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**Yu - Ai**

**Friendship**

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## Working for Peace in a Culture of War

By Don Hess



Sue Cannon begins her presentation on peace strategies for children's education.

The WFC hosted a Friendship Day on April 15 featuring the internationally shown artist, J. Kadir Cannon and his wife Susan Gelber Cannon, an American educator specializing in teaching children peace education. Their presentations have been shown in movie theatres and colleges in the United States and are part of two month collaboration with Asian artists and educators on peace projects bringing them to Hiroshima and Kyoto, Japan and Shanghai, China in April and May 2006. They will also speak together at the International Peace Research Association conference in Calgary, Canada in June

and will present their art, movie and lectures at a peace education seminar at International People's College in Denmark.

Using words and images from his *Anguished Art* series and his movie *Who's Telling Our Story*, Kadir's presentation depicted the horror and futility of war in a live narrative performance. He urged viewers to abandon the myth of militarism and embrace the paradigm of peace. His movie questions the American administration's policy of using pre-emptive war to solve world problems. "Do the stories told by the corporations and the news media create the paradigm in which we want to live?"

As an artist he responds compassionately to the brutal suffering of soldiers and civilians alike and poses this disturbing question, "Will this war-minded policy continue to destabilize the entire world?" His art is meant to induce horror, anger, sorrow, compassion and ultimately, the determination to end the use of war as a means of conflict resolution between nations. His *Anguished Art* series, on which the movie is based, is a call to action and a plea for peace. To see more of his artwork and movie visit his website  
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## **WFC Welcomes Former Director Lynne Shivers**

*By Pauline Hess*

WFC welcomed back one of its long time former directors, Lynne Shivers who visited Hiroshima on April 8, Following the Riji Board meeting old and new friends gathered for a catered dinner to visit with Lynne who served as a director with Barbara Reynolds in 1966-67 and then returned for a 4 month interim period in 1986. Lynne shared stories about her experiences with Barbara and other leaders from earlier days. Following her visit in Hiroshima Lynne visited Nagasaki for more reunions with many old friends. She returned to Hiroshima with a report of the renewed interest of the hibakusha in Nagasaki. Lynne shares some of her thoughts in the following article.

### **Hibakusha Are Still Our Teachers**

*By Lynne Shivers*

What would you say if I told you that there are hibakusha who, for the first time in their lives, are telling friends they are survivors? And that many hibakusha are making their own arrangements to travel abroad to tell their personal stories? And that Nagasaki hibakusha have new energy and have organized large conferences, encouraging others to become more active in promoting nuclear disarmament?

Readers of Yu-Ai are familiar with the tremendous destruction and trauma of the atomic blast that hit people. Since 1986 I have interviewed survivors to learn what influences have given them hope. What I have learned may surprise you.

I volunteered as a staff member of the WFC in 1966-67, working with Barbara Reynolds for a year. Learning from Hibakusha changed me forever! I returned to Hiroshima in 1985 for a brief visit. During that stay, I learned that some survivors were not so deeply chained to their memories of the horrific events of

1945. This shocked me, and I became committed to learn more.

The next year, the WFC American Committee asked me to be interim director for four months. I interviewed forty hibakusha and close friends in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Examples follow of how they developed hope for themselves as well as for the world.

+ One hibakusha told me that marrying did not especially give him hope. But holding his first child was a major experience – he contributed to new life, when his own life almost ended in 1945.

+ Another hibakusha was so badly injured that people feared that moving her would be dangerous. As she lay on a mat in the back yard, she heard her father tell a neighbor, “I will not leave her.” She was deeply moved by his heartfelt commitment. It gave her hope that she might survive.

+ Many survivors told me that whenever peace movements outside of Japan protested nuclear tests and weapons stockpiling, they felt hope, knowing that they have many friends around the world.

As I write this article in April, I am visiting Hiroshima for the eighth time and meeting with hibakusha. (My trip includes a visit to Nagasaki.) Some of my survivor friends are in nursing homes or have died. Yet others have become active and are speaking out against nuclear weapons for the first time. Tens of thousands of hibakusha are donating stories, pictures, and even old clothing to the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for atomic Bomb Victims, created in the last few years in the Peace Park. Visitors can do their own research among the significant records there.

Hibakusha who were babies on August 6, 1945, are now telling their own stories. So, survivor activities against nuclear weapons and war have changed as the years go by. But their commitment to the goal of a nuclear-free world has never weakened. They remain our profound teachers about the horrors of nuclear war. We still have much to learn from them.

