



Yu - Ai

Friendship

The Newsletter of NPO World Friendship Center

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*Greeting Messages for WFC
50th Anniversary
&
World Friendship Center
History
2005-2015*

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Michiko Yamane
Chairperson



More than thirty years have passed since I became involved with the World Friendship Center. From the time when I was in my early 30s and raising children, I have kept coming to the WFC, and I believe it has done me a lot of good and helped me grow up in various ways. Through volunteering activities such as interpreting *hibakusha* stories and guiding people around Peace Park, I have had many chances to meet wonderful people from abroad, and to broaden my horizons. A total of about 40 couples have come to the WFC as directors from America, and I have got to know as many as 25 of these. Each had their own unique personalities and different skills and talents, but they were all pacifists and willing to give their all. All I could do was stand back in awe and admiration at all they did.

I was appointed the third chairperson of the WFC in May 2012. Whenever I have felt like I am getting squashed by the heavy responsibilities, the directors have given me warm encouraging words, my WFC friends have given me their support, and somehow, thanks to them, I've managed to survive these almost three years. Apart from our everyday busy life, during this period we have had really big events including the One World Peace Concerts, the opening of the Schmoe House, and the "Breaking the Silence" readers theater drama. Now we are looking forward to a very significant event, the WFC's 50th anniversary celebrations, and I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your help in making it possible for us to celebrate this commemorative event together.

Shizuo Tachibana
WFC50 Anniversary Committee Chairperson



Half a century since its establishment, on August 7 this year, the World Friendship Center will celebrate its 50th anniversary. At this special time, we would like to think of the hopes of Barbara Reynolds, the founder of the WFC. We would also like to give thanks to those who have walked with us for peace together.

As we prepare to walk toward the new 50 years, we will celebrate through various 50th anniversary events in April. The publication of this commemorative magazine is one of them.

Fifty years is a long time. I was just a child when the WFC was established. I have learned through preparations for the events that there have been a lot of people who cherish the word of Barbara Reynolds, "I am also a hibakusha", and who have continued to work for peace. I am looking forward to seeing them.

The activities of the WFC are still continuing even now. And, through this opportunity provided by the 50th anniversary of the WFC, I hope that we will meet people who are new to the WFC and who will work together with us for peace. Let us walk the road of peace together as Barbara desired: to walk the road of peace is to follow the Lord of peace. Let us believe in it.

Don & Pauline Hess (2005-2007)

Where Does the Time Go?

It doesn't seem possible that nine years have passed (2005) since we first arrived in Hiroshima in time for the 40th Anniversary of the World Friendship Center. We did not know what to expect, out of our comfort zone, not familiar with the Japanese language, and not sure we could fill the giant shoes of Joel and Bev Eikenberry.



(Thursday class students)

A lot of unknowns, but many positive feelings because of the BVS (Brethren Volunteer Service) label. Both of us had been involved in BVS, Don in repairing residences after a flood or other natural disaster, and Pauline with child care during similar events, but not at the same locations. So we came to Hiroshima with a positive attitude despite the lack of experience in teaching English and maintaining a facility hosting nightly guests. From the very beginning it was obvious that this was where God wanted us to be at that time in our lives. Teaching conversational English to eager students at different language levels was a delight. In addition to teaching the English language we also discussed the differences in American and Japanese culture. What we hadn't anticipated were the many cultural activities outside of the classrooms. We were invited to concerts, fireworks, plays, and dances. We also enjoyed many lunches and evening meals in the homes of Riji and students and were impressed with their

creativity. Most of their unique decorations and beautiful paintings were done by family members and not purchased from stores. Pauline is an experienced Round Dancer and was delighted to become involved with a Japanese Round Dancing Club (calls are done in English). She was often called on to help the group on pronunciation of English words. It led to some hilarious times and a new group of Japanese friends. Along with teaching English classes to local Japanese we hosted about 100 monthly visitors from around the world. Many of our students were tour guides for our visitors around the Peace Park and Museum. A major portion of our morning breakfast time was spent learning to know our guests. But the evenings were our favorites with unique opportunities to relax with our visitors over coffee or tea after their daily sightseeing. Invariably, our conversations led to their reactions to the Hiroshima bombing. It was an education in itself.

