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**Yu - Ai** **Friendship**

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## **Barbara Reynolds Monument Unveiled At Hiroshima Peace Park**

This newsletter shares several articles and pictures about the unveiling ceremony and the celebration luncheon on June 12, 2011.



*Leis of paper cranes and beautiful fresh flowers were presented to Jerry Renshaw, Jessica Reynolds Renshaw (Barbara Reynolds' daughter), and Tony Reynolds (Barbara Reynolds' grandson.)*

## Jessica Reynolds Renshaw's Remarks

Dear Members of the Monument Committee, hibakusha, friends, and family,

We are happy to meet with you today. My husband Jerry and I have come from California and my nephew Tony, one of Barbara's grandsons, has come from Texas. We also represent my brothers, Barbara's sons Tim and Ted Reynolds, and her other 8 grandchildren who would have come if possible.

We are here at the invitation of the Dedication Committee to unveil a monument to my mother, who would have been 96 years old today. To me, it is amazing that the hibakusha of the nuclear bomb dropped by Americans would erect a monument to an American woman at their Ground Zero. I am so humbled by your forgiveness and desire to do this.

Many people whose lives have been touched by my mother's life call her a saint, even a "national treasure." But my mother would have been the first to say she was just an imperfect human being.

In September, 1964, my mother was 49 years old, reeling from the pain of divorce. My father had married another woman. My brother Ted had just gotten married. I had gone back to the United States. So she was alone. A friend of hers, a Buddhist priest, gave her permission to come to the temple on Mt. Rokko to spend time alone in meditation, fasting, and prayer. There, for a week, she lamented her failure to hold her marriage together and with loud cries to heaven questioned her purpose for living.

My mother believed in the God who is above all other gods. This God is not the work of *our* hands; *we* are the work of *His* hands. He has created us in His own image. She knew Him as Creator and powerful controller of the universe.

But until that week she did not know Him as a personal, living Heavenly Father. At the end of that week, the heavenly Father spoke to her heart and told her that He loved her and forgave her. Her tears turned to tears of joy and peace. Then He revealed to my mother that His purpose for her was to take His love back to Hiroshima and show the hibakusha how much He loves them by serving them.

Years before, my father had been part of a team sent by the American government to study the effects of radiation on Hiroshima hibakusha--to draw their blood and measure their height and weight and photograph them. But no one had asked them, "What was it like to experience an atomic bomb?" No one had listened to them or cried with them. Now, in obedience to her heavenly Father, my mother went back to Hiroshima, despite her sense of personal shame, to listen to them and serve them, to be God's hands and feet and voice. Out of her humility and obedience bloomed the World Friendship Center.

She was not only a voice from the heavenly Father to the hibakusha. Hibakusha told her they considered her a voice for Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world. She took that responsibility very seriously. And as she came to know them, they taught her the value of each life. She came to respect the brave, suffering, patient survivors of the first two nuclear bombs dropped on human beings. She began to identify with them and hurt for them. And so she said, "I, too, am a hibakusha." She wanted to accurately convey to the world their message, "No more Hiroshimas!" to urge everyone on the planet to choose peace and prevent the horror and catastrophe of Hiroshima from happening to anyone else, ever.

Since 1945, starting in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the number of people exposed to the poison of radiation has grown through Chernobyl, Three-Mile Island and now Fukushima. Radiation does not distinguish between war and peace. Radiation from nuclear weapons keeps killing after the war is over, even affecting DNA and thus hurting later generations. Radiation from nuclear reactors causes increased numbers of lethal cancers in those who live near them, whether there are accidents in the reactors or not. We are here to assure all radiation-exposed people anywhere that we will not forget your distress. We will pass your message on from generation to generation: "No More Hiroshimas!" "No more Nagasakis!" "No more Fukushimas!"

As you unveil this monument, my mother is just a symbol. She is a symbol of love, pointing to the source of love, the heavenly Father. She is a symbol of hope because anyone of us who humbles himself to listen to the "still, small voice" of our Heavenly Father can make a mighty difference.

Thank you for honoring my mother in this way.

