

友愛
Yu - Ai **Friendship**

The Newsletter of World Friendship Center
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A Home Away From Home

By Don & Pauline Hess



Morishita presents a gift to Pauline and Don for their WFC service ending in May

World Friendship Center has been our "home away from home" for two years. Now, it is time to say farewell but we really don't like that word because it sounds too final. We were searching for a better word. Our problem was solved by Shuko-san, one of our class members, when she titled her article in this issue, "See You Again," which is a much more positive way to express our leaving. We have adopted it.

Our purpose in coming to Hiroshima was to move out of our comfort zone by living in a different culture, exploring unique peacemaking activities in a Japanese peace environment, and serving as volunteer directors of WFC. We will leave this living organization with its many programs and activities carried out by enthusiastic volunteers committed to work for peace.

We will leave you but the impressions you have made on us will remain for a lifetime.

Listed below are just a few of the reflections learned in our two years here.

We learned at the 40th Anniversary of WFC and the August 6 celebrations about the real Hiroshima and not what we had read previously in our history books back home.

We learned, after meeting the former WFC directors, to see our responsibilities in perspective. We are only a small chapter to be added to Morishita's WFC History Book together with the reflections of others who have gone before and those who will follow.

We learned it is healthy for WFC if the volunteer directors come from different occupations, locations in the U.S. and even ages to present a broader view of American culture to our Japanese friends.

We learned that WFC is not about the directors, it's about being a living organization founded by Barbara Reynolds to foster peace, one friend at a time. WFC has many future chapters to write in its History Book because it is alive.

We learned it is alive through the many programs which are listed in our WFC

brochure, and in more detail on our WFC website at: wfchiroshima.net and will not be repeated here. Please check them out to see the variety of activities.

We learned it is alive because these activities are carried out by enthusiastic volunteers who are committed to continuing WFC's dedication to peacemaking.

We learned from our guests that many of them are profoundly affected by their visit to Hiroshima. It is a place where people from many nations meet, share their experiences, and have time to reflect on peace.

We appreciate the generous invitations received from Riji members and students who sponsored the directors on field trips, concerts, dinners and other activities which reinforced our decision to become a part of this gracious community.

Our time here as directors is only a small chapter in the WFC history book with many more chapters to be written by those who come after us. Here are just a few of the activities held during this last year.

Over 1200 guests stayed at WFC. Over 700 guests and visitors listened to a hibakusha story and many of them told us it was their most moving experience in Hiroshima.

Over 250 guests and friends heard a WFC English speaking guide explain the significance of the many monuments within the Peace Park.

Fifty one students are currently involved in six weekly conversational English classes providing opportunities to converse on a variety of subjects pertaining to peace, government and world affairs.

A Translation Group meets by-monthly to translate hibakusha and other peace stories from Japanese to English for a Peace Center in America to spread the hibakusha story to the U.S.

Four Friendship Afternoons featured speakers with peace experiences in other countries providing times for learning and dialogue.

A Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX) team of 4 Japanese persons spent three weeks in the U.S. visiting different locations to dialogue with peace loving people trying to make a difference in the world and celebrating joint efforts at peacemaking, friendship and bridge-building.

A Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX) team of 6 persons from Korea visited WFC to dialogue about resolving the conflict between Korea and Japan on a personal level.

A WFC booth at the International Exchange and Cooperation Day was organized to give visibility to the many activities throughout the year and to provide opportunities to make new friends for peace.

A WFC tent at the Hiroshima Peace/Love Festival provided further visibility to WFC by featuring singing, games, a bazaar, making paper flowers and distributing literature.

WFC members participated in the Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6 and held afternoon and evening programs in conjunction with the all day program.

WFC has expanded its website to let others know that there is a place here where people from many nations can meet and make friends, one person at a time...

