren. We invited students and faculty to a room in the college and folded paper cranes together while we talked about "Sadako and the thousand paper cranes". A student suffering Down's syndrome also folded together. We asked the participants to write peace messages on a big paper crane spread on the table with Barb and Sarah helping us.



I was filled with mixed emotion when we visited Truman Library. At the entrance a statue of eagle caught our eyes. We passed an aisle displaying pictures of President Truman with Queen Elizabeth, with USSR leader Stalin and with famous baseball players. We moved to "the Oval Office" where the president might have given the order to drop the atomic bomb targeting the T-shaped bridge. It was said there used to be a map of Japan in the office. We then visited a big auditorium, where the historic meeting of Truman and hibakushas who joined the World Peace Study Mission in 1964 took place through the efforts of Barbara Reynolds. We can't appreciate enough her energy and vitality based on her beliefs. We saw the art exhibition called "When Janey comes marching home". I was so sad to see the portraits of women combat veterans with no smiles.

We met courageous peace activists. They were members of a group resisting the plant making non-nuclear parts for nuclear weapons. Ann, a young peace activist, said with a smile, "I have been arrested many times so far. I will join the protest rally again and be arrested soon."

Missouri, where Truman was born, is a conservative state with Air Force Bases and defense industries. That is why not many mayors belong to "Mayors for Peace".

I really want to express my deep gratitude to Wendy, faculty at UCM, Kent, Sarah, Barb, WFC friends and my family, who worked hard while we were away. Thanks to your support, we had a very rewarding and fruitful two-week-stay in America. Thank you very much again.

Dear Friends at World Friendship Center JoAnn & Larry Sims

Autumn's cool crisp days are in stark contrast to August's very hot days in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As seasons and temperatures change one could speculate that memories too, change. The memories of our visit with you at WFC are warm and loving. We were cared for on so many levels. You fed us, guided us, shared your stories, rekindled friendships, and introduced us to many new friends. We are so grateful and we thank you with all our hearts. No matter the season or the temperature, our memories of the PAX 2010 USA will always be warm, caring, and peace loving.



No matter the season or the temperature, our memories of the PAX 2010 USA will always be warm, caring, and peace loving.

The heat and impact of those days in Japan has kindled a new passion in us. 1. We must share the Hibakusha stories with as many as we can manage. 2. We must do all we can to eliminate nuclear weapons. 3. We must focus our energies on promoting Peace throughout the world.

Our three-part commission is currently taking form through the assembly of many possibilities. We have appointments to make with Seattle University, Washington State University, George Fox University, and Linfield College to connect with their academic departments of Political Science, Religion, with their Peace Centers, Leadership Centers, and their Alumni Associations.

We have made initial contact with Yamhill Peacemakers and the Interfaith Advocates for Peace with Justice groups and will be pursuing ways or events where we will share our experiences and commission.

The International Leadership Association will be issuing a call for proposal invitations in December for their Leadership For Peace Conference in Seattle, April of 2011. We intend to submit a proposal.

We are preparing a program/sharing/presentation for both Seattle First Baptist Church, University Baptist Church in Seattle, and First Baptist Church in McMinnville. We are also considering the organization of a Peace Concert or Peace Weekend to be in both McMinnville and Seattle.

Our contacts with the media so far are to be featured on a Public Television program sometime this year. We have accepted the responsibility to arrange for the showing of "Hibakusha Our Life To Live" film at as many venues as possible. We are continuing

contact with Patrick Murphy, the Producer/filmmaker who is putting together a documentary on the 65th Commemoration of Hiroshima & Nagasaki atomic bombing.

In closing, our PAX 2010 visit to the World Friendship Center has further ignited our passion to continue our connection with PAX and future ambassadors, to work for Peace, to work toward a world without nuclear weapons, and to share Hibakusha stories with as many as possible. Thank you again for this rare opportunity!
Keep Hope Alive!

PAX to Japan Experience Brad Yoder

Upon my arrival in Hiroshima, I was met at the Japan Railway station with a warm welcome by several WFC staff and Board members and taken directly to WFC where the other PAX members were already presenting information about themselves and their previous peacemaking activities. I contributed my own after Rachel Kent was finished.