Jessica Reynolds Renshaw, June 12, 2011



*At the close of her remarks, Jessica Reynolds Renshaw bowed to honor her mother.*

## **RERF Chairman, Toshiteru Okubo's Remarks**



Dr. Earle Reynolds, who was Barbara's husband and an anthropologist, was assigned to investigate the effects of A-bomb radiation on children at the former Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC), presently Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF), where I work. Beginning in 1951 for three years he had conducted research by studying the children. In 1954 the results were published in a journal of the pediatrics society of Japan.

The late Dr. Robert W. Miller in ABCC who knew him in those days wrote, "Earle Reynolds decided to take an unusual way to return to America along with his wife and two children in their teens. He had a small boat made, practiced how to sail it several times and was going to start for Hawaii with Japanese crew members who couldn't speak English," In September 1954 Dr. Miller took their picture just before they sailed from Ujina port on their yacht, "Phoenix."



The RERF has investigated the medical effects of radiation on human health and related diseases. Although this research began as result of the terrible disaster of the exposure to the A-bomb, it was possible thanks to the understanding and cooperation of many A-bomb survivors and others. Now the result of that research contributes to interpretation of important knowledge for medical care caused by nuclear accidents, and medical exposure as well as A-bomb survivors.

Hibakusha didn't use their tragic experiences for an act of "retaliation." On the contrary, they firmly agreed to use that experience for prayer and a desire for peace. We sympathize with them about this matter from the bottom of our heart. Barbara, too, must have been strongly moved to desire world peace, for she lived in Hiroshima shortly after the war and saw hibakusha's way of living.

From now on, as future generations pass in front of this monument near the cenotaph in Peace Memorial Park, I wish they will continue her appeal for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. In conclusion I'd like to thank all of those who continue to follow her will and are devoted to the development of World Friendship Center. Thank you very much.

### **Other speakers**

*Misuhoko Kotani*



*Steven Leeper*



*Takashi Kijima*



## Participants In The Ceremonies Of The Day



*Current Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Matsui*



*Past Mayor of Hiroshima, Dr. Akiba*



*Many representatives from the media attended and were well protected from the heavy rain.*





*The World Friendship choir shares special music.*



*WFC Directors, hibakusha, Hiromu Morishita, Tony Renyolds, Jerry Renshaw, Jessica Reynolds Renshaw prepare to unveil the monument.*



*Jessica viewing a scrapbook with a friend of one crewman on the “Phoenix” yacht*



## Unveiling Ceremony of Barbara's Monument is Over

By Hiromu Morishita



*Hiromu Morishita, Jessica Reynolds Renshaw, and Jerry Renshaw at the close of the ceremony*

“I, too, am a Hibakusha”, but the time may soon come when there is not a hibakusha alive. I have been impatient. I have desired this monument for a long time. For the past one and a half months after we finally got permission from the city in April, we have been busy fund raising and preparing for this event amid the disaster of the earthquake and nuclear power plant accident.

At last on June 12<sup>th</sup>, we had the ceremony. It was raining unusually hard on that day. When I look back, I think it was a remarkable ceremony. Jessica’s speech was so powerful that she might have said, “No more genpatsu! (nuclear power plant)” Prof. Akiba’s speech was a moving dialogue with the monument, and Steven Leeper’s closing remarks were full of kind remarks towards guests and other people involved. Michiko Yamane’s gentle guidance of the event as Master of Ceremony was luckily free from any coughing. Cute grandchildren representing future generations presented flowers and leis to our honored guests. Many guests kindly complimented the staff at the reception. At any rate, I felt relieved that it was over without any trouble.

Now, however, we have to go on to the next step. So far, we have had a lot of donations and support from people who wanted to do something for Barbara. In addition to the proper management of the monument, it is vital for WFC, as an NPO, to raise funds enabling creative and worthy activities that will continue to work toward Barbara's goal of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons.

## **A Monument to Peace**



*World Friendship Volunteer Directors, Larry and JoAnn Sims*

In 1975, Barbara Reynolds, a 60 year old American, bowed humbly as she received honorary citizenship from the City of Hiroshima. Since returning in 1956 from a worldwide tour in a yacht christened, “Phoenix of Hiroshima”, Barbara had become involved with both the heartache and living hope of Atomic Bomb survivors known as hibakusha. During the worldwide voyage, as her family sailed into every port on the journey, their young Japanese crew was questioned about what really happened in Hiroshima. Those repeated stories opened her family's eyes about Hiroshima, the atomic bomb, and the plight of the survivors.

