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

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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/>

Chairperson: Michiko Yamane

Directors: Larry & JoAnn Sims

**Korean PAX**

**Takeshi Yamakawa**



(Farmer's Health Care Center )

In 1998, I was dispatched to America by WFC. Luckily, I was given another chance to go to Korea this time. Last time I was 61 years young, but this time I am 76 years old, and in addition, I don't speak English well. Though I was afraid I would slow down other members, I decided to go to Korea, counting on other members' reverence for old age. PAX members were composed of Hiroshima group: Michiko Yamane, WFC chairperson, Asaka Watanabe, Shinichi Minowa, and Takeshi Yamakawa from Nagasaki. Please take into consideration that the

following report is not a detailed, accurate record but just my personal impression.

Friday March 15

We were welcomed at Incheon Airport by Jae Young, a leader of Korea Peace-building Institute (KOPI), the organization to take care of our trip. We headed for the first destination, Techon at once. An hour's drive to Seoul and another hour's drive took us to Techon.

The bulletin board at the entrance of the Kwangsu Middle School said, "Signing Ceremony of Village Community and Round-table Conference with Superintendent" We happened to be there on the day when an agreement to carry out peace education at the school was signed. The leaflet of the school said, "Village Community School for Peace Fostering Learning and Compassion". The ceremony was attended by the village school superintendent, the principal, other teachers and community officials. I was impressed to see the school providing peace education in collaboration with the community and the private peace organization like KOPI. I wished I could see their annual curriculum.

After the introduction, the four of us moved to a classroom and gave our first presentation to 30 junior high school students. I told them my A-bomb experiences, and Michiko Yamane explained WFC activities using picture-cards. Next we moved to a village community center which had a large sign board that read, "Farmers' Health -Care Administration." There I gave my second presentation to about 80 villagers. I told them the episode of a Korean student in my class, who asked for a Korean flag, and about the interaction of pupils and parents after that. I talked about the big difference in the view of history between the two countries' textbooks, and about the journey for peace I made in Korea to bridge the gap. After that I talked about my A-bomb experiences. Then an elderly man spoke out that he was impressed with the topic of Korean flag and textbooks, but that I should tell A-bomb experiences in Japan, not in Korea. "Koreans don't need to hear that. You're here as victims, but for Koreans you're perpetrators." The harsh comment made the atmosphere tense. The four of us sang a song, "Spring at Home". I had not heard the song, but I was told every Korean was familiar with the song. So before leaving Hiroshima, I had practiced singing the song. As soon as we finished singing the song, the

same elderly man shouted abusively. Our lady interpreter did not translate all the insulting words, but he seemed to have blamed us for singing the song in Japanese. Women around him frowned and seemed to be objecting to him. I did not know what was going on. Then an old man who looked more than 80 years old calmly but firmly persuaded him. "Historically it is evident that a great deal of population crossed the strait from Korean Peninsula to Japan. Ancestors of many Japanese are Koreans, so we share the same homeland. We should look to the future." Both men were arguing back and forth. This old man was the father of Jae Young.

When I told Mr. IlWhan, my third host, about this incident, he said, "The song 'Spring at home' is a sad song for Koreans. It is a song to long for the old days when we played around in the fields or riverbeds filled with colorful flowers, though our homeland was taken away by Japan." I learned that to sing is to appeal. Each song has its own background. Shinichi Minowa and I were introduced to the first host family, and led by flash light, we walked to the house 50 meters away. The couple of the host family let us use their double bed, and they slept on the floor. I knew that when I woke up at midnight to go to toilet. We, two men, slept at the both edges of the bed, looking as if we were about to fall down.

Saturday March 16

We enjoyed morning walk in a natural park with KOPI staff as our guide. We were feeling refreshed both mentally and physically. Later we visited the House of Sharing. We went into the Historical Museum of Comfort Women for Japanese Army. At the 1<sup>st</sup> exhibition room named "the place of testimony", we watched video that gives us an insight into wartime sexual slavery. Walking up to the 5<sup>th</sup> exhibition room, we learned about what Japanese Military did, about the Wednesday protest meetings, and saw the display of works and belongings of Harumoni, old ladies.

