

Spring 2023 US - Japan PAX

Feb 13 - 16 US / Feb 14 - 17 Japan

Program is delivered in English

WFC's **Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX)** is an annual sharing of ideas and materials related to peace, reconciliation, and nuclear issues, built on hearing the first-hand accounts of those whose lives have been impacted by war and the tragedies of atomic bombings.

West Coast Day 1

Feb 13 @ 6-8pm PST
/ Feb 14 @ 11am JPN

Kiyomi

Kohno [河野きよみ]



"I will never forget that day"

Born in Hiroshima in 1931. On August 7, 1945, when she was in the second grade of girls' school, she entered the city and was exposed to radiation. Based on memories, she drew "Drawings of A-Bomb Memories" and published a picture book titled, "I Will Never Forget That Day." She has been sharing the testimony of her A-bomb experience since 2003. She has since testified at universities, high schools, and middle schools in the United States.

West Coast Day 2

Feb 14 @ 6-8pm PST / Feb 15 @ 11am JPN

"Reflections on Serving Those AROUND uS"
by Don Watson

"Opposing Nuclear Weapons
in Washington State"
by Dr. Joe Berkson & Sean Arent

East Coast Day 1

Feb 15 @ 7-9pm EST
/ Feb 16 @ 9am JPN

Tamiyuki

Okahara [岡原民幸]



"Lessons from my Father"

Born in Hiroshima in 1939. In August 1945, he entered the city from Saijo-town, where he had been evacuated, and was exposed to radiation. After graduating from Waseda University in 1961, he started working in Tokyo. In 1999, he returned to Hiroshima. He has been participating in WFC's English conversation class since 2006. In 2018, he began testifying based on his father's accounts of the atomic bombing.

East Coast Day 2

Feb 16 @ 7-9pm EST / Feb 17 @ 9am JPN

"Transforming Conflict"
by Rick Polhamus

"Hiroshima, Miyoshi, Atlanta and Americus
brought together by a Bell Tower"
by Steve Leeper

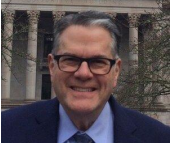
The program will include time for Q&A and breakout discussions.

Join us on any of these days to hear the stories of peace!



West Coast Presenters

DR. JOSEPH BERKSON



Joe has been an antinuclear weapons advocate since living through the cold war. As a young physician, he joined WPSR in 1985 and has been a member since then. Now retired with more time available, he joined the Nuclear Weapons Abolition Task Force in 2018, and was honored to be asked to co-chair the task force in 2019, leading WPSR's efforts to lobby members of congress along with WPSR members, and helping to build the largest anti-nuclear coalition of its kind in the U.S.

SEAN ARENT



Sean grew up in Roy, Washington, in the shadow of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. A lifelong activist and organizer, he graduated from the University of Washington Tacoma with a bachelor's degree in Politics & Philosophy with a minor in Human Rights. He is an avid outdoorsman who is passionate about ecological restoration, farming, and working-class struggle.

DON WATSON



Don is an active Lay Church Leader and retired Mathematics Teacher. Don has served on the Regional American Baptist Board of Directors and is currently the administrator for STARS, (Serving Those AROUND uS). Since retirement Don also works part time with the Oregon Department of Education.

East Coast Presenters

RICK POLHAMUS



Rick is a member of Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) and has worked in the Middle East for 22 years. He has experience in violence reduction, conflict resolution and conflict transformation, negotiation, and mediation. Polhamus has lived and worked in many places with CPT including South Dakota, Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Palestine/Israel, and Iraq. He has been CPT's representative to the World Council of Churches (WCC). He worked with CPT-Iraq's Adopt-A-Detainee and CPT's Violence Is Not Child's Play campaign.

STEVE LEEPER



Steve Leeper has spent about half of his 74 years in Japan. He has a master's degree in clinical psychology and has worked as a family counselor, management consultant, translator, and peace activist. He began working for Mayors for Peace in 2002, which led to his appointment in 2007 as chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation. He stepped down in 2013 and currently is visiting professor at Hiroshima Jogakuin University and Nagasaki University. He is co-founder of Peace Culture Village in Hiroshima and PEAC Institute in Montclair, NJ, Detroit, MI, and Atlanta, GA.

About World Friendship Center (WFC)



The World Friendship Center (WFC) was founded in Hiroshima in 1965 by Barbara Reynolds, a peace activist who aimed to bring attention to the inhumanity of nuclear weapons.

The WFC continues her lifelong advocacy for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and serves as a place for people from around the world to meet, share their experiences, and think about peace.

The center is staffed by volunteer Directors from America and Japanese staff, who work alongside the board to provide a place for learning about peace through hibakusha testimonies and guided tours of the Peace Park.

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Fostering Peace, One Friend at a Time

*This event is
supported by the
Hiroshima Peace
Culture Foundation.*