## The Peace Pilgrimage to Sweden

By Asaka Watanabe



Asaka Watanabe delivers a powerful story in song during one of the performances on the Peace Pilgrimage to Sweden.

"Life of the World=Heart of Hiroshima" is the title of a poem written by the first WFC Board Chairman, Dr. Tomin Harada and composed by Hiroyuki Fujikake. Dr. Harada devoted his life to the medical treatment for the Hibakusha. The song begins with "New life Hiroshima which was born from the big fire". I repeatedly sang this song which wishes for world peace with a desire to share the feeling of the Hibakusha on this trip. I sang it many times according to every situation, a cappella, to the marimba or my piano accompaniment, to the back ground music of CD. I joined this trip at the request of Keiko Murakami who is an A-bomb survivor, because I had an experience as a PAX member to Germany in 2001. I sang many times in Sweden as I did in Germany.

On January 29, Keiko and I flew to Lulea Airport in northern Sweden from Narita Airport. It was freezing-cold in Lurea but we were fascinated by the crystal pattern of falling powdery snow for a while. Keiko Kotoku met us at the airport and our pilgrimage started.

I describe only a few events here because of the lack of space. We participated in mainly schools, gatherings, and concerts in several sites planned by the Sweden branch of the U.N. (FN). Many donations

were received from the churches "for the peace activity in Hiroshima" and, we chose to offer them to WFC. After Keiko Murakami told her A-bomb experience at an elementary school, an 8- year- old boy approached her and said, "My father was killed by Bush's soldiers in Morocco." His words left in my mind as my assignment: how to catch them and overlap to the heart of Hiroshima.

We participated in the ceremony and concert sponsored by FN in Karlskoga, the central part of Sweden, where Nobel spent his last days. I introduce the program and the message of Megumi Lundh who made every effort in order to plan this event.

Program: at a community center on February 5

### Peace- A world free from nuclear weapon

- + A speech by Inga Blomgren, chairman of Karlskoga branch of the U.N.
- + Life of the World=Heart of Hiroshima song by Asaka Watanabe
- + Children in Hiroshima - a sketch on the "A-bombing day" reading in Swedish and Japanese by Mike Godfrey, Lisa Lenkel, Simone Martini
- + It started in Hiroshima" the story of the A-bomb experience by Keiko Murakami
- + ONEGAI (desire) marimba by Keiko Kotoku, percussion by Daniel Saur and Rolf Landberg, song by Asaka Watanabe
- + After that in Hiroshima; the current nuclear weapon" the A-bomb story by Keiko Murakami
- + Gaku (learning) marimba by Keiko Kotoku, percussion by Daniel Saur and Rolf Landberg
- + ORIZURU (A folded paper crane) song by Asaka Watanabe
- + Message

Many people gathered in the hall in Karlskago, where there is a weapons plant. The posters, photograph collection, books, leaflets, one thousand folded paper cranes on a string offered by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum were displayed there. A tapestry by the title of "Bombs around the world transform into fireworks!" worked by Ryoko Matsumoto was eye catching. The

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## The Atom at Peace and at War

by C. Vernon Cannon

Member of the senior staff of the Chemistry Division at Clinton Laboratories, Oak Ridge

*Editors note: The following is an extract of a speech delivered (circa 1946) by C. Vernon Cannon, a nuclear physicist who worked on the Manhattan Project as a group leader from 1941 until 1947, first at Chicago, then at Oak Ridge and Los Alamos. He spoke about civilian control of nuclear power. After the war, he was active in the early efforts to avert a nuclear arms race. He is the father of J. Kadir Cannon, an internationally shown American artist whose images depict the horror and futility of war. Kadir Cannon spoke at the WFC Friendship Afternoon on April 15. (See the article on page 1)*

I wish that it were only necessary that I continue and expand on the various peacetime implications of atomic energy, for they are exciting and pleasant to think about. They can go far toward finally lifting man above a struggle for existence. But in order that man may properly exploit the atom for peaceful purposes, he must first be assured that it will not be used to destroy the whole race of mankind and to erase his works from the earth.

Slightly more than a year has passed since two atomic explosions laid prostrate an already crippled Japanese Empire. The reverberations of those two explosions are still thundering through our Capitol and the British Parliament and the Kremlin. They are still heard wherever there is a governing body that holds itself responsible for the well being and sovereignty of its peoples. In the hearts of millions of citizens of the world there is a dull fear of what the futures might inevitably bring to them, their cities, and their children.

