

Yu - Ai 友愛 Friendship

The Newsletter of World Friendship Center
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.wfchirosima.net/>
Chairman: Hiromu Morishita Directors: Kent & Sarah Sweitzer

This Special Edition of the Yu-Ai, entitled the **"Ripple Effect"** is dedicated to the World Friendship Center's Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX) and Shudo University Internship, as well as WFC volunteer experiences. Learn more about the positive roles that these opportunities play in individual's lives as we seek to establish a more peaceful and understanding world with each other and within ourselves.

Some evenings, as Sarah and I sit on the bench next to the Tenma-gawa, we watch the "ripple effect" on the water's surface as waves ripple to the banks and back, to and fro, long after a boat has passed. For those that may arrive after the boat has disappeared from sight, they can only imagine what might have produced the waves that still continue. Philosophers, Economists, Physicists, Historians, Artists and others have sometimes used the metaphor "the Ripple Effect" to describe the in-direct relationship between "cause and effect" for sources ranging from inspiration to physical phenomenon.

Many of the relationships between people of the WFC and their life experiences are connected by "ripples" from past events and relationships from long ago or as recently as yesterday. Here are some of their stories interwoven, layer upon layer, as this month's Yu-Ai unfolds, and creates more "ripples" for our readers to appreciate and share about the extended mission of the World Friendship Center, Hiroshima, Japan.



I have been living in Hiroshima now for almost twenty years and have, inevitably, thought, read, and heard a lot about peace and peace-related issues. This learning about peace has been largely through Japan and from a Japanese perspective. Recently, though, through a Korean-sponsored event in Hiroshima, I have come to realize that thinking and reading and hearing may mostly serve to add to "head knowledge", and that even this may be filtered so that it confirms prejudices and leads to a position of simply wanting to prove that we are right and others wrong. For peace to change our attitudes, to challenge our beliefs and prejudices, and to change our behavior, we may need to forgive or apologize, or to witness or experience forgiveness for ourselves. I feel that

as an individual, as a teacher, and as a father and husband, I would benefit from, and be able to benefit others, through this exchange experience.

Can an individual make a difference? If we consider the various people who have affected our lives for good, this is a reflection of the positive power of individuals to make a difference. As individuals we have the power to choose how to respond to a slight or hurt, to offer apologies or forgiveness, and to reach out in friendship or compassion. Many of these choices are not cost-free, but even choosing to do what we feel is right in the face of whatever cost it entails conveys a powerful message that we can choose to exercise this freedom. Even our faces are not fixed in a frown, a scowl, or a smile; the expression on our face exemplifies the way in which we as individuals can choose to make a difference, for bad or good, in the world around us. In these and many other ways individuals can, and do, make a difference.

I did not take part in any peace-related activities before coming to Hiroshima, but over much of the past twenty years I have been involved in three types of activities that I feel promote peace in some way. One activity is helping with proofreading atom bomb-related writing, such as radiation survivors' testimonies or guides to the experience of Hiroshima. This activity has been done mostly through Hiroshima YMCA and Hiroshima Interpreters for Peace (HIP). A second activity has been through participation in the local activities of Amnesty International: supporting and promoting the protection, or restoration, of the human rights of people threatened with or experiencing torture, unjust imprisonment or other inhumane treatment. A third activity has been the leading of a small Bible Study group for Christians and non-Christians in Hiroshima. Through our study, we seek to learn from the "Prince of Peace" and to understand what it is to love and to forgive, both through our reading and as a practical necessity for this diverse group, as we work to resolve or accept differences, to forgive hurts, and to go forward in faith.

Last year, after an Amnesty International meeting held at the WFC, **Jim Ronald**, an English professor at Shudo, who wrote the above and I began talking about the possibilities of a **Shudo University Student Internship** in partnership with the WFC. Out of those discussions an 80 hour plus internship for our first interns, **Kazue Tamaru** and **Yasuyo Shimamura** was created, resulting in an intensive learning experience for both interns along with students, members and Riji of the WFC. 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. They both highlighted their experiences with the WFC for the Riji as well as their internship report at Shudo University on October 25th, 2008. Kazue Tamaru wrote the following bio and essay as a member of the PAX Korea 2008 experience, as her experiences with WFC began to create new "ripples" within her life. **Photo: Kent Sweitzer, Yasuyo san & Kazue san, Shudo University – WFC Interns.**



My name is Kazue Tamaru. I am 21 years old. I have lived in Hiroshima from early childhood. I am a Hiroshima Shudo University student third grade. I will do my internship in the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima in September. My major is the International Politics on the Faculty of Law with an emphasis on Peace Studies.