We moved from the historical museum to Harumoni's share house. Seven Harumoni at the average age of 87 were living there, and we talked with them. They talked in Japanese, their enforced language. I listened to the story of over 90-year-old Harumoni. She went to Japan after the Korean War, and made living by singing enka pop songs at cabarets and nightclubs in Tokyo and Nagoya.

She said she was able to sing many enkas, and sang "Yosaku" for me softly. She was a good singer. She whispered to me that it was overdoing, referring to the protest meetings held every Wednesday since 1992 in front of Japanese Embassy. She seemed to have mixed feelings.

We moved to Seoul and went on a sightseeing tour in the city. I remembered my last trip in Seoul to visit Mr. Cheong with pupils and parents in my class in 1995. Particularly, Gyeongbokgung Palace was impressive. For some reason, it looked larger than the image of the one I saw in 1995. The former Government-General Building used to stand there obstructing the view of Gyeongbokgung, but it was demolished marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and Japanese colonial rule. Now a museum stood there instead. American Embassy was located on the main street of Seoul, and Japanese Embassy was on the street one block back. It was surrounded by high-rise buildings. Three large police vehicles were parked in front of the embassy. Policemen were guarding along the street. A sitting statue of a girl signifying a comfort woman was looking at the embassy. When I turned my camera to the embassy, a policeman stopped me. A banner saying something about Dokdo (Takeshima Island) was tied to the steel fence. The words meaning "re-invasion" caught my eyes.

KOPI staff treated us to dinner at a Korean B.B.Q. restaurant. It was a happy surprise to see Mr. Lee, who home-stayed with us in 2009. He sat on my left hand side. It was a thoughtful arrangement by KOPI staff. When he came to Japan, it was not long after he had defected from North Korea, and his name card showed that he belonged to the Ministry of Unity. Now he was a 33-year-old photo-journalist. On my right hand side sat the old man who persuaded the angry man the day before. He was amazingly well informed about Japan. He was "well-versed" in Japan. The expression, "pro-Japanese" is equivalent to "traitor" in Korea, so it cannot be used.

Sunday March 17

After the very long rituals at Jesus Village Church, we made our presentation. The headline of the newsletter of the church was, "We are grateful for A-bomb survivor's testimonies." As I am a Buddhist and don't go to temple regularly, I recognized that the church was playing an important role to strengthen bonds

among people in the community. I was relieved to know that our translator, Mr. IlWhan, turned out to be my host for two nights. No wonder he was fluent in Japanese. He had lived in Sendai for 4 years as an exchange student at Tohoku University. I felt very comfortable with the regular breakfast of bread, yogurt, salad and coffee. He treated me as a member of his family.

Monday March 18

We were supposed to visit the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). It is a strip of land 248 kilometers long, approximately 4 km wide that serves as a [buffer zone](#), not a border line, between [North](#) and [South Korea](#) which runs along the [38th parallel north](#). I was told that people living near the DMZ do not have to pay tax. That may be because they have to live in the dangerous area. Visitors must show their passports and go through registration procedure before entering the DMZ. We saw no other people around. The staff of Korean Anabaptist Center (KAC) said to us, "Sorry! The office is closed on Monday."

We gave up the plan and instead we decided to go and see "World Peace Bell", the third largest bell in the world. We arrived there after driving for one and a half hours. The bell was made of melted cartridge cases or shells of bullets contributed from 29 countries in the world for the sake of peace. We paid some money and tolled the bell. The money was to cover the scholarship for poor children. A woman guide told us to pray for the unification of North and South at the first toll, the second toll should be for the settlement of religious disputes, and the third for the resolution of ethnic conflicts. There were pictures of Nobel Peace Prize laureates who visited there, such as the former Soviet president, Gorbachev. We were impressed by the earnest wish of Koreans and other people in the world to attain peace on earth. We are indebted to all the people concerned who supported us and made this meaningful Korean PAX possible.

감사합니다.

