

友愛

Yu - Ai **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: Ron & Barb Siney

The Report of the Exchange Program at the Peace Camp Moe Kakegawa

During this camp I had many opportunities to speak my opinions about peace and to communicate with Chinese and Korean children by using physical expressions. Every day we spent half the day on this activity. The most impressive discussion was when our group had a presentation on "Conflict". In our group there were two Korean children. One of them, a Korean girl, used the word, "Japan vs. Korea" in the presentation. When I saw the expression, I felt very sad. From the Korean's view point, we Japanese are still their opponent.



Frontrow (L-R) Hajim, Yeram, Akitsugu Kakegawa, Hyo-un, Moe Kakegawa, Yuki Sakata, Karin Morishima, Yejin, Wang Ying
Secondrow(L-R) Victoria, Vicky, Michelle, Claire, Dinah, Kazue Tamaru, Eileen, Thirdrow(L-R) Karen, Jim Ronald, Inhye, Allen, Yoonseo, our lovely nurse!
Fourthrow(L-R) Domin, Van Diesel, Brother Song, Wise, Eric, Mark, Backrow(L-R) Janice, Kim-sensei, Johnson, Krishna Somanah

However, I had a heart-warming experience too. It was when an American apologized about the A- bombs to us Japanese at the end of the peace study program. The American had never experienced the war, but he apologized on behalf of American citizens. I thought it was important, and I felt relieved and happy. At that moment, I really understood Chinese and Korean children's feeling toward the Japanese for the first time, and I started to think we should apologize to them about the "wrong doings" of Japanese during the war time.

According to many Chinese people, they still cannot get rid of their hatred toward the Japanese. Now, I believe that the children who I became good friends with during the camp can understand the present Japanese society and their contemporary Japanese people.

The most fun thing was free time every day. I made many friends in a few days through the free time, even though I could not speak English well. I realized that we can make good friends by using gestures as long as we have a strong desire to communicate or become friends with someone. Since I came back to Japan, I have been exchanging many e-mails with my new friends from this camp.

It was a very precious experience. Thank you very much for this camp. I'd like to study English hard and I wish I could see the Chinese and Korean children again.



(photo: outside activity)



(photo: in a traditional Japanese clothing, *Jinbei*)

Peace Camp **Yuki Sakata**

Before going to China, I was preoccupied with worry over being accepted. It was a peace exchange program and I, being Japanese, did not know how the Chinese and Koreans perceived what Japan's military had done to them during the war. I was afraid I might be blamed for that.

Once in China, however, I found that both the Chinese and Koreans were very kind. When groups were made I saw no other Japanese in my group. I was uneasy, but then they kindly came to speak to me, which was very helpful. In the room too, they were kind enough to ask many questions about Japan. They had a great interest and they taught me a lot about China as well. In our free time; we were together teaching our own languages to each other, playing table tennis or badminton. The Korean members were not so comfortable with English, just like us Japanese. We used our mother tongues mixed with English. We somehow made ourselves understood.

In the morning, we had team building activities such as jumping from tall tree to tall tree or repelling. I was encouraged by their cheers in Japanese, "ganbare!" and felt my challenge rewarded. I learned that, as a group or in pairs, we needed to help each other with collective thinking and discussion to achieve the goal; rope-walking or passing under a net or a "Tarzan rope". At first I did not know what these activities had to do with peace. I came to realize that each giving their own idea and overcoming differences through discussion was a peace making process.

In the afternoon, we had a creativity workshop with peace related themes. We had a discussion about what we should have done when a particular problem had happened; we also did drawing and music making, etc. The Chinese and Koreans had different values and I was surprised to find that the Chinese were so very active. Perhaps that is something we should learn.

For the Culture Night event; Chinese and Koreans had prepared so well, that we were able to learn their cultures and histories. We Japanese regretted a little about our own preparation. In the Talent Show I read poems. While I wanted to tell about Hiroshima's tragedy, in the beginning I was a little worried about their reaction. I had some guilty feeling about what Japan had done in the past. However, they listened to the end and some even made comments of impressions. I was glad that I did it.