So, where does the time go? It marches on! Many volunteer directors preceded and followed us. We look back with wonderful memories of our time at World Friendship Center and are delighted to receive word from the current directors and the American Committee. We are keenly aware that the current issues facing the World Friendship Center are different from the issues we faced in 2005-2007. For an organization to continue for 50 years it must react to the changing times. Our prayers are with the current leadership as they make difficult decisions to keep Barbara's vision alive. Happy 50th Anniversary!



(English class students)

Kent & Sarah Sweitzer (2007-2009)

We served as the “Kancho-tachi” from May 2007-May 2009. During that time the WFC provided guest-house accommodations for a large number of visitors from around the world to Hiroshima. With the help of students and volunteers we undertook together a major renovation of the WFC home including the kitchen, plus expanded guest accommodations and classrooms into the adjacent Peace Garden Villa. World Friendship Center became an NPO.



In an effort to “pass the torch” to the next generation; the first Shudo University internship was established as well as a college based internship for study in Hiroshima (Wilmington College). WFC also raised the funds for the first Peace Camp for young children from China, Korea and Japan. PAX delegations came from the US and Korea and WFC sent a delegation to Korea.

We had the opportunity to learn from our Japanese students, friends, and Riji in classrooms and meetings, as well as outings including festivals, homes, and other special destinations. We were always touched by the Hibakusha and translators that shared their stories and continued to carry on the tireless work of building a more peaceful and understanding world. Peace Park Guides provided informative tours for hundreds of visitors to Hiroshima. A group of Guides in Training was formed.

We appreciated having the opportunity to teach, learn about Japanese culture, customs, as well as food and preserve memories and events with photography. There were countless acts of kindness to welcome us, hundreds of people that we met, and many words of encouragement during our time in Japan.



WFC provides funds for Peace Cultural Foundation (incl Myanmar aid)



(WFC members at PeaceLove Festival, Hiroshima) (WFC receives UNESCO Peace Award)

Ron & Barb Siney (2009-2011)

Peace

World Friendship Center is a symbol of peace in action. Those who have been most devastated by war continue to step beyond recovery to insure that others be spared. The peace that comes from within individuals is expressed clearly through education, example and determination at the WFC. Each guest, each student, each volunteer, each program, and each activity knit together a fabric that spreads and grows with life and care – so opposed to harm.



Being just a small part, for a short period of time, at the WFC continues to impact our lives. Thank you, World Friendship Center, for the 50 years of service. Thank you for your ongoing commitment. There is no way to estimate the good that has been passed on from your welcoming doors to a hurting world. It has been a privilege for us to share in the WFC peace process. Grace and Peace to you all.



(WFC 45th Anniversary at Hiroshima City International House)



(Puppet play at the kindergarten)

Larry & JoAnn Sims (2011-2013)

Reflecting on our time with World Friendship Center (WFC)

We met many wonderful people from the WFC in 2006 and 2009 as part of the USA PAX trips. We came to the WFC in 2010 as Peace Ambassadors. We knew our assignment was to span a little over 2 years and that we'd be expected to operate a bed and breakfast guesthouse, teach conversational English, teach an adult Sunday School, and work on peace related activities of the organization. What we didn't know was that our time in Hiroshima at the WFC was to be so fast paced, tumultuous, and life changing.



Our first official task in June 2011 was to preside at the unveiling of Barbara Reynolds' monument at Peace Memorial Park. We were honored to meet Jessica, Barbara's daughter, and her family. Because The Great Earthquake and Tsunami of March 2011 had occurred six weeks prior to our arrival, all of Japan was shocked and saddened. Travel to Japan had nearly ceased. With very few guests, there was little money to do peace work at WFC.

It was then we suggested a Peace Concert with Mike Stern in response to Asaka Watanabe's dream voiced in 2009 to sing together with Mike in Hiroshima. Much work by many people pulled off a wonderfully successful "One World Peace Concert" that filled the Catholic Memorial Cathedral For World Peace with standing room only in the spring of 2012.

Hosting Peace Campers from China, Korea, & Japan occupied many months of planning. For a week in the summer of 2012, JoAnn was the "Grandmother" who

boiled water and made rice over campfires for nearly 50 campers including our grandson, Nathan.