(Thank you.)



(Sunday service at Jesus Heart Church)

## **Shin-ichi Minowa**

Just about 11 o'clock in the morning, on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 our airplane was heading toward Incheon Airport . Through the window, I saw beautiful scenery just like looking at a Chinese ink picture. There was a bunch of low mountains lying in fog, and it looked as if a hermit might be living there. Then I could tell that we were really landing in Korea, not somewhere in Japan. It was the first opportunity for me to visit Korea as a PAX member, although I was not a Hibakusha but a regular member of WFC, yet with a strong mind to become a WFC board member.

The first place we visited was a middle school , where Mr. Yamakawa and Ms. Yamane gave an excellent presentation. After the presentation and the final greeting all the students attended took out various candies, chocolates, and bottles of juice from boxes and came to us one after another to hand them out. I thought moral and ethical education was still alive there, because of their polite and courteous attitude.

After leaving the middle school, we arrived at a small village where people were growing organic tomatoes under glass. Mr. Yamakawa again made a presentation here and after the presentation, Ms. Watanabe conducted a Japanese and a Korean song sung by our four Japanese PAX members. There were about 70 to 80 Korean people including some families with three generations attending that gathering. Their ages were small children to old aged men. It was so impressive to see all the village people gathered at the meeting hall to welcome us with a big sign of "Welcome WFC." They were interested in world peace. I couldn't help showing my appreciation for the food that Korean women and mothers prepared for all the people who attended, and KOPI members including leader Jae Young.

On Saturday the 16th we visited a park which surrounded a man-made swamp that was planned to purify the Hangan river running through Seoul city. We took a walk around the park and we found some long poles with artificial birds on the tips stuck in the swamp. One of the interpreters told us that here was the place for migratory birds and those poles guided their entrance. He said the place birds gather should be a sacred place. He also told us that we had "TORII" in Japan which is the entrance to a shrine, and written as "bird's home" in a Chinese

character. I was so shocked to know the culture and the origin of the word "TORII". How similar the culture between Japan and Korea was!

After taking a walk around the swamp, we visited "home of nanumu" where comfort women who had awful experiences during the world war lived. We had a chance to see four women. One of them was very talkative and talked about her happy life while staying in Japan after the war. She used to be a singer she said and she even remembered some Japanese songs and sang one of them for us. The rest of the women were so quiet and I couldn't find any proper word except "Please take a good care of yourself." When I saw Ms. Watanabe was saying good by to them with tears in her eyes, my tears almost fell down in spite of myself. I saw some groups of high school students. I couldn't stop hoping they would not have a grudge against Japanese and to please detest the war.

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> It was the time to visit Jesus Village Church where I had the first and the last chance to give a presentation about the WFC using power point. After some big church-events somebody sitting next to me took my hand to join a ceremony to eat bread dipping in wine. One of the WFC member laughed and teased me " I shouldn't have attended the ceremony , because I wasn't a Christian". I stayed two nights at the house of Mr. Kyong Jung Kim who was KAC's leader. After eating dinner we had a short chat. I went into my room they offered because I thought I shouldn't interrupt their family time with their two children. I could have been more sociable. I was sorry I might have been too quiet. They also took us sightseeing in Seoul city including a historical museum, Pyeonghwa Dam, and the DMZ area which was very exciting to me. I really had a great, great time experiencing many impressive places and meeting such nice Korean people as a PAX member. On Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> we arrived at Fukuoka Airport thinking that now I have started to work as a WFC member for world peace through the Peace Ambassador Exchange Program (PAX) I want to thank you all the Koreans again. Next is our turn to welcome you. I'll be willing to accept any of you next year. So see you soon!



"World Peace Bell"

## **FAREWELL MESSAGE**

**Larry Sims, WFC Co-director**

It has come time for JoAnn and me to return to our home in Oregon. However, it is not time to say good-bye. Too often good-bye implies a final farewell, something said when the parties know they will never meet again. We will meet again.