We were honored at a farewell party where over 50 members showered us with gifts, musical selections, skits and best wishes. We shared a power-point presentation highlighting many of the programs and activities in which we were privileged to participate with them. We stressed that volunteer directors come and go but the WFC has existed for 42 years because of the dedication of those long serving members who have continued Barbara Reynolds's commitment to foster peace,, one friend at a time. It is truly amazing that
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Reflections from Hiroshima

By Lauren Sauer



Pauline welcomes a Korean PAX Team to WFC at the April Peace Forum

From April 6-April 9, I was in Hiroshima, Japan as part of the Korea 2007 PAX team from KAC and The Frontiers (Korean organization) to the World Friendship Center (WFC) (wfchiroshima.net). It was an amazing experience! WFC created a great schedule for us and we had excellent educational opportunities such as visiting the Peace Park, peace forum, peace museum, and listening to survivor's stories. We also experienced Japanese culture through a tea ceremony, home stay, and visiting Miyajima Island. It was refreshing to breathe the non-polluted air in Hiroshima and walk by the river with the cherry blossoms in bloom. It was very hard for me to get my head around the devastation of the A-bomb until I heard a first hand account and walked through the peace museum, which helped me to visualize what the city flattened by the A-bomb and people must have looked like. It was deeply meaningful to hear the personal testimony and go through the museum on Easter when thoughts often turn to hope and new life. I would say that the city died August 6, 1945, but has since resurrected.

Many emotions ran through me as I listened to the survivor's story and walked through the peace museum. On the one hand, I felt deeply saddened by the death, sickness and devastation brought by the

A-bomb. On the other hand, I also gained a feeling for the extreme Japanese will to fight to the last man and therefore I couldn't feel completely sympathetic. But then again, I realized the deeply political nature of the dropping of the A-bomb. The humanity of the Japanese "enemy" was completely overlooked and the reality was that the bomb was created to devastate the city and mostly caused civilian casualties. It was truly a crime against humanity.

I believe for me the emotional confusion that I experienced listening to this survivor's story as opposed to survivor stories I have heard from Rwandans and Holocaust survivors was that the later two groups of survivors were clearly innocent victims in my mind. On the other hand the A-bomb survivor was part of the powerful perpetrator group and at the same time also an innocent victim as he was a schoolboy of 16 at the time. I think it was for this reason that God commanded us to love our enemies. It is difficult and unnatural, but if we can't see the humanity of our "enemy" fully then isn't our humanity also diminished? I am very thankful for this unique experience and the well balanced program that allowed me to process and experience beauty in the midst of pain.



Lauren Sauer and Kevin Leeder from Korean PAX present a gift to Morishita

A New Team

By Don & Pauline Hess



Sarah and Kent Sweitzer, new WFC directors arriving in May participate in U.S.PAX activities

Kent and Sarah Sweitzer, the new WFC volunteer directors will be arriving on May 16. They come with outstanding credentials and will add a new dimension to the WFC from their own vast experiences.

Kent was born and grew up near New Freedom, Pennsylvania on a small 58-acre farm. He graduated from Purdue University in 1974 with a dual major in Electrical Engineering and Bio-medical Engineering. He has worked for both large and small companies including IBM, American Hospital Supply, CooperVision and two of his own companies – one in the biomedical device business and his present company – Tempus Technologies Inc. which is a niche software company for retail POS (Point of Sale Software) and data warehousing using

the internet. He started this company 20 years ago and will be transferring operations to his nephew Jason. Kent's personal interests include photography, bicycling, travel, reading, writing, theatre, watching movies, sports (especially football), discussion groups and community service.

Sarah grew up in Indiana, close to where they live now. She graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Dietetics. Sarah completed a graduate degree in public administration in 2001. For the past two years she has managed residential living areas at the center where she works. Sarah's interests include flower gardening, cooking, reading, travel and walking. She also enjoys children and has taught children's classes at church frequently during the past 25 years.

Sarah and Kent have traveled to Japan together in the late 70's. Prior to graduating from High School, Sarah lived with a family in northern Japan for six weeks. She hopes to be able to locate her Japanese host family while in Japan. They recently completed their first Japanese classes in Ft. Wayne at IPFW.