The reason why I am interested in Peace Studies is because I have had many opportunities to think about peace since childhood. My grandmother is an A-bomb survivor in Hiroshima and she has told me about her experiences from the atomic bomb. When she tells me her story she sheds tears. I also studied about peace in elementary school and junior high school, so I have had a continuing interest in world peace since I was a child.

I have two motivating reasons for applying for the Korean PAX 2008 opportunity – first, I would like to learn more about Korean and Japanese history. For the last three years in the university, I studied about world history, war, and global affairs and so on. I also studied about Korea. I learned about Japan’s military negative side in World War II, and the shocking treatment and atrocities committed against Koreans.

Secondly, I would like to know much more about the country of Korea. I have some friends who are Korean-Japanese or those that have a Korean father. Additionally, there is a Korean high school in Hiroshima. If I understand more about the Korean culture, I think I will be able to have even friendlier relations with Korean people.

My dream is to be a teacher. If I can be a teacher, I think that I have to tell students the accurate and uncensored history of what happened. One of the famous novelists, George Santayana, said “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it”. I don’t have the actual experience of war, but I would like to tell the past, so we do not have to repeat it.

Another Hiroshima Shudo University classmate that joined Korean PAX 2008 is Sun Hi Lee, a Korean student living in Japan and studying English. She writes:

I have applied for the World Friendship Center Korean PAX 2008 program because I want to learn more about peace-making, and also want to contribute to building friendships between Korea and Japan. I have studied about some of the history between Korea and Japan, the atomic bombings of Japan and peace building and peace education in Hiroshima, which is an international city dedicated to peace. 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. I feel that the **Korean PAX 2008** experience (**Above Photo: 1st row L-R: Chizuko san, Sekiguchi san, Sun Hyi and Kazue san; 2nd row L-R: Sho san, Kono san, Aya Ono and Jim Ronald**) is an opportunity for learning a great deal from personal relationships as well as viewing historical documented events.



I feel that the **Korean PAX 2008** experience (**Above Photo: 1st row L-R: Chizuko san, Sekiguchi san, Sun Hyi and Kazue san; 2nd row L-R: Sho san, Kono san, Aya Ono and Jim Ronald**) is an opportunity for learning a great deal from personal relationships as well as viewing historical documented events.

We need to understand the past history of Korea and Japan in order to build on our present relations and work toward the future. The atomic bombing of Japan and the conflicts between Japan and Korea are major tragedies - we should learn that we can never allow such horrors to be repeated. I think that it is important for each and every person to have a historical perspective of why events unfolded the way they did. Our horizons need to be expanded and our opinions enlightened by reaching a deeper understanding of history. As we do this, our exchanges will continue to evolve and our relationships will become deeper and stronger. We need to understand each other and respect each other while building the ties of a stronger Korea-Japan friendship. I think that it is often easier to establish friendly relations through people that have a genuine interest in knowing each other. I am committed to knowing more about the history between Korea and Japan.

The fourth Shudo University participant in Korean PAX 2008 is ***Sho Uemura***, Senior, Faculty of Law (International Politics). Her application essay follows:

I want to do whatever I can to make the world a better place while also being a Hiroshima Shudo University student. That is why I decided to apply for the PAX 2008 Korea Program. Since I came to Hiroshima from another prefecture and entered a university here, I have been earnestly involved in various activities and have been looking for additional ways in which I might be able to contribute to the world.

I have been an active member of AIESEC, an NPO organized exclusively by college students. Its vision is to realize a society where peace prevails and one's potential can be fulfilled. Its activities include coordination of overseas internship programs and cultivation of human resources for internship related businesses, students, young people and communities. By taking part in this organization, I have found fulfillment in the activities, while believing that I am maturing along with other young people, and together we are making the world a better place.