This has been an interesting time to be in Japan as well as here at WFC. We arrived just after the earthquake/tsunami/Fukushima events of 2011 and saw Japan agonize about the safety of nuclear power. We watched as WFC grew through trying out new and different projects. We saw WFC take a bold step to reorganize how the Riji conducted its business. Personally, we were given the great opportunity to learn about Japan's culture, history, geography and people in our classes and through travel. We met many visitors from around the world. We worked with many WFC volunteers on a wide variety of projects. We worked with a great office staff who kept WFC running efficiently in spite of physical and financial limitations. The Riji were always supportive.

Highlights for me include:

- Time spent sharing my experiences in the nuclear industry with people concerned about the Fukushima incident and the future of energy production in Japan.
- Participating in the dedication of the Barbara Reynolds Monument in Peace Park.
- Learning about Morishita-sensei's huge contributions to peace efforts and to peace education in Japan.
- Planning for the dedication of the Schmoe Museum and meeting people connected with the Schmoe Houses.
- Planning for and participating in the Mike Stern "One World Peace Concert."
- Preparing for the USA PAX trip for the Fall of 2013.
- Teaching Conversational English to people who are fun and inquisitive.
- Help with travels to different places in Japan.
- Having breakfast with visitors from around the world.



There are so many experiences I will take back to the US, so many memories of people and places, and so many wishes for a lasting peace and a world without nuclear weapons. Please keep up the good work!

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to expand my view of the world and for me to share glimpses of where I come from. Peace!



(Okayama Crow Castle: Lord Larry & Lady JoAnn)

## **Farewell Message**

### **JoAnn Sims**

Each day at World Friendship Center has been a gift. My heart is full of thanks to all the people of the Riji-kai, the various classes, Peace Choir, & Peace Guides. Each of you individually and collectively has been kind, generous, and very welcoming. It is with mixed feelings (both sad to leave and happy to return to our home) that we are preparing to leave World Friendship Center.

I fondly remember the hilarious Christmas Party drama about Mito Komon, the tears of laughter when I made banana bread with salt instead of sugar as I couldn't read the Japanese label, and the day I proudly purchased a new year's decoration for World Friendship Center to find out that I had purchased a Good Luck and safety decoration for cars! You have all been so kind and helpful as I have stumbled into your traditions and customs. I tried to learn to speak Japanese and learned only a few phrases. Another hilarious moment was when we discovered the chanting at dinner time was not from the near-by temple, but the street seller saying "Yakiimo" (come buy my baked sweet potatoes!) I remember the amazing trips we took to Beppu, Miyoshi, Adachi Art Museum, Nagasaki, and numerous adventures to the Okonomiyaki sauce company,

Hiroshima Mint, the aquarium, zoo, Miyajima, Kumano Brush Company, and Onomichi to name only a few. The laughter and smiles of those times will stay in my heart always.

Thank you also for trusting us to organize and help create the "One World Peace Concert" as a way to promote peace and fulfill Asaka's dream. Thank you for helping nominate Morishita Sensei for the Okinawa Peace Prize. Thank you for again trusting us to help create a week of celebrations around the opening of the Schmoe Memorial Museum. You were generous and patient while we worked to bring 17 people connected to the Schmoe house project to Hiroshima for that historic week in November 2012. Thank you for teaching me how to make rice over a campfire so I could cook for the 40 campers at Peace Camp in the summer of 2012. Thank you for the opportunity to be the English voice in Miyoshi's promotional video. Thank you for being courageous in deciding to carry on the work of World Friendship Center in a new location. Thank you also for being willing to work with a new Riji-kai organization to help you move into the next 50 years with energy and focus. Thank you also for trusting us to coordinate the USA PAX 2013 to the West coast of the USA.

We came to World Friendship to help work for Peace by trying to apply Barbara Reynolds words: "Foster Peace, one friend at a time." We have made many friends from around the world being Volunteer Directors. We will especially cherish the friendships of those people closely associated with World Friendship Center itself!



(JoAnn & Larry creating a special Buddhist image for good luck!)