They are very excited about their upcoming opportunity at the World Friendship Center and look forward to meeting everyone. Likewise, the WFC members are excited about meeting them.

Memories from a Guest

By Christine and Martin Soblczvk

Hiroshima was, by name, quite well known to us before we came here. Having this image of a devastated city in mind, we were quite surprised finding a vibrant and really lively city, which shows, despite the A-bomb Dome and the Peace Museum, no visible signs of the events that happened about 60 years before.

For that reason it's necessary to dig deeper, and Don and Pauline did a very good job, not only by being perfect hosts, but also by discussions we really enjoyed. In that time, with the last eyewitnesses of the terrible event dying, it is more and more necessary to keep up the memories of this

event, and to find new ways to transmit the lessons from history to the next generation.

The Peace Museum does a very good job in that case, trying to show both sides of the conflict and describing the reasons that led to the decision to drop the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Having grown up in an area, which suffered severe conventional bombing during the war, we can still understand how necessary it is to educate people to ask for the reasons and to avoid calls for revenge. Being here, especially in this place, was a real great experience.

Magdeburg, Germany

Pauline & Don, See You again!

By Shuko Yoshimura

As the season of cherry blossoms passed by, and the trees in the Peace Boulevard start shining with young green leaves, the time to say "SAYONARA (Goodbye)" has come around.

Pauline and Don! We want to express our deepest gratitude for your continuous dedication to WFC for these two years.

The first impression of Don's thoughtful outlook and Pauline's cheerful tone, which we saw at the first Friday class, has been stamped very clearly and vividly in our mind.

We will never forget that Don steered so nicely the unique class members' interests and topics, which sometimes extended into other areas. Moreover, his deep insight and feelings about American economics, politics and stories about Washington D.C. were very impressive. I also felt that his desire for peace was realistic and persuasive, based on the outlook of his long time occupation.

As soon as you took up your new post of volunteer directors, the 40th Anniversary of WFC was held, to which you gave great support, and your hard work started soon. A lot of guests from many countries all over the world have a special feeling to visit Hiroshima and to stay in WFC. We all know that many of these guests expressed their appreciation in their emails that you gave them a strong message of Hiroshima, through your everyday dedication.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to both of you who fulfilled such an important role in the Center.

Just like the peaceful smile of "Hina Dolls" which we saw, when we walked around the traditional row of houses and streets of Takehara, on our Friday class trip, we hope to keep our desire for peace. We want to express our sincere gratitude to Pauline & Don, who taught us such precious feelings.

Remembering Yoshiko Sakuma



In remembrance of a wonderful friend, Yoshiko Sakuma

WFC members are still mourning the loss of Yoshiko Sakuma who died on February 25, 2007 from a subarachnoid hemorrhage. She was 73 years young.

A beautiful Christian memorial service was held for her with 20 members of WFC and over 100 of her friends. Many former directors also expressed their sympathy to her family and directly to WFC. Her family received over 300 messages of condolence and we continue to learn more about her from fellow students and friends.

WFC members are all aware of her contributions with the Thursday morning class, the Translation Group, Peace Park guides, Peace Choir, Peace Seminar and Yu-Ai Committee. We also learned that she was a president of Hiroshima YWCA, graduated from Tokyo Women's College and taught English at Junior or senior high school. She lived in the USA for a year when her husband, a university professor, was sent there. She was a very humble person and many people did not know of her many activities for the YWCA, Article 9 Association as well as WFC and many other activities. We believe she was a WFC active member since 1995.

We also learned that she was one of the English translators called "Heart" that translated the book entitled "Rainbow Village", the story modeled after Jessica Reynolds. I'm sure as time goes on we will discover much more about this gentle Christian lady who has given so much of herself to the work of peace in many ways unknown to us.