A casual question about houses built in Hiroshima after WWII blossomed into a warm friendship with Yoko Imada. Working with Yoko and Kaori, our translator and Japanese teacher, and WFC members, we helped plan the Opening Ceremonies for the Schmoe Memorial Museum in November 2012. We brought the sons of Floyd Schmoe and Emery Andrews to the ceremony. Seventeen people from the USA attended the International Opening and a week of symposiums commemorating the Schmoe Memorial Museum.

One symposium on Japanese American experiences during the museum opening led to the WFC inviting a drama called, "Breaking the Silence" to Hiroshima. It would coincide with an NHK sponsored exhibit at the Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum called "Art of Gaman." We worked hard with all the WFC board members to secure multiple venues, to advertise the drama, and the second "One World Peace Concert" to be held in August 2013.

A unanimous agreement was made to continue the peace work of the WFC beyond the 50th Celebration. It was then decided to find a new home for the WFC. Plans for a fall 2013 USA PAX trip were begun. Our time with the WFC was so memorable. We hosted 1800 guests from around the world! Larry's expertise in nuclear power reactors helped inform the community about reactor safety. We made WFC friends forever, collaborating on work for world peace and a world without nuclear weapons. Keep Hope Alive!



(One World Peace Concert)

Richard & Xinia Tobias (2013-2015)

May the message of peace and Barbara's legacy continue at the World Friendship Center



What a privilege it has been serving the World Friendship Center as volunteer directors from 2013 to 2015. Time spent has been a definite highlight, if not the greatest, in the 32 years of our married life. Words are so inadequate when trying to express our true feelings.

We will forever cherish the wonderful friendships we've made with our Japanese, American and English brothers and sisters in Hiroshima. These friendships mean more to us than we can tell. Being here has also provided the opportunity of meeting so many people from over 35 countries, many with whom we grew to appreciate a great deal.

What a joy it has been going to the Mutsumien nursing home each and every month celebrating birthdays and singing with the hibakusha. Hearing the life stories of those who experienced that frightful morning of August 6th, 1945 will be memories we shall never forget.

So we are now celebrating 50 years, thus the legacy of Barbara Reynolds continues to live on. We hope and pray the WFC will continue for many more years.

Barbara's desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for mankind to bring about the day as stated in the Bible in the book of Isaiah chapter 2 verse 4 "...and they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks". Indeed the World Friendship Center is a place where our hope is that men will engage in war no more. And so as our time comes to a close, it is our sincere desire to see that Barbara Reynold's legacy continues to flourish at the World Friendship Center. Be sure we will keep this wonderful program and those entrusted to carry on in our thoughts and prayers.

Jessica Renshaw

Barbara Reynolds would have been 100 this year. I, her daughter, am 70. Hibakusha are all getting older and many have already passed on. Those of us older people are very conscious of the urgency to pass to future generations the message of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima: "No more nuclear devastation! Work for peace!"



For this reason I was delighted in 2011 when my nephew Tony Reynolds, Barbara's grandson, could come to Hiroshima with my husband Jerry and me for the unveiling of the monument in Barbara's honor. I know those of you who met Tony enjoyed his open, friendly personality and his curiosity about all things Japanese.

This year, my delight is increased sevenfold. Two more grandchildren and five great-grandchildren plan to be in Hiroshima for the World Friendship Center's 50th anniversary celebration!

Lisa Reynolds Walker is the second daughter of Barbara's son Ted and his first wife Mio Kawamura from Tokyo. Lisa is half-Japanese and has been in Japan twice before for a total of 2 months, visiting her mother's relatives. She says she speaks 'sukoshi' Japanese.

When Lisa married Scott Walker in 2005, she already had two daughters, Kaelee and Kinza, who are part Japanese. Scott brought to the family not only his strength of character, justice, and mercy but his own daughter, Amanda. Lisa and Scott together had a fourth daughter, Ashlee. They live on a ranch in Williamston, Michigan where they have goats, chickens, pigs, alpacas, cats, and a horse named Agincourt.

Scott and Lisa have big hearts for the safety and protection of people worldwide – and animals, too – affected by war and poverty. Lisa, a veterinarian, has been to Afghanistan to support their country and give subject matter expertise on Afghan agriculture and livestock. Later this year, she is traveling to Africa to assist several countries, this time with zoonotic and vector borne diseases (such as Ebola).

Lisa and her daughters are a beautiful blend of Japanese grace and hospitality with American generosity and compassionate energy toward others beyond their own family.