I have taken part in many events for peace. I was managing staff for "Peace Candle", a movement to display candles around the A Bomb Dome while praying for peace, as well as for "Peace Summit", a college campus program open to citizens of all ages. The overall theme for this essay might be centered on "What an individual can do"; I believe it is to work on one's activities and studies within one's own personal view for peace while accompanied by enthusiasm and ambition. Also, I think it is important for us to exchange ideas with many people in different position and with those that have different philosophies, and put what we believe are the best of those ideas into practice. That is what I have been trying to do for myself.

Through this PAX to Korea, I would like to reconsider and re-evaluate what I can do, and what I really want to do for the world while being a student from Hiroshima. I am also interested in Japan-Korea relationships, 38 degrees of latitude, Yasukuni Shrine and the Takeshima Island issues. I would like to find out firsthand what Koreans are thinking and feeling. I want to share ideas and convey my thoughts as a Japanese, as a college student and as a citizen of Hiroshima.

I am committed to learning all I can during the PAX 2008 program to Korea and hope that my involvement is good for the group and enhances Japan's relationships with Korea.

The PAX Korean 2008 team also included three (3) individuals with a long history of WFC associations and PAX Team experiences – here are their stories with long lasting “ripples” included:

Toshiko Kono writes an essay entitled, the Beginning of an Era of Hope:

Recently my friend showed me pictures of her son’s wedding. Next to the tall and handsome groom, a smart and charming bride was seated wearing a beautifully embroidered scarlet traditional Korean dress (Chima chokoli). My friend smiled convincingly saying “Chima chokoli looks best on her. She is three years older than her husband, which is the same as my husband and I. So they will surely get along with each other.” The grandfather of the bride came to Japan; her parents acquired Japanese nationality and got Japanese names. She is the third Korean generation living in Japan.

So much has changed. In the past, Japan respected China and Korea as mentors and learned politics, economics, culture and religion from those countries. Even in Hiroshima Prefecture, we can find historical landmarks that recognize past relationships and associations with Korean missions. However, because of Japanese national policy, the war broke out between the two countries, which caused mutual hatred and lack of trust. That was a sad age.

Now I am positive that a new relationship between the two countries is starting and it is the beginning of a hopeful phase. Recently, Korean singers and Korean dramas are appearing on Japanese TV programs. If friendships between individuals are encouraged and spread, this can create a powerful and significant force for building a foundation of peace.

I have a strong desire to create meaningful and lasting friendships with the Korean people through the Japan- Korean PAX 2008 program.

Yoshio Sekiguchi, from Nagasaki and an alumnus from an earlier PAX team visit to the US in 1982, shares the following with traces and memories back to his early childhood. Sekiguchi san wrote in an earlier correspondence that he still felt “guilty while remaining silent when Japanese youngsters would tease Korean children” He wanted to go to Korea and personally apologize for not being stronger when he was young.

Hello, I am happy to meet you directly in your country, and talk about those terrible experiences before, during and after the Pacific War. Let’s examine the underlying reasons and make sure that our countries will never repeat the same atrocious conduct ever again.

From now on I would persuade Japanese people that we must confess our historical responsibility even if many say we had done nothing wrong; often saying we just had to obey the orders that were given to us. Almost always people would not admit being responsible since we were quite ignorant of the facts.

My mission must be very hard, yet I have to do it, as God asks me to follow the higher authority, that is above only earthly Power. The true way we should follow is given through us only when we ask God earnestly through the inner voice, or conscience.

I am weak though, I am sure I would be encouraged by your warm friendship. I am looking forward to meeting you and want to help make our future full of promise and possibilities. May God bless you and everyone.

Love and respect, Yoshio Sekiguchi, in Nagasaki

Chizuko Taguchi's story traces her and her parent's history with the Korean people.

I was born in 1943 in Korea. My father went to Korea at the age of 21, and married a 20 year-old girl from his neighboring hometown village in Japan. Their parents had talked and arranged the marriage. The girl went to her would-be-groom in Korea in 1939, having never met. My sister was born two years before me.

The Japanese government had intended to make the Japan nation strong by expanding its territory and showing its existence to the world. Sending three million civilians to China, Manchuria, Taiwan and Korea was part of the Japanese government's ambitious expansion.