Visit to Yeoul Korean Church

By Masako Kido

On February 4, 2006, eight people from Yeoul Korean Church visited the World Friendship Center. They also visited my home to experience a traditional tea ceremony in the Japanese culture for the first time. They were 3 adults and 5 students of various ages, 1 from senior high, 3 from junior high, and one from elementary school.

Mrs. Kato and her daughter in the first grade of junior high school helped to serve tea. We talked in English, Korean, and Japanese during and after the tea ceremony. The two hours passed very quickly with a warm atmosphere.

The leader Rev. Oh told us, "I will invite you to Korea next year, please come over to Korea." Last November, he gave us an invitation to visit Korea. Therefore, Mrs. Kato, her daughter and I visited Korea from January 20 to 23.^f

In the afternoon of January 20, we arrived at Incheon Airport from Hiroshima by Asiana airline. Rev. Oh and a member of his church met us at the airport and drove us to the city of Seoul. After visiting Keifuku Palace and the Old Palace Museum, we eight people had a Korean dinner. Then we visited the biggest bookstore in Seoul City and we were very surprised to see many Japanese books displayed there. Finally, we took a night sightseeing bus tour of Seoul City. We stayed in one host family home. The floor of their house is made of Ondoru, a floor heater making it very warm. Mr. & Mrs. Kim are both learning Japanese and watching NHK broadcast by television.

On Sunday morning, January 21, we visited Rev. Oh's church to attend the Sunday service. After lunch, we visited an old shopping area with the students who visited my home. It was very impressive to watch the Korean traditional music and dance. We saw three kinds of Koto performed with three different tools.

After breakfast on January 21 we visited the Comfort women's facility in Kyokidou, Koushu. We drove slowly without chains on the piled snow road. Visiting the Comfort women's facility made

my heart ache as Japanese. At lunch we had a bowl of buckwheat dumpling. I had never eaten buckwheat dumpling before and the taste was very fresh. From 3 to 5 o'clock, we had a meeting with the members of World Christian Frontiers (WCF), a peace group. We talked about peace and I also told them about Barbara Reynolds and the history of WFC. After supper we visited the office of Korean Anabaptist Center (KAC), where we discussed the next Korean PAX in April in Hiroshima.

Early in the morning on January 23, Mr. Kim from the host family took us to Incheon Airport. Our trip to Korea was a short one, but it was very meaningful. The students who visited my home helped us to go shopping, and the other members also helped us when they were available. I was very glad that I could see all of the members and their family, and that we could widen this important international exchange. In closing, I would like to express my warm appreciation for our host family for their wonderful hospitality.



Kido-san leads a group of three Japanese on a friendship exchange visit to Korea

Home Away From Home

(From Page 2)

this small organization, with one paid staff employee, can reach out to so many people in so many areas.

One final thought. We learned that the most important asset we take back home with us is the friendship of our extended family at WFC.

So, as your outgoing directors, we will not say farewell. **See You Again!**

WFC Translation Group

By Hisano Hatamoto



Translation Group plays an important role in WFC

The Translation Group of WFC has a history of about 15 years. We meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

We have translated various kinds of stories, including books about A-bomb survivors, picture books, a story of Barbara Reynolds, and many stories about peace education and stories for Hiroshima Peace Calendar. Some of the books were tough and took us a few years to translate, such as:

“Chinese A-bomb Survivors, Never Healing Trauma” (A story of Chinese imprisoned survivors who were forcibly taken to Hiroshima),

“Written Monument” (Testimonies that 72 A-bombed elderly people in Mutsumi-en, a Hiroshima A-bomb nursing home, spoke about their A-bomb experiences, their lives

WFC Home Page

Do you have internet access? If so, you can view our WFC home page, including the posting of our Yu-Ai newsletters and other significant activities of WFC. We welcome your comments at: wfchirosima@nifty.com.