Kaelee (Kay'lee), 18, is a senior in high school. She is a member of the Math and Science Academy, builds robots as a hobby, and wants to be an astrophysicist. Her grandfather Ted calls her "straight-up sensible."

Kinza, 16, is also a member of the Math and Science Academy. Her mother calls her a "bookworm." She plays the flute and has a passion for art. She hopes to be an artist. Her grandfather describes her as "observant and sociable."

Amanda, who will be 15 on April 18, has a love and talent for dancing of every kind. She hopes to be a schoolteacher, specializing in education for disabled students. Her step-grandfather Ted describes her as "quiet and introspective."

Ashlee, 9, is in third grade. She wants to attend Oxford University on a soccer scholarship and become a professional soccer player. Her grandfather describes her as "bouncy and vigorous."

Margot Gayle Backus, PhD, is the only daughter of Barbara's son Tim. She and her husband Steve Tennison live in Houston, Texas with their daughter Jerilyn.

Margot is an English professor at the University of Houston, where she teaches and mentors undergraduate and graduate students. She has authored two non-fiction books about literature and culture in Ireland and spent a year in Galway while researching her second book, a study of James Joyce. Margot and Jerilyn are coming directly from Northern Ireland, where she is currently in residence at Queens University Belfast as a Fulbright scholar. Margot's ongoing interest in the roots and effects of military and structural violence span back to her participation in the 1980's American anti-war and anti-nuclear movement, and she continues to act and speak in the service of peace and justice, as well as devoting her intellectual work to questions of how words and images can do harm, or heal.

Jerilyn, 13, enjoys people and animals and has a lively interest in everything around her. Like many young people around the world, she has an intense passion for Japanese anime and manga, and her love of anime has inspired her to create and share her own fan art. She loves Japanese culture and hopes to learn Japanese.

Steve, B.S., received a degree in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Texas, and worked as a computer and electrical engineer for the better part of two decades. His deep curiosity about how whole systems work

and his drive to find ways to engage with whole systems and processes led him to re-educate himself as a real estate investor, working with a partner to buy and rehabilitate apartment complexes in the Houston area, making them safer, more environmentally sustainable, more child and family-friendly and generally better places to be. Steve's philosophy is to improve the profitability of under-performing, deteriorating apartment complexes by rehabilitating them to better serve the tenants who are already there.



(Margot family)



(Lisa family)

Hiroko Takahara

Congratulations

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the WFC! Please accept my warmest regards to the former chairpersons, the former directors and every person concerned, who have carried on Barbara's wish and continued their dedicated activities for half a century.



Fifty years have already passed since I attended the second World Pilgrimage. I have felt the swift passage of time. Out of the six members who attended from Nagasaki, only two people, Kuniko Iwatani (her maiden name is Kosasa) and me, are still alive. I recall the pilgrimage of those days with happy memories.

I still keep Barbara's words deep in my mind. When we returned to Japan, she said, "Let's not put out the peace light we kindled in each place, and let's keep it up."

Thanks to the pilgrimage, I met many committed peace activists and other people who love peace, which has given my life invaluable, precious meaning. I deeply appreciate Barbara for this.

I have helped the center, in some small way, while I was in Nagasaki, which was my delight.

Conflicts have been constantly breaking out in the world, and deep concerns about the proliferation of nuclear arms cannot be erased. I hope for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and for the happiness of all people. I pray for the further development of the WFC.

A member of the second World Peace Pilgrimage

David & Evie Bertsche

**Chairperson of American Committee
Former Directors of WFC (2001-2003)**



**Memories of our years as Directors of World
Friendship Center**

"This was one of the best experiences of our lives." We have often said that about our two years as volunteer directors of the WFC. Growing up on farms in Midwestern United States, neither of us ever imagined that someday we would travel to beautiful Japan to live in a city among people who would welcome us and offer us friendship. What a privilege it was to be offered this opportunity to indeed live in Hiroshima and work alongside people at the World Friendship Center, a place that for 50 years has promoted peace activities. We were encouraged as we learned about and became immersed in our new duties. We also became excited about the programs that the Center offered (conversational English classes, Peace Park guides, Peace Choir, hibakusha stories, Mutsumien, etc.) In addition, we enjoyed learning about Japan's culture, attending concerts and music programs, church services, museums, and more. Visits to Peace Museum and Peace Park and attendance at the August 6th ceremonies reinforced our belief that there should be "no more Hiroshimas".