For 13 years of my father's stay in Korea, during which he was transferred five times, he was engaged mainly in guarding the area along the Yalu, which separated the border of China and Korea. Every month his superiors came and each time a welcome party was held in the evening. Everybody, including Korean staff family members, worked hard preparing and serving food and sake. The Japanese and Koreans enjoyed working together, teaching one's own cooking to each other and so on.

After Japan's defeat, our personal situation changed dramatically. In a single house consisting of only three rooms plus an entrance hall, a total of 15 people from four Japanese families lived shoulder to shoulder for over one year, longing for repatriation. To make a living, my father went door to door chopping wood while my Mother sold her possessions and her home made tofu. Shortly after our repatriation had been scheduled to take place within two months, my father suddenly developed peritonitis due to a ruptured appendix. The Japanese and nearby Koreans together carried him on a wooden door into a hospital and his life was saved. He was advised to undergo another operation once he returned home. We finally headed for Japan on October 1, 1946. It took us 23 desperate and trying days, passing over the 38th parallel which included transport by cow cart and a train, to arrive in Sasebo. My mother had me, by then three years old, on her back, while taking my 5-year-old sister by her hand. The Koreans were all very kind and good neighbors to the last minute, sharing their food with us. Even now, my parents get emotional when they recall how warm-hearted the Koreans were and how much help they extended to the Japanese.

In the middle of the 18th century, the European Powers advanced to Asia one after another, demanding that countries be open to foreign powers for commerce and trade. In order not to be left behind, the Japanese government dispatched a diplomat, Koki Yoshida to Korea for negotiation. According to his report, "Korean people are good-hearted, value faith and honor reason. Their disposition is the most beautiful among the Asians." His impression with the Koreans was exactly the same as my parents. Mr. Koki Yoshida said that Japan, Korea and China must be united when negotiating with Europe. If his idea had been respected and taken into the national policies, the history of development and peace in Asia would have been very different.

In Korea, four million people were affected by the Japanese colonization. They were deprived of their own land and mandated to move to Manchuria, Japan, Siberia or China under forceful conditions. Fifty thousand Koreans who came to Hiroshima seeking a better living suffered doubly due to the A-bombing. The agony they experienced was beyond description.

Five years have passed since the beginning of the Peace Ambassadors Exchange with Korea (PAX Korea). The Koreans have always been nice and friendly to us. Having heard their sincere and serious attitudes for peace making, I often feel particularly ashamed, being a Japanese, when I think of Japan's greedy policies during the war and also the inadequate postwar treatment of Koreans.

I'm very grateful for being given this opportunity to visit Korea. I'd like to confront the issues of Japan's and Korea's history directly, and try my best to strengthen our friendship and build on our mutual respect and understanding of what will make a more peaceful world. My parents' wish motivates me to move forward toward reconciliation as we continue to "build bridges of friendship".

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

She writes: Last year, I attended " '07 ISRAEL - PALESTINE - JAPAN YOUTH EXCHANGE for PEACE "

This was the project that high school students from Israel and Palestine studied about Nagasaki, a city that was bombed by a nuclear weapon and lost everything, while experiencing the horrible cruelty of war and eventually established the dignity of peace. Japanese high school student who never experienced war shared with people who were born in conflict and tried to find "common-ground" about what can we do



for peace. In the early part of the project, both Israel and Palestine students not only did not try to listen to each other's opinion but also built barriers. Fortunately, two weeks later, they found an answer that "forgiving what has happened and to come closer to each other is the first step for peace." I had thought that I knew something about the Israel-Palestine conflict, but once I heard their grief in their own voices. I couldn't stop shedding tears. I continue to feel sorry for those born and raised in conflict. **Photo: Chizuko, Aya, Keisen (Host mother's mother-in-law)**

In my school, there are many people who have an interest in peace education so I studied about Japan's deeds in Asia, including "comfort woman" and massacres. I now belong to a Peace Study Club and am well acquainted with the fact that some Koreans don't like Japan and Japanese people and some of them have bruises not only on their bodies but within their hearts.