## **Farewell Message from the Class**

### **FRIDAY CLASS**

**Soh Horie**

I first met JoAnn & Larry Sims, seven years ago, when I visited the U.S. as one of 4 members of the PAX team. Together with a man from Nagasaki, the late Ms. Yamashita, and a graduate student we were a PAX team of 4 people. JoAnn & Larry were so kind to give us various chances to express our experiences and thoughts for peace, in Seattle, where they lived at that time. Their son Kyle kindly served us as a translator. These memories have been unforgettable and precious ones to me.

Several years later, the news that they would come to Hiroshima as directors of WFC, made me so happy, and recalled nostalgic feelings. Since then, though two years had passed very quickly, I have many more unforgettable memories. I remember things like, playing cup and ball with their grandson, going Mazda baseball stadium, and visiting the beautiful Adachi Art Museum, and so on.

As I attend many activities, and as you know, I need much time to prepare for them. Among these activities, the Friday English class has been the first on my list. It must be a good stimulation for my age to think about my topics for the class, and how to speak about them.

Our Friday class has another name, that is "Eating class". We talked and laughed a lot during the class, by eating various souvenir from our classmates, various kinds of seasonal fruits, and baked sweet potatoes, etc.

As a result of such good stimulation from our class, though I'm not sure, I became gradually able to talk about my experiences as a survivor in English to the guests, since last December. Michiko Yamane helps me as a translator and to answer questions in English. I hope I can answer the difficult English questions in the future. I wonder how many guests they have welcomed in these two years. I really appreciate their contributions from the bottom of my heart.

I wish their life in the U.S. will be very fruitful, and they can enjoy their life in good health. Cordially and best regards,

## **Tuesday Class**

### **Sachie Harada**

Two years have passed since I first met Larry and JoAnn in the Tuesday morning class. Time flies. During the 1<sup>st</sup> year I was sometimes reluctant to go to the class because of the diseases of both of myself and my family members. I realize how much English conversation we had for those 2 years. I also think that having the pleasant time with Larry & JoAnn and my classmates helped make a little progress with my English. We visited *Sankeien* and Hiroshima Art museum. They are my good memories. Larry and JoAnn, thank you so much for joining in these memorable events and also thank you for sharing the time with us. I really appreciate it.

## **WFC Says Goodbye to Past Board member, Michiko Yamaoka**

### **Kaori Kurumaji**

Michiko Yamaoka died on February 2, 2013 at the age of 82. She was a board member of WFC for many years. She told of her A-bomb experiences and as a Hiroshima Maiden. I feel sorry that she had been bedridden for more than 6 years before she died. However I felt relief that the WFC directors and some board members attended at her funeral to say goodbye.

Yamaoka-san and I had been friends for more than 30 years. When I first met her it was at WFC in Midori-machi, the second location of WFC. She came to ask permission to put some A-bomb survivors' calendars at WFC. I didn't know her at all at that time. Shortly after that she became involved with WFC activities and became one of the board members.

Yamaoka-san's mother died one or two years after we became friends. The bond of affection between Yamaoka-san and her mother was very strong because her mother rescued her when she was buried under debris following the A-bomb explosion. Yamaoka-san and her mother survived after the war by helping each other. I suppose that her mother's death was such a big shock to her. Yamaoka-san hadn't told her A-bomb experience before but she decided to do it after her mother died. I assume that everybody knows Yamaoka-san's activity afterwards. Yamaoka-san loved children, so she preferred to tell her story to

kindergarten and elementary school kids rather than telling it to adults. I remember that Yamaoka-san was telling her experiences to a group of kindergarten kids in Peace Park vividly in the informal Japanese. She talked to a lot of domestic and foreign visitors to Hiroshima as well. She also visited many different places both in Japan and abroad to tell her story.

She lived alone although she had some health problems including heart trouble. She had a brain stroke at home on August 6<sup>th</sup> seven years ago. It happened to be on the A-bomb Memorial Day. One of her friends visited her the next morning and found she was ill. Already too much time had passed for her to recover and she had a problem with rehabilitation. She did recover and told her story for a short period. Unfortunately, she had another stroke and was not able to tell her story ever again. I used to go to the nursing home to see her with a few WFC board members after Riji Meeting. She always looked neat, so I assumed that she received good care from the nursing home. To my regret we could not have a conversation with her since she was not able to speak. When we spoke I held her hands, I thought she looked at her visitors. She usually had a good complexion and her eyes were clear. I wonder what she thought in her mind during our visits.