Thank you to Translators of this issue: , Mieko Yamashita, Michiko Yamane, Takako Hiramoto, Sachiko Hiraoka, Shuko Yoshimura, Masako Kido and Hisano Hatamoto. Also to Editors Naomi Kurihara and Don Hess.

after the A-bomb and sentiments for their families),

“Floating Lantern” (Stories of the A-bombed students and teachers at National Elementary School), “The Child of Hiroshima” (A-bomb survivors’ stories written by Hiromu Morishita, one of the WFC’s directors, and the others).

Each of our group members takes a turn being in charge of some pages and translates them at home. She prints out her assignment for the other members. She recites both Japanese and English, and the other members check and discuss them. Needless to say, the most helpful person is the Director, who suggests revisions and has comments that are always to the point. Without the Director’s help, we cannot accomplish our work.

The book we are now translating is “Ishibumi”, which were written by the bereaved families at Hiroshima Prefectural Second Boys’ Middle School. We are now in the last stage and before long, we can send our translations to “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Memorial Collection” at Wilmington College, Ohio, as we always do after finishing our work.

Though our volunteer work is inconspicuous, we feel happy to be able to introduce many precious stories to the world which we hope will be a help to world peace.

We would like to express our gratitude to Don and Pauline, the Directors of World Friendship Center, who have given great and valuable help to us.



Afternoon singing with the PAX members from Korea .

Other Deaths

Mr. Morikawa

We are also sad to report that Mr. Morikawa, our landlord passed away on February 17, 2007 after several months in the hospital. He was 90 years old and his memory began to fail the last few years. He suffered from several physical ailments and had been on oxygen. He died peacefully in his sleep. Morishita, Sora, Kono, Naomi, Pauline and Don attended the funeral service and flowers were sent from WFC. It was a beautiful Buddhist service with many attendees.

Marie Ebersole

We are sad to report the news of Marie Ebersole's death. She and her husband, John, served at WFC in 1989 for a short time to fill in when needed. When they returned to the U.S. they helped the American Committee to prepare the Yu Ai for mailing. Marie had been at Timbercrest Nursing Home in the dementia area for several years. John previously died of cancer. We know that many long time members of WFC would remember them. This is all the information on her death available to us at this time.

Reflections of Guests

By Stan Roberts

I have been in lovely Japan for nearly two weeks now, with one week remaining on my itinerary. I put Hiroshima in the middle of the trip for geographic reasons. That I planned to visit at all raised some "eyebrows, "why?" people would ask. "It must be so depressing!" Though I wasn't sure that I agreed at the time, it was not without some trepidation that I stepped off the skinkansen the other day, my pack heavy with gifts for family and my heart already beginning to sink under the oppressive weight of this wonderful city's very tragic history.

I sent the better part of yesterday in and around Peace Park and the museum. My day began with what eventually became its highlight, a meeting with Kei, a Hibakusha who was sitting in first period math class on that horrible morning. Being both a healthy 16 year old boy (though perhaps diminutive, by his own telling mind you) and studying in a school approximately 1.5 kilometers from the hypocenter... he was able to survive the initial blast with only superficial injuries. He subsequently fled the city, an action which shames him to this day. And this decision, to return to his mother's arms in the country is what spared him the agonizing affects of radiation. An amazing

story and an amazing man, a true hibakusha.

In America, I recall being taught that Hiroshima basically vanished and the photographic evidence lent some credit to that version of the "facts". Kei, and my subsequent tour at the park and museum (which is very well preserved, almost too much information) really brought the agony and profound suffering of life for me. I am no fan of war and believe our practice of indiscriminately carpet bombing the major cities in Japan was also unethical. However, the nature of atomic weapons is such that many of the after effects (primarily from radiation) are very difficult to treat, if they are treatable at all. Did we know that several generations of Japanese would suffer from that day? . Otherwise healthy Hibakusha contracting leukemia or other cancers after years of thinking they were in the clear. Entire families, each with their own rich history, completely vanished.

This is all very very wrong. Sadly, I believe a nuclear conflict today will simply be the end of mankind. To the extent people ask, I will tell them my impressions, though loved ones will hear it regardless of interest.

Williamsburg, VA