Israel and Palestine students taught me that we can create peace by talking with each other and that gave me the courage to talk with Koreans as well. I know it is difficult for me to understand many others completely but I do know there is always the chance that we personally can become friends. Through the Peace Ambassador Exchange to Korea I hope to really connect with some Koreans and become friends with them.

Early in the phases of planning the Korean PAX exchange, the WFC received an e-mail from **Mary Cox**, one of the four PAX members from the US in August of 2007. Her e-mail, complete with continuing "ripples" from her earlier PAX to Japan 2007 experience, reads as follows:

Hi Kent and Sarah!

I've been meaning to check in with you for a while now. I am interested in hearing how you are doing, and how the work of the WFC is going.

I will be a senior this fall at MC and plan to graduate with my bachelor's in Peace Studies. I am excited for this last year of college and have many plans for student engagement in peace and justice issues! I also wanted to share with you that I have recently given two more presentations about my trip to Japan. The county I grew up in offers a Peace Scholarship to 3 high school seniors who submit the best essay about peace. A couple months ago I was invited to be the guest speaker at this scholarship event. I decided to speak about "peace-making in college" since they were all heading to college soon. I shared stories, details and pictures about several ways that I have been involved with peacemaking since I have come to Manchester (one of them being my trip to Japan), and I encouraged the students to find their own ways of peace-making once they got to their colleges. I think I really reached some people, hopefully the students especially, but some parents talked to me afterwards and were close to tears - they were so receptive and sincere in their gratitude for my encouragement, energy and dedication to peace. I think the whole experience was also very uplifting for me because I took the time to look back at my college experiences and notice that I have been working hard. Sometimes you don't realize that until you get the chance to recap it all to someone else.



The second event, just last month was a local Rotary International meeting here in North Manchester. This time my presentation was dedicated completely to my experience in Japan, and afterwards I got to speak with some of the members. One person I recall said that she knew so little about atomic bombs and nuclear issues before my presentation and that she would like to learn even more, so I was able to encourage her and give her some ideas of how to do so. Another lady, upon finding out that I was a peace studies student opened up about her own experiences with war dating back to WWII.

It was a very special honor to engage with those two groups, and I thank you, Kent and Sarah, as well as the whole WFC group for contributing to my experiences of peace-making. I hope that sharing about those two recent presentations I gave might be encouraging and uplifting for you and the board to know about. Feel free to share this email with whoever it is appropriate. Keep in touch, Mary

We wrote back to Mary, some excerpts which are as follows: Thank you for the wonderful and informative e-mail. We know that it takes time and energy to communicate with others what you have learned and what you are observing about the world. Often though, sharing your time can make a real difference especially if others know they are not alone in their own journeys for seeking peace. We are now building on the PAX trip to Nagasaki by including two people from there in the PAX Korea 2008 program which takes place in September- a total of eight (8) including Shudo University Students, World Friendship Center representatives, and Nagasaki. A new Peace Camp venture in China for Chinese, Japanese and Korean children was unfortunately canceled due to the earthquake - however, we converted portions of the program to Earthquake aid for China and Cyclone relief for Myanmar - all firsts for the WFC.

As we were finishing the layout for the Yu-Ai another e-mail from Mary Cox arrived. Again, our lives and experience keep creating positive connected waves of hope with peaceful messages. Mary writes:

Hi Kent and Sarah, I thought you and the WFC might be interested: I've been able to arrange a visit to Manchester College by an atomic bomb survivor through the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and their exhibition tours. In October, Ms. Masuoka (from Chicago) will be speaking on campus, and from October 27th to December 1st, 2008, an atomic bomb poster exhibition will be on display in Manchester College's Link Gallery. Thanks for your support, WFC. You may not feel like you've had anything to do with these particular events, but my memories and experiences from my visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki are strong and give me motivation to work as part of the anti-nuclear movement. I wish you all the best, Mary

And the latest e-mail from Mary Cox- Kent and Sarah!! I've been trying to get some mayors to register with Mayors for Peace (2020 Vision), and my hometown Mayor of Kokomo just signed today! I am so excited, and I wanted to let you know about it! Over 2,400 cities world-wide are participating which now includes Kokomo, Indiana. Thank you Mary from WFC!!