On the last day, we all listened to Michael Jackson's "Heal the World" and had the candle night. Although I was uneasy when the camp started, I enjoyed everything as they were all nice people. I am grateful to all of them for accepting me. Parting was not easy. I remember the feeling when we hugged each other with tears in our eyes. I miss them now when I hear "Heal the World."

Many things in China were first time experiences for me. I was anxious at first, but I enjoyed the camp thoroughly and learned a lot. I will remember what I experienced in this trip and in the future want to make the best use of what I have learned.

Participating in the Peace Camp **Karin Morishima**

My friend said, "China is dirty and poor with low cost commodities. I hardly had good images of China before going there". I visited China with images like that.

In Shanghai, I saw Chinese people doing such things we couldn't imagine in Japan. For example, they talked loudly and spit. I felt uneasy; having no idea of how to associate with them, if I should meet those people in the camp.

On the night when I arrived at Shanghai, I walked through the streets and saw poor looking people, as I had imagined. Many sold unthinkably cheap goods on the streets. Next morning, I joined Korean, Canadian and American students. I was used to talking with Canadians and Americans and it was easy to listen to them because of their good pronunciation. I soon became familiar with them. We talked a lot in the bus.

We went to a panda center and saw a good aspect of China. However, on the way to a camping site, the bus broke down. I was surprised because cars made in Japan rarely "conked out". We had to get off the bus and kept waiting on the roadside where cars were passing. I thought a similar case wouldn't occur in Japan. I should be calm and not panic in this situation. I thought later, I had actually had a good experience.

That night we arrived at the camping site much later than expected that night and met Chinese students there. They all looked more ordinary than the people I was expecting. I easily became friendly with them because we shared the same room. They weren't good speakers of English but were soft-hearted. Surprisingly, they had much knowledge of Japan. There were more things that surprised me. A shower, a toilet and a washstand were all in the same room. The windows tilted badly and bugs came in the room. The shower water as well as the toilet water was brown. I was shocked at the lack of cleanliness and cried for wanting to go back to Japan right away. I became aware that Japan, by comparison to China, is a very clean country.

The worst night I had never imagined experiencing finally passed. We went on a hike. A Chinese counselor told us we would be guided to only safe places. How stupid I was to believe her! Snakes seemed to appear at any moment in the mountain. The ground was slippery because it had rained the night before. I slipped twice and walked up and down the steep, slippery and dangerous steps. This was the moment when I made up my mind never to come here again.

There was a person who gave me a helping hand but I couldn't accept the kindness because I had gotten angry with China. More and more I wanted to go back to my home. I felt like dying, because that night, my bed was moldy. We all gathered and continued dancing and singing boring songs that day and the next day, too. I wanted to say that I had enjoyed such things fully in kindergarten.

As Chinese students were forceful and unreserved, Japanese students except for me were moderate. They were much concerned about the Japanese. They had some preconception toward us as we did toward them. For example, "Japanese have much money. We discriminate. We don't think well of Chinese very much, etc." Probably, we couldn't understand their feeling well. I had stayed alone with ten Chinese one night. It's a good experience because I then knew about China and Chinese people much better.

Altogether the Korean students were jolly. They created merry laughter. I spent more time with them. They were interesting and joyful but didn't tell us their culture. They knew about Japan more than Chinese did. Some students said they hoped to come to Japan. Others had come to Japan. We enjoyed talking a lot about "Boys than flowers" and Korean dramas. Surrounded by these people, China was not entirely a bad place to stay.

Two nights before I left the camp, we played our own state's programs. We sang, "The song of a Chinese parasol tree" and presented each of them a folded paper crane and, taught them how to fold a crane. Later, we took some pictures.

All the students cried on the last night. We lit candles in a dark room. We put a candle on our favorite places on the world map. I put a candle among China, Korea and Japan. So did some other people. Then we listened to Michael Jackson and watched a DVD. "Heal the World" is the song that calls out to make a peaceful world. Students' tears ran out of their eyes as they listening to it. I was moved by their pure minds. Though I didn't weep, I shed tears in my mind and was moved. That night, I understood why students participated in this camping program.