We visited the Peace Memorial Park and were guided by Michiko Yamane, Yoko Hirasue, and Shizuko Kamibeppu. We visited 16 of the monuments that are located in the Park.

In the afternoon we toured the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF), formerly the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. This facility did research on the impact of radiation on those who survived the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings (more recently also Chernobyl, Russia, and other nuclear sites). During the early years when the US government controlled the facility, they only did research, and offered no treatment of victims. As the Japanese government began to share control, treatment as well as research was done involving the victims after the passage of the A-Bomb Survivors Health Care Act in 1957.

August 6 - Everyone was anticipating the memorial services today, and they were very moving. Everyone at the services was so welcoming. It was sad in some ways to recall the devastation which happened 65 years ago, but it was also truly an honor to be here and to participate. Many expressed overwhelming gratitude for the fact that UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon participated in the service. He gave a very moving speech, partly because of his Korean ancestry and its relationship to Japan.

Prime Minister Kan officially apologized to the Korean people for their invasion and occupation of Korea, which meant a lot to the Korean people. There was also much gratitude for the presence for the first time in 65 years of the US ambassador to Japan, John Roos.

Experiences in Nagasaki

Visited the Oka Masaharu Peace Studies Institute, which includes much history of how Japan became progressively more militarized during the 1920's and '30's, and invaded China and Korea. We had several wonderful visits that evening at the Catholic Center. I met with Never Again volunteers who will be traveling to live for one or more years in either the US or Russia. They are a group of very creative and committed young adults who are working to rid the Earth of nuclear weapons. It was exciting and inspiring to visit with them.

August 9 - The 65th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony was very moving again as it was in Hiroshima. The sky was full of heavy clouds that threatened rain. I was interviewed by Japanese national television before the ceremony began. I expressed our gratitude for the wonderful hospitality of the Japanese people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and our regret that our government chose to use nuclear weapons against the Japanese people 65 years ago.



Our evening dinner with the congregation of Nagasaki Baptist Church was a wonderful event. The food was amazing, the fellowship was great, and the message by Steve Leeper contrasted a culture of war which uses force to resolve conflict, with a culture of peace which negotiates and affirms the strengths of all parties. Leeper memorialized Dr. Nagai Takashi who, though he was dying of bomb-induced leukemia, used all of his knowledge and skills to care for others and to do research to learn more about how to respond to radiation.

It is impossible to summarize in a few words the intensity, the humanity, the warmth, the love which we experienced during our visit to Japan by the many persons who shared themselves so generously. From being welcomed at the airport or train station, to accompanying us during our various activities, to guiding tours of many facilities and programs, to sharing the pain of their life stories including the bombings 65 years ago, to opening their homes and neighborhoods to us—it was an overwhelming outpouring of assertive human kindness and authentic generosity. "Thank you" seems so inadequate, but that is a place to begin. We will continue to share with others at every opportunity what we experienced, keeping in mind the vision of Barbara Reynolds to promote caring among all peoples, between Japan and the United States, and beyond. And to work to assure that nuclear weapons are never ever again used, and that they ultimately are eliminated from the face of the Earth.



What did I learn from World Friendship Center? **Hiroshima Shudo University International Politics** **Kentaro Yamamoto**



On August 31st our internship started. We went to WFC Tuesday to Saturday from early morning until around 4:00pm. First of all, we stayed at WFC on August 31st because as we actually stayed there as guests, we got the feeling of being a guests.

The next day, our internship really started. The typical work was making beds, serving breakfast for guests, cleaning the sheets, dishes and rooms. Therefore, we needed to get there by 7:45 a.m. every morning. It

was a challenge, but a good experience. Of course, at first, we didn't know what we should do, but WFC's directors Ron and Barb, told us everything from "A to Z". Thanks to them, we felt relieved. Also we need to speak English all day, not only with Barb and Ron, but also with many guests who came from foreign countries. We hesitated to speak to many guests at first because we weren't sure whether our English was clear to them. However, all of the guests were gentle, kind and friendly, so we could have fun talking to them during breakfast time. Even now, I stay in touch with some of the guests I met.