I believe, however, that we in this country are collectively less fearful of the future than are the peoples of western Europe and of Russia. It is easy to understand why this is so. The logic, and it is *unsound* logic, goes something like this:

We have the weapon and its secret and we have the scientists and the industries that produced it. It would appear, indeed, that the dilemma of the atom, although it concerns us, finds us in the driver's seat. So let's not worry too much about it. Problems like this have always been taken care of and they always will be. By the time any nation has caught up with us, unless we give them our secret, we will probably have a defense worked out and a more effective weapon to supplant it. In the meantime, however, we certainly don't need to take any foolishness from anyone.

I wish that the worst that could be said for this line of reasoning is that it is false. But it is far worse than that—it is dangerous and could easily be the manner of committing self destruction.

Rather, the facts go something like this: We may have the atomic bomb in our sole possession for about two years—possibly even four years. The scientists most responsible for the fundamental ideas that made its construction possible were mostly Europeans who made their discoveries, formulated their theories and published them in the period between 1895 and 1939. We could find no surer way to egg other nations into making the supreme effort to build up their own armaments than by making threats, no matter how veiled, to use the bomb against them. Finally, there is no conceivable method by which a nation, and this includes the United States, can successfully defend itself against an attack by atomic weapons.

There is no defense against the atomic bomb. By that I mean that there is no way of assuring that they can be stopped before they reach a target and that there is no hint of any way by which they may be made to blow up automatically before they have reached their target. As a matter of fact there is no defense against any bomb, whether it is atomic or not. It is merely that the odds are different when we discuss atomic bombs. What if half of them are intercepted, or three-fourths, or by great good fortune 99%. When the

hundredth one lands and totally destroys a city of several hundred thousand people—well, that's not a very effective defense.

There is an old argument that for each new offensive weapon a defense has always been found—that the theories that the world could not survive another war were advanced when guns were first made, when airplanes, tanks, poison gases were introduced into warfare—but the words are tricky and the reasoning is wrong. We do not have a 100% effective defense against any of these weapons. Unless one can insure that no atomic bombs, even of the so-called obsolete Hiroshima type, will land in a city, he cannot truthfully say that he knows we can be defended against them. It has been pointed out many times that the United States will be particularly vulnerable to attack in a war in which atomic weapons are used, simply because of the concentration of our people and our industries into small regions liberally sprinkled with large cities.

The only acceptable solution to the problem is in the establishment of an effective international control of atomic energy. Remember that, after all, it is we in this country that must take the leadership in seeing to it that effective world agreements are reached. These agreements must absolutely prevent any nation from being able to use atomic bomb against any other nation great or small. The responsibility is primarily ours because we created the bombs—we used them—we have the facilities for making more—and we are taking advantage of those facilities now. In the eyes of a large part of the world we are therefore the biggest eventual threat to their security and to world peace.

**Thank you to Lynne Shivers, Asaka Watanabe and Don and Pauline Hess for their articles, to Mieko Yamashita, Michiko Yamane, Takako Hiramoto, Yoshiko Sakuma and Sachiko Hiraoka, for their translations and to Michiko Hamai for her editing.**

## Working for Peace in a Culture of War

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[www.jkadircannon.com](http://www.jkadircannon.com). Also on the website you can learn more about Kadir's father, Vernon, who worked on the atomic bomb and then worked for nuclear disarmament. His horror at the use of the bomb on civilians was immense. A separate article written by Vernon Cannon in 1947 is also printed in this issue.

Susan Gelber Cannon is an American educator with over 25 years of experience in elementary and middle school classrooms developing teaching methods to help children to think, care and act honorably and globally. Her presentation included various peace education strategies, from those that are integrated into the curriculum, to those that are overt and separate, as well as strategies that are part of the daily structure of the school and classroom environment. More information on teaching resources can be found on Susan's website at [www.teachforpeace.org](http://www.teachforpeace.org).

The Cannons were hosted at WFC for a week and heard Yamoaka-sans hibakusha story, guided through the Peace Park by Akiko Awa, dialoged with many of the Riji members and toured many of the area historical sites, including Miyajima. The Cannons expressed their sincere appreciation to their many new friends in Hiroshima.



Sue Cannon, addressing the Wednesday English class, displays poems written by her students expressing their dreams for the future.

## **Larry and Alice Petry Interim Directors in May and June**

*By Pauline Hess*

Larry and Alice Petry have graciously consented to serve as interim directors during the 30 day absence of Don and Pauline Hess who will return home to the US to visit family and friends.

Alice and Larry served as directors in 1995-97 during the move to WFC's present location and served again as interim directors prior to Joel and Bev Eikenberry. They also serve on the WFC American Committee and help coordinate the selection of future WFC directors. We know that many of you are looking forward to seeing them again. They will arrive in Japan on May 16, assume their director duties on May 23, and will remain until Don and Pauline return on June 19. We welcome these veteran directors who have contributed so much to WFC both here and on the American Committee.