Earlier, in 1951, Barbara's husband had taken the family to Hiroshima, Japan when he was employed by the US Government's Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. His job was to document the effects of the bomb on children during the three years of his assignment. The Reynolds family lived on the military base and was relatively isolated from the realities of the bombing aftermath. During the voyage, however, they realized that nuclear weapons must not be used on anyone ever again. The magnitude of the

bomb and the invisible killing power of radiation that continues to maim and kill those exposed must be eliminated.

At the end of their voyage in 1960 as they pulled into Hiroshima's harbor they were greeted as heroes. People thanked them for telling the world what happened and for sailing into the restricted zone in an attempt to stop the testing of nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands.

Barbara became alone in 1964 when her husband divorced her and her children returned to the USA to attend college, to get married, or to attend Bible College. At a Buddhist temple after a week's retreat of praying, crying, and asking God for direction, she understood that her call was to show God's love and compassion for the Atomic bomb survivors and to work toward world peace.

From that point forward she worked to provide comfort and care for hibakusha. She challenged the City of Hiroshima to honor the survivors and treat them with respect. Barbara pleaded for city assistance for them to have health care and homes where their medical needs would be taken care of. She took several hibakusha on pilgrimages to the USA and other countries to provide an opportunity for the world to hear their stories and be moved by their humble and loving pleas that the bomb should never be used on any people, ever again in the world. She created the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima where hibakusha came to share their stories. Visitors from around the world came to the World Friendship Center to learn about what happened and about the peace efforts of the center. Barbara helped transform hibakusha's shame, humiliation, and isolation into respect and honor.

Today the World Friendship Center continues to translate hibakusha stories into English, teach English classes, train Peace Park Guides, sponsor a peace choir, and on occasion assist the city of Hiroshima in translating peace efforts and documents from Japanese into English.

On June 12, 2011, several hibakusha who accompanied Barbara on the first pilgrimage, Barbara Reynolds daughter, Jessica and Jessica's husband, Jerry, Barbara Reynolds grandson, Tony Reynolds, and World Friendship Volunteer Directors, JoAnn and Larry Sims pulled the red and white chords and unveiled a new monument erected in Hiroshima's Peace Park. The monument honors Barbara Reynolds, for her love of



hibakusha and Hiroshima, and for creating the World Friendship Center that keeps her hope and work alive today. During the ceremony, the past and present mayors of Hiroshima addressed Barbara's accomplishments, as did a telegram from the governor of the prefecture.

Visitors to the Peace Park will now know of the significant contributions of a very humble woman on her quest for justice and compassion for A Bomb survivors and for world peace.

JoAnn & Larry Sims, Directors, World Friendship Center  
Hiroshima, Japan June 2011

## Peace Activities of WFC and WFC Members

Activities of World Friendship Center and its members are ongoing. Here is a selection of pictures and captions to give you an idea of the many Peace efforts of World Friendship Center and its members.

### Participating in the Cruise "Hibakusha Stories Around the World"

By Goro Nishida



*Goro Nishida with the Key to the City of Cartagena and Certificate signed by Columbia President, Santos*

I was exposed to the A-bombing when I was three years and eight months old at Mitaki, Hiroshima. As you may know, “Cruise—Hibakusha Stories Around the World” is one of the many projects planned and carried out by PEACEBOAT, an international NGO. It has been four years since this project started and our cruise was the fourth one. I had applied for this project and was chosen as a hibakusha. We cruised in a 40-ton boat, Oceania, for 86 days from January 23 to April 18, making 18 stops in 16 countries. We told our stories and exchanged friendships at 18 different places. Besides, I was the first Non-Nuclear Special Envoy assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which privileged me to have many precious experiences I would not have expected in an ordinary overseas trip.

Nine of us were Japanese hibakusha including one second-generation hibakusha. We got on board at Yokohama and sailed to the first port of call, Tahiti. Our group also included Tahitian hibakushas who had been brought to Japan after the last cruise, Aborigine hibakushas from Australia, and high school students from Nagasaki visiting Tahiti as “High School Peace Ambassadors.” On the boat, we had lively discussions on how to build a nuclear-free world, and issued a statement called “Pacific Orizuru Project.” During the process, I learned that hibakusha were worldwide, not just in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. In Tahiti, the nuclear tests conducted by France in the Mururoa Atoll produced hibakusha and in Australia, Aborigine became hibakusha through the uranium mine labor as well as the British nuclear tests.