During the day, we often attended some of Ron or Barb's English classes, where we discussed many things with classmates. We sometimes went to the peace museum and heard WFC's Hibakusha story in English. WFC's volunteer staff, Yuko and Yoko, guided us through the Peace Park. They explained many details about the park's monuments so we learned information and history that we did not understand before.

In addition, we went to Akenohoshi Kindergarten with Ron, Barb and many Japanese volunteer staff to show a puppet play for kids. WFC would like kids to know about peace and English through this kind of play. Definitely most kids can't understand much English or understand peace. However, we and every WFC's staff, hope they feel something through this activity. After we finished the activity, we received great applause from kids and teachers. I'm sure, even if kids can't understand English, they felt many important things from our activities.

Next I'd like to talk about what I learned from WFC and some of the internship's activities. First of all, I realize that Ron and Barb always appeal about peace for many people through a variety of activities. WFC provides a variety of activities and programs including accommodations, English classes and so on. However, it's not traditional accommodation like Hiroshima's Backpackers or Hotels; or traditional English classes. If people want to stay in that style of accommodation, I recommend for them to stay in cheaper accommodations than WFC. If students just want to learn English, I recommend university's lectures or English conversation schools like AEON or GEOS. However, people who want to study about peace or Hiroshima's history through studying English, I strongly recommend WFC, and I want them to stay in WFC and study about peace more and more. WFC is the place to learn and study peace.

All guests are eager to studying about peace and Hiroshima's history. Many people came to WFC and study about peace or atomic bombs from all over the world. Barb, Ron and all of Japanese staff and volunteer staff who are involved in WFC have an interest in Barbara Reynolds' resolve and hope. They appeal in order to never repeat the mistake of going to war anytime, anywhere and do that in diverse ways. At WFC, I learned about those precious things.

There are really wonderful words in WFC's entrance. The words are, "Go in Peace. Peace starts from here and from yourself." It is WFC's message for people from all over the world. "Peace starts from here and from yourself." However, now-a-days the numbers of Hibakusha are decreasing because they are becoming old. Their message about Atomic Bombs has grown weaker because there are fewer to tell the message. In other words, there is no one to hand down this message of peace for the younger generation. Now we all must think about peace and never repeat the mistake of going to war. I have always wished that for myself; and now, for you and all the people of our generation, I wish that also. "Peace starts from here and from yourself". Thank you all very much.

Internship At WFC

Shoji Tsushima

I went to WFC as an intern from 31 August to 13 September. Frankly speaking, I didn't want to work at WFC because I was hoping to work in the International Exchange Center at Shudo University. Sometimes Japanese staff would ask me, "Why do you want to work here?" It was troubling each time. But I learned a lot of things at WFC, and it was a very good experience.

The main tasks at WFC were: serving breakfast for guests, cleaning rooms, washing sheets and towels, etc. Involvement in special programs included joining English conversation class, learning about WFC and Hiroshima history, and announcing puppet show at a local kindergarten. Especially, my best memory is announcing the puppet show at the kindergarten. At first, we only helped prepare the show. But then we were asked to MC and interpret from English to Japanese. I finished MC-ing by replacing the microphone. Now I have a good memory.

I think that WFC is important from many angles. I learned that it's not only relationships between nationality, gender, and age. It is also learning to work with people. It was kind that the Japanese staffs made lunch for us for 2 weeks. Thank you very much.

If it's not trouble for you, I would like to volunteer at WFC after this. Thank you for reading!!! "Have a dream of peace!"