I have too many memories about her to write down. I wish, finally, to say to Yamaoka-san that she had a difficult life in the world, so please rest and relax with her beloved mother in heaven.



(Barbara Reynolds, Dr. Harada, and Yamoka-san at WFC 20th Anniversary in 1985)

## International Exchange Encouragement Prize

Michiko Yamane



(Award Ceremony, March 5, 2013)

The awarding ceremony was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Chugoku Newspaper Building. It was sponsored by the Hiroshima Peace Creation Fund, which Kazuyuki Kawamoto, vice chair of the Chugoku Newspaper, represents. JoAnn, Larry Sims and I attended the ceremony. The prize is awarded to organizations and individuals that engage in ongoing peace efforts beyond national borders. The certificates of merit and prize money of 100,000 yen went to three organizations.

The recipients are the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chugoku International Center, located in Higashi Hiroshima City, CANVaS in Hiroshima and WFC.

Volunteer members of the JICA Chugoku International Center have been organizing A-bomb exhibitions in various parts of the world since 2004.

CANVaS has been engaged in activities exchanging young people with Kazakhstan since its founding in 2003. The citizens in Kazakhstan have been suffering from the ill effects of repeated nuclear bomb testing during the Soviet era.

I realized again that World Friendship Center has been carrying on Barbara Reynolds' passion for peace for nearly half a century. We felt happy and proud to hear that WFC was chosen as a recipient unanimously by the screening committee.



## **INTRODUCTIONS – NEW WFC VOLUNTEER DIRECTORS!**

### **Larry Sims, soon to be replaced Volunteer Director**

Every two years, WFC and the American Committee (AC) go through the process of selecting new Volunteer Directors for the organization. Even though the AC had a couple of set backs this year in their search, they have found a couple from the State of Ohio who are excited about coming to Hiroshima for the next two years.

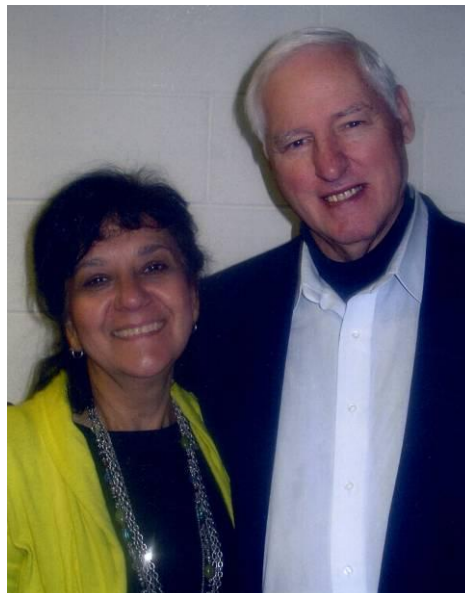
It is my pleasure to introduce the new WFC Directors, Xinia and Richard Tobias from Tallmadge, Ohio, a suburb of Akron, Ohio. They are friends of former WFC Directors, Larry and Alice Petry. JoAnn and I have had the pleasure to talk to Xinia and Richard about WFC and its mission and we are very sure of their dedication and enthusiasm for the coming couple of years.

Xinia's current occupation is a Spanish Language teacher. In addition to her experiences as a teacher, she brings many experiences that will serve WFC well in the next two years. Her experiences include a number of church related activities and positions, mission travel trips, teaching, singing and work in a number of community organizations.

Richard is a retired court official where he worked with young people. Following retirement, he has worked as an automobile mechanic, a school custodian and bus driver. His other experiences include teaching at the high school level and volunteer work with Brethren Volunteer Services. His volunteer work includes services in three disaster relief projects and time as a "Sea Going Cowboy" where he accompanied a herd of dairy cattle traveling, by ship, from the US to West Germany. Other things in his busy life include singing, church positions and teaching church classes.