Barbara Reynolds' story was shared with our overnight international guests who came from many countries (over 2000 persons from 42 countries while we were there). Often discussions about world issues and about the importance of working for peace took place in the living room over tea or at the breakfast table. We felt that the spirit of Barbara was evident during these exchanges. Similarly, the World Friendship Center also has initiated peace exchanges and Peace Camps between Japanese, Korean, and Chinese adults and youth.

We are grateful to have been involved in early conversations about these peace-promoting projects.



*(Visiting Mutsumien with Mieko Yamashita-san,
Michiko Yamane -san and Shinchon)*



(Hosting WFC guests)

Alice & Robert Ramseyer

(Former Riji)

Congratulations, World Friendship Center, on 50 years of service to people of Hiroshima and to people from around the world.

The Center has provided a place for conversations between Hiroshima people and international travelers about the need for peace in this world. Barbara Reynolds could be very proud of the organization that she started, if she saw it today.

At our house we have a copy of the WFC 15th Anniversary Edition of the YU-AI. At the time, it seemed remarkable the WFC was still going strong after 15 years. Now it is not 15, but 50 years, and the World Friendship Center is still going strong; in fact, it is stronger than it was then. So many people have worked so hard for so long to make this happen, and we honor and thank them. "Thank you" seems totally inadequate for all the work that has been put into the WFC by so many.

Our personal connection with the WFC began in the fall of 1978, when we stayed there overnight while looking for an apartment to rent. We found one, and moved in the beginning of January, 1979, and the WFC became a second home for us. Our assignment was to help bring into being a Mennonite church in Hiroshima. The WFC in the US is supported by the Quakers, the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonites; all three churches believe very strongly that Jesus



taught that peace and non-violence was the way his followers should live. Thus our close relationship with the WFC was a logical outgrowth of the belief that peace rather than war is God's will for this world.

We attended many activities at the WFC. We were invited to join the Riji, and learned much from this experience. Best of all we learned to know many people and made many very good friends whom we still cherish. When we retired, and returned to the US, we joined the American Committee; it was a way to stay connected to friends whom we value greatly. Because we live quite far from the meeting place of the committee, and because we are steadily getting older we have not been very active in the American Committee these last few years, but we still love the people of WFC very much.

May God give the World Friendship Center of Hiroshima another very good 50 years!

Steve Leeper (Riji) (Since 1987)

Congratulations on an Inspiring Fifty Years

Of the Center's 50 years, I have been more or less involved for nearly thirty. I believe I attended my first board meeting at the request of Lonnie Wiig in 1986 or 1987. Sometime in the 90s I even lived at the Center for a few months. I have seen moves to new locations, the coming and going of special projects and events, great Christmas parties, a few English classes, the coming and going of directors, illness and death among board members, and several existential crises. I have seen four-hour board meetings in response to crises, and I have seen a certain amount of intense internal conflict, but through it all, I have been instructed and inspired by the commitment of the board members to inclusive consensus.

Even when the board favors a motion 10 to 1, the decision is never made by a majority vote. I have seen hour after hour devoted to persuading one recalcitrant board member until she finally agreed, not because she was bludgeoned into agreement but because she came to feel how hard everyone was working to keep her involved and happy with the outcome. I firmly believe this commitment to each and every individual (from board members to students to visitors) is how this tiny under-organized and under-funded peace activity has continued for fifty miraculous years.



The basis of it all is the love the founding members felt for Barbara Reynolds. I never met her myself, but the commitment to and respect for her has always been unmistakable. She has always been the reference point, and hardly a board meeting goes by without a mention of her name. She must have been a tremendously warm and loving or at least charismatic person to generate such deep and long-lasting devotion.

Of course, the cause is right. The idea of helping non-Japanese visitors encounter and learn from hibakusha and Hiroshima is a good one. But most good ideas never get off the ground, much less stay aloft for fifty years. The devotion Barbara generated plus the devotion of hibakusha and the people of Hiroshima to getting their message out has pulled the Center through year after year. And as a result, thousands of Japanese and non-Japanese alike have found more than they were looking for in Hiroshima.