NARPI and WFC

Shizuo Tachibana

From August 20 to 24th, 2010, a NARPI pilot project, Workshop for Peace-building Training, was held in Hiroshima. What is NARPI? NARPI is the acronym of Northeast Asia Regional Peace-building Institute. As I look back on NARPI; I see a developing involvement with the World Friendship Center. Mr. Lee Jae Young of KAC (Korea Anabaptist Center) visited Japan last year. He has a deep relation with World Friendship Center through Korean PAX. He shared about a design of NARPI in several places including Hiroshima and called for participation. WFC had an opportunity to hear the design of NARPI at a board of directors meeting. The center accommodated a workshop of Mr. Lee Jae Young. It lasted for three days with the themes of dispute solution, peace education and so on. WFC decided to adopt NARPI as one of the activities of the center.

Involvement in NARPI it is not a program only for Japan. The Northeastern Asian Region where we live in is an area unstable strategically and politically. Following is a quote from a NARPI Fall 2010 Newsletter:

"Peace workers, activists and students are actively seeking out practical training and education. They are seeking an educational base for their work in transforming the existing culture of animosity and militarism into a culture of peace and reconciliation for Northeast Asia. While working to meet this need for training, NARPI is also seeking to be a space for collaboration and transformation among people in Northeast Asia; a deliberate forum for building relationships and connections between different peoples and nations."

Individuals and some groups have relationships with NARPI in Japan. Members from such countries as Korea, China, Taiwan, India, Mongolia, Russia, U.S.A. participate in the steering committee of NARPI Broad. The second steering committee was had on the ship, Peace Boat, from October 25, 2010.

The main activity of NARPI is to hold workshops for peace building training in each area, every year. The first workshop is going to be carried out in Korea in August, 2011. The NARPI pilot project, workshop for peace building training was held in Hiroshima before the workshop of the next year started. An idea has come out when Ms. Kyoko Okumoto who is a member of Transcend Japan, of Japanese NARPI network, visited the center. Transcend Japan was in charge of a planning and administration. Other members of network such as World Friendship Center cooperated. Prof. Johan Galtung who is a leader of Transend gave a lecture in an education society held in Hiroshima University and participated the workshop in Hiroshima. During the period of the workshop, members of English classes, WFC, intern student from Shudo University, and former intern students participated in the workshop. I thank everyone for cooperation from all of you.

I was able to experience part of the skill for the peace building. For me the most impressive word is spoken by Prof. Johan Galtung. "Have a dream of peace!"

A Lively Morning at Akenohoshi Kindergarten

Miho Ikeda



In all, fifteen of us from WFC visited Akenohoshi Kindergarten, located in our neighbor, and joined its program called "Free Day" on September 8th.

We had one whole hour to share with small children. So we prepared many things to perform for their entertainment: English songs by Barb-san, Japanese songs by Soprano Singer Asaka-san and Peace Choir member, a talking by Ventriloquist Michiko-san with cute side-kick Shin-chan and a puppet play of The Three Little Pigs (the very scary wolf was worked by Ron-san!).

At first we were a little bit nervous because of so many children were present (about 200!), but our excellent emcees soon made our mood relaxed. Kentaro-san and Shoji-san, WFC intern students from Shudo University, willingly agreed to the task! We much appreciated their cooperation, especially on such short notice.

After the show we all saw how wonderful the children's lively voices sounded, and how beautifully their smiles were shining on their faces. When we sang, they joined us and we sang together. When we talked the students returned laughter. We were surprised when they gave us a big applause. They made us really, really happy. We received a gift in their exuberant hearts and in the abundance of happiness from the children.

Thank you very much to all of Akenohoshi Kindergarten!!



WFC Anniversary Celebration Chiyoko Ogura

WFC's 45th anniversary event was held on Aug 7. Many people got together to join in.

The event was filled with colorful and talented acts. The Hopi tribe with Native American hoop dancing, introduced by Keiko Murakami, David Rothaus's movie 'Hibakusha - Our life to live' and, portraits by Jane Bernhardt of A-bomb victims.

The Hopi tribe danced together with 'Taiko', Japanese drums, and I am sure we all felt the energy and power as they worked together.



Watching David's movie must have been emotional; there is a sense of urgency for us to do something to make a change for good.



War is nothing more than a quarrel between powerful people and should not involve innocents.

Plenty of support from plenty of people led to a tremendously successful event.

I thank those who were involved in the event.