The wealth of experiences of this couple and their obvious dedication to helping others will serve WFC very well for the next two years.

Please join JoAnn and I in welcoming our new Directors.



## **International Premier: "*Breaking the Silence*"**

**JoAnn Sims**

World Friendship Center is bringing "*Breaking the Silence*," a drama about Japanese American internment and struggle to regain their status as American citizens to Hiroshima on August 1, 2, & 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013.

This summer in Hiroshima an art exhibition called, "Art of Gaman" is coming to the Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum from July 20-September 1. The art in that exhibition was created by Japanese Americans during their internment. The drama, "*Breaking the Silence*," will tell the story of internment and timed to further enlighten the Hiroshima community about the Japanese American art shown in the exhibition, "Art of Gaman."

World Friendship Center sponsored a symposium in Hiroshima's International Conference Center on Japanese American Internment featuring Yosh Nakagawa and Herb Tsuchiya on October 29, 2012. Yosh and Herb experienced internment and were here for the Opening of the Schmoie Memorial Museum. Herb Tsuchiya is returning as a part of the cast of "*Breaking the Silence*" to share the story through a readers theater drama. This drama has played in the United States since 1986. This summer will be the drama's International premier in Hiroshima in both English and Japanese. The drama will also include another friend of WFC, Mike Stern, as the narrator and musician of "*Breaking the Silence*." Mike was sponsored by WFC in the spring of 2012 as the featured singer of the "One World Peace Concert" at Hiroshima's Memorial Cathedral for World Peace.

"*Breaking the Silence*" will be performed at Jogakuin Junior/Senior High School. The matinee will be on Thursday, August 1 and the evening performance will be on Friday, August 2. Also on August 1st an evening performance will be at Jogakuin University.

On August 3 a matinee performance will be held at the International House. Save those dates and plan to join us for this special event! For more details please contact us at our email address: [worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com](mailto:worldfriendshipcenter@gmail.com)



## **PAX USA 2013**

**JoAnn Sims**

The plans for the PAX USA 2013 are underway. The interest in the trip was so high that 16 people applied for the experience. The committee met and determined to allow all 16 applicants to join the trip. The trip will last three weeks and focus on speaking engagements in the Portland, Oregon area, the Seattle, Washington area, and the Albuquerque, New Mexico area. This trip is particularly unique because it includes telling the stories of Hiroshima and visiting the Hanford Nuclear site where the bomb material for the Nagasaki bomb was made, the site of the Japanese internment camp called Minidoka, and the Los Alamos Nuclear site where the bombs for Hiroshima and Nagasaki were assembled.

The PAX USA 2013 group includes four Hibakusha; Soh Horie, Kiyomi Kohno, Yoko Imada, Kenso Tanaka, those telling the stories of their survivor friends or relatives, those telling the story of the rebuilding of Hiroshima, one telling the connections between Hiroshima and the Fukushima disaster, and several translators. This trip will provide numerous opportunities for WFC to carry on Barbara Reynolds' hope to share Hiroshima's stories with the world as well as provide an educational background about the Atomic bombs and the Japanese American experience in internment camps during WWII.

The group will leave Japan on September 14 and return to Japan on October 5. Home-stay families will provide most lodging and meals. The group will travel by a chartered bus from Seattle-Hanford-Minidoka-Portland and then onto Seattle. The group will travel by air from Seattle to New Mexico and back to Seattle. The current Directors, JoAnn & Larry Sims, will coordinate the PAX journey and accompany the group while they are in the United States. There are plans to meet with the people who visited Hiroshima for the Schmoe Memorial Museum Opening and those in the cast of "Breaking the Silence", the drama coming to Hiroshima in August.

The PAX 2013 group will meet before JoAnn & Larry return to Oregon to begin planning the presentation groups and a rotation of home-stay groups.



(PAX will visit our house in Oregon, USA.)



(Twin Falls, Idaho, USA, near Minidoka Internment Camp)