Prior to the Korean PAX Team leaving on September 18th a "Send-Off" Party was held at the WFC the night before. A week later the PAX Team members returned safely to their homes in Nagasaki and Hiroshima with many stories to tell and inspiration and plans unfolding and rippling for the next the Peace Ambassador Exchange from Korea to Japan. Here are some excerpts from the Korean PAX 2008 participants:

*It isn't just history. More than that, it is a record of men's abuse of women – and I am a man, too. The visit to the Sodaemun Prison Museum was similar – at first I just saw the displays as showing the infliction of cruel, sadistic acts by Japanese people on Korean people (nothing to do with me...). But it made me feel sick, and then ashamed, partly because the perpetrators were Japanese and the victims were their Korean brothers and sisters, but also because the torture and savagery we could see recorded there is what people do to people, what we do to each other. **Jim Ronald***

Photo: At Freedom Bridge, DMZ (Chizuko, Jim, Kazue, Toshiko)



*The DMZ is a highly restricted and heavily guarded area. I have never felt and experienced so much tension while living in Japan. ...on the Panmunchom side of the DMZ there is a small change in elevation on the North Korea side of the border. I thought that this difference had a much deeper and serious meaning. I learned about Japan's military atrocities that were committed in Korea. Indignation and sorrow toward these past acts surged up within me during our time at the House of Sharing and the Seodaemn Prison Museum. **Kazue Tamaru***

Photo: Conference Bldg, DMZ (Toshiko, Kazue)



Korean PAX 2008 gave me an ideal opportunity to know myself. I was amazed by the courage of those who started the 3.1 Independence Movement under Japanese Colonialism. I was saddened to know that many Koreans who organized on behalf of the Korean nation and country were put in prison, tortured and killed. It is hard to confront such a cruel history, but I continue to realize that it is important to know the historical story between Korea and Japan, not only for myself, but also those who dedicated and sacrificed their own lives for justice. Now I firmly believe that conflicts in the world could disappear if more and more of the world's people have a desire for peace and can do something positive for peace.....one step at a time.

Sun Hyi Lee

I, along with Korean PAX 2008 visited the DMZ. Today, even after 55 years after the Korean War ended in 1953, there is nervousness while being there. During this visit I had a drastically different opinion about the potential for Unification between the North and the South. While shopping, I asked my host family and a shop owner if they had a desire for unification. "Do you think Koreans have the power and desire to accept North Korea?" I asked. The women answered, "I think it is difficult right now. But South Korea is moving forward with preparations. It seems more feasible than before." I will remember these conversations about people's dreams for connecting between others across borders and with those that were once considered enemies.

Sho Uemura

Photo: House of Sharing (8 Korean PAX 2008 members and Chun Hwi Han, Yoon-Seo, Kyung Jung Kim, Ippei Murayama)



When we visited the Museum of the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery and saw the cruel history of the Japanese military, I wanted to cover my eyes. As sexual slaves, local Korean women were forced to work for Japanese soldiers who were sent to the battle fields. I even thought that the same kinds of detestable situations which happened in war, all over the world, should be exhibited in the same museum. If many people know about the tragedies that occur as a result of war, there may be even stronger resistance to preventing wars from beginning. I believe I can be a stronger peace advocate because I now better understand some of the traumatic effects of war, including those against women.

Toshiko Kono

Photo: House of Sharing (Aya, Chizuko, Sun Hyi, Kazue, Chun Hwi Han, Sex-slave survivor, Toshiko)



The words of a young Japanese volunteer, working in the House of Sharing, stuck in my heart and conscious. "It's wrong to call them Japanese Military comfort women. They are sexual slavery victims who were deprived of their womanhood and raped by Japanese soldiers. Why did they have to tolerate such detestable situations?" Even the Japanese soldiers should have remained dedicated to their beloved families left behind in Japan, including mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. I would like to truly apologize to the victimized Harumoni (Grandmothers) for their suffering. I can still make an effort to persuade the next generations of younger people including those that are indifferent to the past and the present, to consider what a tremendous negative impact a nation's military may have on people's lives whether in their own country or another country.