I also realized that the radiation exposure in Australia and Tahiti is not something in the past, but is still continuing today.

In Colombia, South America, we enjoyed a big welcome by the people including the Mayor of Cartagena and the President of Cartagena University. We happened to have an opportunity to meet the President of Colombia, President Santos.

It was in Morocco where I heard the news of the great earthquakes and tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear power plants’ disaster in Japan. Since then, in Italy, Greece and Turkey, we were showered with questions like “Why does Japan, the nation victimized by the atomic bombs, have nuclear power plants?” We had a hard time answering that question.

In Cairo, Egypt, we took part in a specialists' conference of "Denuclearization of the Middle East" organized by an NGO, and again felt the difficulty of realizing an actual denuclearization.

In Saudi Arabia, we met Mayor Jita (Prince). Our visit to this country gave me an opportunity to experience wondrous, but somehow nostalgic and familiar feelings about Islam.

On the boat, there were lots of cultural, academic, and entertaining events and lectures. They were English conversation, dance and water colors as educational classes, and Inca Civilization, World Heritage, environmental issues and health control etc. as cultural lectures. Also, there were Neptune's revel, athletic meets and even karaoke for us to enjoy. We spent a happy, pleasant and intellectual time.

We learned in telling our A-bomb stories to the countries we visited and exchanging friendships that people had great interest and concerns about nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. In Japan, too, due to the Fukushima nuclear power plant's disaster, radiation effects have been a huge problem creating great concerns for all of us. We should not miss this opportunity to deepen a nationwide argument on nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. Let us pray it will lead to soon realizing a world with no nuclear weapons.



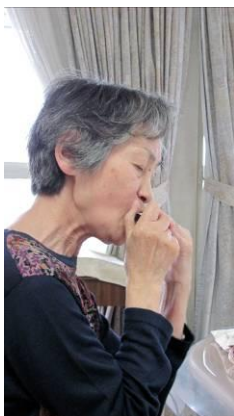


## Concert For Peace at WFC



Singer, Satomi and her guitarist performed a beautiful concert on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at WFC. The proceeds were donated to WFC. All who attended enjoyed Satomi's beautiful voice and the guitar music. She sang of Peace, the returning of growing things after the A-bomb, and lullabies sung by mothers who had little to feed their children during the war and the aftermath of the A-bombing.

## Visit to Mutsumien Retirement Center For Hibakusha



. Michiko Yamanae with her “friend” A June birthday rose was presented to each hibakusha.

*Mieko Yamashita playing the harmonica*

## Summer In Hiroshima Program

Hiroshima International House presented a program in early July. Many local citizens attended as well as several international students who shared in the program.

Michiko Yamane read poems and dramatic stories of hibakusha with the Oleander group. The audience also enjoyed several musical pieces by a Japanese Koto musician accompanied by a saxophone.



*Michiko Yamane reading a hibakusha remembrance of the A-bomb experience.*

## Peace Concert

Various musicians shared their hopes for peace in a three day concert at the former Bank of Japan, Hiroshima Branch. This building was one of the few still standing after the A-bomb exploded. The three day concert also featured the original drawings of a newly released book entitled, *My Hiroshima* and a display of all the paper cranes given to the Peace Park in 2009 & 2010.



*Asaka Wantanabe, concert organizer, Larry Sims, JoAnn Sims*



*Deadman Walking* was first shared in a reading of the lyrics in English by JoAnn Sims. Asaka Watanabe and her fellow vocalist then sang the song in passionate Japanese. At the close of the performance, JoAnn introduced WFC to the audience translated by Kaori Kurumaji.



### **Prayer Ceremony at Cenotaph**

*JoAnn Sims represented WFC at a Cenotaph Prayer Ceremony sponsored by Mothers' Peace Movement on July 11.*

### **2011 Peace Program at Misuzugaoka Elementary School**



Peace Program 2011 was presented to visitors and parents at Misuzugaoka Elementary School on July 1. WFC members, JoAnn Sims, Yuko Imada & Soh Horie in the center of the group joined students and others after each grade level presented their remembrance of August 6, 1945. Each class presentation concluded with a plea for peace from the heart of each person.