I have sent dozens of customers to the Center because I can do so with the confidence that they will be welcomed into a warm, helpful, generous and entertaining community that will more than make up for the physical discomforts or lack of privacy they sometimes suffer. I am sure some people have been unhappy with a stay at the Center, but I have never heard about it. What I hear is high praise, most recently from my younger brother-in-law just last November.

I have been the worst of all possible board members. I disappear for months or years at a time. I rarely bring to meetings the documents carefully sent to me in advance. I never have any idea what's really going on. And yet, I feel as warmly welcomed as the prodigal son when I do show up. I am used to the extent I'm useful. I am forgiven to the extent I'm not. I've learned a great deal about peace from the World Friendship Center, but the Center is not just peace education or a peace activity. The Center is peace itself, an excellent model of how human beings should relate to each other and will have to if we hope to survive to the next century.

Today, the Center is facing the most profound and most dangerous crisis of its fifty years. This is only natural. After all, an organization founded to help people encounter hibakusha cannot possibly avoid an identity crisis when hibakusha are no longer available. I intend to be more attentively involved through 2015, and I hope everyone who is or has been in this beautiful community will make a special effort to figure out what the Center can and should do now and for the next fifty years.

NPO World Friendship Center

History 2005-2015

Don & Pauline Hess (2005-2007)

World Friendship Center 40th Anniversary

The 40th Anniversary of the World Friendship Center was celebrated by many persons from the United States who traveled to Hiroshima, including representatives of the Church of the Brethren General Board, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS), the WFC American Committee, Wilmington College, a Quaker delegation, and former WFC volunteer directors.

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



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



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



(Past and current directors of WFC share their remembrances.)

Kent & Sarah Sweitzer (2007-2009)

Shudo University Student Internship

Jim Ronald, an English professor at Shudo, and I began talking about the possibilities of a Shudo University Student Internship in partnership with the WFC. Out of those discussions an about 80 hour plus internship for our first interns, Kazue Tamaru and Yasuyo Shimamura, was created.



(Kent, Yasuyo Shimamura, Kazue Tamaru)

Kazue san and Yasuyo san, who did not know each other prior to the internship, shared their interests with and learned from many at the WFC about history, traditions, and present topics.

(Kent Sweitzer)

Korean PAX 2008

A Hiroshima Shudo University student that joined Korean PAX 2008 is Sun Hyi Lee, a Korean resident of Japan and studying English, writes: I want to further my understanding of the history of Korean and Japanese conflicts and relations which I believe will be enhanced by studying some of the past events from the Korean perspective.



*(1st row L-R: Chizuko , Sekiguchi , Sun Hyi and Kazue
2nd row L-R: Sho, Kono , Aya Ono and Jim Ronald)*

Balancing our inter-generational PAX Korean Team is a high school student from Nagasaki, Aya Ono.

Chizuko, Aya, Keisen

(Host mother's mother- in-law)



2009 Peace Camp Report

On 25 July, 2009 (Sunday), the long preparation for the Peace Camp came to an end, and the Camp began in Chengdu in Sichuan. A group of seven of us from Hiroshima – two junior high school students, two high school students, two counselors, and one coordinator – started the journey.



(Jim Ronald, Krishna Somanah, Kazue Tamaru, Moe Kakegawa, Yuki Sakata, Karin Morishita, Akitsugu Kakegawa joined the camp.)

On the bus to the campsite, one Chinese high school student said she knew what the Japanese had done to the Chinese during and before the war, that there had been no proper apology, and that Japanese school history textbooks did not tell the truth. At school, they'd compared Japanese and German actions since the war, and she knew how things were. There wasn't much we could say – but it confirmed the need for this peace camp. By the end of the camp, this same student, with tears running down her face, said she no longer hated the Japanese, she had Japanese friends, and she'd go back home and tell her family and friends. She did. And joined the following year with her little brother! (Jim Ronald)



Ron & Barb Siney (2009-2011)

The Missouri Experience

From September 23 to October 5, 2010 I had one of the most important and pleasurable experiences of my professional career. 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.



The Title was No More Hiroshimas: Stories of War and Peace—speaking 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. The high of attendance for university programming is simply amazing.