Yoshio Sekiguchi

Photo: Jim, Seo Jung Ki (Host), Sekiguchi



KAC (Korean Anabaptist Center) was not a building but a group of people involved in a rather small, yet world changing network of peace making activities. What was very impressive for me was that most of those involved were young and active people with interests in Peace Education, publishing books, Peace exchange missions, internships, various mediation and conflict –resolution studies and programs for women. KAC invited the WFC to join with them in a joint study entitled "Northeast Asia Region Peace Building Project" which could help anchor future exchanges with Korea and other countries. This would also give us the opportunity to invite guests to stay in our homes which gave all of us great joy while in Korea.

Chizuko Taguchi Photo: Grace & Peace Church Worship Service Church Members



I know that many Asian people think that the use of the Atomic Bomb was necessary to end the war, no matter how cruel and inhumane it was. Before visiting Korea, I wondered why many visitors from Korea that had visited the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima didn't seem to understand the horror of the A-bomb. After learning more about the Japanese military aggression in Korea, I came to better understand their feelings, although as a third generation A-bomb survivor I abhor the use of the A-bomb. As a sign that we have many things in common with more of the world, many Asian people have become opposed to nuclear weapons of all kinds and think that they should never be used to resolve conflicts of any kind.

Aya Ono



Photo: Seodaemun Prison Top-Left 8 PAX members, Jae Young Lee, Choi An Jin (host of Chizuko & Aya) Seo Jung Ki (host of Jim & Sekiguchi), Jeon Sung Gyl (host of Toshiko & Sun Hi), Lee Hyung Gon (Father of Jae Young)

In 1958 Barbara Reynolds and her family sailed the Phoenix into the troubled waters used for nuclear weapon testing. Her actions and witness created waves, headlines, and inspiration for a world hungry for peace. Can you still feel the "ripples" in the waters and in our lives?

Photo: Freedom Bridge, DMZ, Korea



Volunteers at the World Friendship Center can feel the “ripples” too – including Students, Riji, Interns and others. While Kent and Sarah went to Wisconsin in June to attend their daughter Erica’s wedding, WFC volunteers came together to help keep the WFC Guesthouse operating for visitors.

Takaaki Kanda wrote some of his thoughts about the experience in his story entitled – **“The Night Shift at WFC”**.

*While the Volunteer Directors, Kent and Sarah went back to the states for about two weeks, I volunteered to be the night coordinator and stayed for 3 and ½ nights at the WFC. Although Kent & Sarah had told many of us what to expect, I was still quite anxious about some things. I thought I might need to talk with a guy who spoke English with an accent and I might not be able to understand him very well. **Photo: Tetsuyuki san and Shiraogawa san with the Lindenberg family from Sweden.***



But I didn’t have to worry so much. The assignment turned out to be quite enjoyable overall and I met people from all over the world while staying at the WFC. On my first night, which was Thursday the 12th of June, I met a woman from Finland, a man from France and the following morning I was introduced to a couple from Australia.

During my second night assignment, a large group of students and teachers from Hawaii were here (8 students and two teachers). That day they visited the Mazda Museum and then they were planning on attending the Hiroshima Carp game that night. Some guests certainly have a full agenda while they visit Hiroshima.

Since there were 10 guests for one night, breakfast was served in two groups the following morning- one at 7:45 AM and one at 8:30 AM. However, three guests that were to eat in the second breakfast group decided they needed to get an earlier start. I checked with Miho san and Chizuko san about an earlier breakfast for three more – immediately plans were made for the three to eat Japanese style on the floor. Everyone was satisfied.

Also joining me on Saturday the 14th was Shiraogawa san (Kuniaki) along with his wife and Tamiyuki Okahara and Masayuki Yoshitake san – both stayed two nights. I found that the WFC was rather cozy with guests here and missed my place in the country which does not have so many sounds of the city (sirens, cars). I do have great respect for everyone involved – for guests that come to Hiroshima from all over the world and stay here, to volunteer directors and WFC volunteers for the work they do and the time that they donate to WFC. It was a good experience for me to personally meet guests from all around the world

Part of Barbara Reynolds vision over forty years ago was that guests from around the world would have the opportunity to gather in Hiroshima and exchange some ideas and thoughts with local Hiroshima citizens. Can you still feel the “ripples” through the lives of guests and volunteers sharing their experiences?