## **Spring Clean-Up Day**

*By Pauline Hess*

Fourteen members of the WFC and staff met on April 24 for the annual deep cleaning transition from winter to spring. Winter rugs were cleaned and put away, windows were washed, tatamies were cleaned and general deep cleaning was held. Following the work session an American style lunch of hot dogs, potato chips, salad, fruit and cokes were served to all. Many thanks to those who came out for this big event.



*Friends of WFC enjoy an American lunch after a deep cleaning day to usher in Spring.*

## **Former Director Robert (Bob) Bauer Dies**



We are sad to report that Bob Bauer, who served as co-director of WFC in 1992-93, passed away on April 14, in LaPorte, IN. Liz visited for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration but Bob was not able to attend.

Bob was born January 25, 1929 in Celina, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, Liz, a son, Richard Bauer; a daughter Beth Bauer, and three grandchildren. He was a retired elementary school teacher and an active member of the Church of the Brethren who served in many volunteer church and community activities centered around helping those who are in need. His favorite hobby was doing cross-stitching and one of his beautiful works is displayed in the WFC living room. If you have a photo of Bob presenting his artwork to you or a friend please send a copy to Liz for her scrapbook.

We have expressed our WFC sympathy to her and their children. Friends who knew Bob and Liz may contact her at PO Box 1637 LaPorte, IN 46350, tel: 574-362-9182. Email: lizhobau100@hotmail.com



*Gift presented to WFC by Bob Bauer*

## Reflections of a Visitor to Hiroshima.

By Susan Lucier

I had gone to Hiroshima like most gaijin, looking to make some sort of pilgrimage and atone for the horror inflicted on that city by my country. But when I got there I saw this would be not only impossible, but unnecessary.

I went to the Peace Park, and saw many people honoring the dead, but also saw children running around, old men playing board games, and people picnicking. The most serious-looking folks were all foreigners. I suppose if you lived in a place with such a terrible past, by now you would have no choice but to move on.

Of course, the people of Hiroshima will never forget their past. But I hear that in Japan there is gaining momentum for increased use of the Self-Defense Forces, changing the pacifist clause in the constitution, and some are even calling for Japan to develop its own nuclear weapons. I'm sure the Japanese are concerned about North Korea, but to many inside and outside Japan, this is unthinkable. We can't forget the horror of Hiroshima's past. Even as the present-day city is a beautiful, bustling port with ordinary citizens living ordinary lives, art museums and parks, ramen shops and shopping arcades,

In the midst of this normalcy, the Peace Park and the A-Bomb Dome are constant reminders for the world of the horrible stupidity of war. We need to honor the dead of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the best way to do so is by insuring that such tragedies are never repeated. The people I met in Hiroshima in no way harbored any resentment towards Americans because of what had happened. So there is no need for us to feel guilty on their account. Instead we should feel guilt because we continue to keep nuclear weapons and make war all over the world. Discontinuing these policies would be the best way to atone for Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

## Peace Pilgrimage

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concert was touching enough for people to feel peace. I express my deep gratitude to three peace ambassadors. Let's continue to do anything we can do for peace in every corner in the world. *Megumi Lundh*

We met, listened to many people with various experiences in this one month of travel. I thank the Swedish people who were so supportive while we stayed there. What I learned through this peace pilgrimage is that music connected the heart of Sweden with the heart of the Hibakusha and harmony praying for peace was great. I think I have to tell people in Hiroshima the task given by the Swedish boy.

I'd like to embrace the singing voice of *Life of the World=Heart of Hiroshima*.

Japan was filled with a breath of spring when we came home.



Swedish students reading an Atom bomb poem

## WFC Home Page

Do you have internet access? If so, we will be pleased to add your name to our email address book so we can notify you of any changes to our WFC home page, including the posting of our Yu-Ai newsletters and other significant activities of WFC. We welcome your comments at: [wfcひろしま@nifty.com](mailto:wfcひろしま@nifty.com).



Lynne Shivers presents gifts to Morishita-sensi and Yamoaka-san at her Welcome Party.



Peace Choir practices for their next presentation.



Okada-san (left) and Don Hess participate in a panel discussion during the HANWA Annual Meeting.



Yamoaka-san tells her hibakusa story to foreign university students in Japan.



Members of the Friday English class take a field trip to view the cherry blossoms.



Michiko Yamane's sidekick, Shin-chan, receives a big hug from a young guest at WFC.