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. They taught me through their actions that revenge and anger closes hearts; and that forgiveness opens hearts. (Wendy Geiger)



(Harry S. Truman Library and Museum)

Larry & JoAnn Sims (2011-2013)

Unveiling Ceremony of Barbara's Monument

"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 12th, we had the ceremony. It was raining unusually hard on that day. When I look back, I think it was a remarkable ceremony. (Hiromu Morishita)

*(WFC Directors, hibakusha,
Hiromu Morishita, Tony Reynolds,
Jerry Renshaw, Jessica Reynolds
Renshaw)*



On June 12, 2011, several hibakusha who accompanied Barbara on the first pilgrimage, Barbara Reynold's 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 cords and unveiled a new monument erected in Hiroshima's Peace Park. (Larry & JoAnn Sims)



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

World Friendship Center, Recipient of 2011 Partners in Service Award

Each year the Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) recognizes an individual, project, or organization that has demonstrated exceptional commitment with BVS to share God's love through acts of service. The BVS staff was unanimous in selecting the World Friendship Center for this honor.



(Left to Right: Dan McFadden, Masako Kido. Back row: Lynn Llewellyn and former WFC Directors)

The award was presented at the Brethren Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 4, 2011. Masako Kido, a World Friendship Board Member (Riji), received the award with her husband, Lynn Llewellyn. They were visiting the USA and were pleased to accept the award on behalf of WFC. (Larry & JoAnn Sims)

2011 NARPI Summer Training

NARPI (Northeast Asia Regional Peace-building Institute) provides a peace education program in order to train peace activities at the grass-roots level in north-east Asia, including Japan. The training course format was three classes each week for two weeks. The students choose their course. The first week (Aug16-20) was "Theory and Practice of Peace Education", "Understanding Conflict and Peace", and "A Framework for Restorative Justice." The second week was "Historical and Cultural Stories of Peace", "Trauma Healing" and "Negotiation, Meditation, Dialogue".

(Shoichi Fujii)



(2011 NARPI Summer Peace Training participants)

One World, Peace Concert

What began as a dream in Oregon, USA for Asaka Watanabe, WFC Choir Director, in the fall of 2009 became a wonderful reality on April 13, 2012. Mike Stern, a musician, songwriter, and singer from Seattle, Washington joined many musicians, dancers, and singers in Hiroshima for a beautiful concert featuring Mike's original song, "One World."



The concert was held in the Catholic Memorial Cathedral for World Peace. The capacity of the sanctuary is 400. We had a full house with over 400 people in the audience!

(JoAnn Sims)

Schmoe House: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

I found that Floyd Schmoe and three other Americans came to ruined Hiroshima in August, 1949 with donated funds of \$4,000 to recompense the guilt of A-bombing. Cooperating with volunteers from Tokyo and Hiroshima, they built 21 houses and meeting places by 1953 and donated them to the city and people.

The meeting place was relocated 400 meters southeast and re-opened as an affiliated display facility of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The opening ceremony was held on October 31st. Mr. Schmoe's son, who looks identical to

his father of 63 years ago, Mr. Andrews and others came to Hiroshima in spite of their old age. They told us episodes of the days when Hiroshima Houses were built and about the peace-seeking philosophy behind it. (Yoko Imada)



(Schmoe House)



(Courtesy visit to Mayor Matsui with Wilfred Schomoe)

On November 1, Mayor Matsui met with the guests from 1:00-1:30pm. He expressed gratitude for the work and spirit of peace that the Houses for Hiroshima project brought to Hiroshima in 1949-1953. (JoAnn Sims)

Richard & Xinia Tobias(2013-2015)

Breaking the Silence

Your hospitality and kind friendship shown to us as visitors from America as cast and crew of the "Breaking the Silence" drama play was so generous and touched our hearts. We are so grateful. (Herb Tsuchiya)



(Breaking the Silence Performance at Hiroshima International House on August 3rd)



(After One World Peace Concert at Nagarekawa Church)

PAX to America

PAX (Peace Ambassadors Exchange) team consisting of sixteen members toured the USA for three weeks, from September 14 to October 5, 2013.

We toured to the Hanford Reactors Site where the plutonium used in the A-bomb dropped on Nagasaki was produced, the site of the Minidoka Internment Camp, Bainbridge Island where 227 Japanese American were detained in yet another internment camp, and Los Alamos where the A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were made. This study tour was really educational and rewarding.

(Shoichi Fujii)



(Sadako Monument at Peace Park in Seattle)

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