When I left China, I felt a little lonely. The Chinese were very gentle and considerate to us. I felt great tug at parting with them, and I expressed my thanks to them and promised to send e-mails. When I was going to part with joyful Korean people at the airport, I became lonely but, told them to come to Japan without fail.

After returning to Japan, I reflected on what I learned at the peace camp. First of all, the difference of human races doesn't matter. Secondly, we shouldn't create our own preconceived image of foreigners. Thirdly, it's important to have concerns for peace. I learned and thought more things. Japanese people may have held bad images toward China and Korea but we must not have a biased view. I didn't have a good image of China and the Chinese. I went there but I couldn't adjust to Chinese culture. However, Chinese people were good-natured. So were Koreans. I think it is important to decide our impression of them after understanding them better.

From now on, I'd like to form friendships with not only Chinese and Koreans but also people from various countries.

Came back from Peace Camp Akitsugu Kakegawa

I learned to understand the importance of "Peace" through the Camp. I think the peaceful surroundings made us have such an opportunity as this. Sorry to say, I could not understand much of the Peace Education Class which was held in English. I should have studied English much harder.

But I could convey what I meant to Chinese and Korean friends not by languages but by body language. And we had a very pleasant time with the greatly enlivened table tennis game.

We became friends with each other and now keep in touch with some of them by e-mail. I really think I want to play a part in the next camp if I have the opportunity.



(above photo: Akitsugu Kakegawa)

2009 Peace Camp Report

Jim Ronald

On 25 July, 2009 (Sunday), the long preparation for the Peace Camp came to an end, and the Camp began. 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. With floods closing the highway and stopping the bus service, wonderful parent drivers got us to Hiroshima just in time to get the flight (delayed over one hour) to Shanghai. The connection to Chengdu in Sichuan, was uneventful – and we were met by Wang Ying, the Chinese coordinator, and Eileen, one of the counselors, and taken to our hotel. It was about 10pm when we ventured out briefly, to see something of the city – but the city had closed and it was raining, so we soon returned to the hotel to sleep. The Korean team (four adults, five children aged 12 to 16) arrived at about 11:30pm.

The next day, we met for an early breakfast in the hotel then left in the rain for the Sichuan Panda Research Center. We saw pandas, some of us more and some fewer – most of the pandas seemed to prefer to be out of the rain and out of sight! Still, we all saw more pandas than we'll probably see in the rest of our lives!

Following this, we went to a nearby restaurant for a memorable feast of Sichuan cooking – about ten different dishes, and most of them very spicy! This was followed by another memorable cultural experience that we would not wish to repeat – a visit to the restrooms! After that, one of the students asked me, "Please let me go home!", and she was only half joking. Or maybe not joking at all! Thankfully, our experiences of toilets for the rest of the trip were much better.

We next had a 3-hour bus ride north-east to Nanchong, extended by two hours when our bus broke down and had to be replaced. But we made the most of it – with self-introductions and songs! All a lot of fun but quite a challenge for our shy Japanese students – and shy counselors!

At Nanchong we met and picked up the Chinese camp participants – nine 14-17 year olds. Some were quiet and not so confident at speaking English – others were very capable English speakers, and very glad of this chance to use the language. The four Krishna and I spoke with told us a lot about their lives (school day from 7am to 10pm!), dreams (to be an interpreter, to be an actor...) and their attitudes towards Japan. One told us that she liked English but that really she was interested in learning Japanese, and had already learned some phrases. Another told us that she had been interested in joining the camp but had hesitated when she heard that there would be Japanese people there. She said she knew what the Japanese had done to the Chinese during and before the war, she knew there had been no proper apology or reparation, 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 to take place.

The bus took us into the Jingshen (?) Mountains, about a 45 minute further drive. It was raining hard – and dark, which saved us from seeing how winding and steep the mountain road was. But we felt it! As we approached the camp site there was a turn that the bus couldn't take, so we all got out and walked the last 15 minutes in the dark and the rain – thankful for the flashlights and umbrellas we had to share.

The camp site was a very impressive-looking mountain lodge with main meeting rooms around a courtyard (where a couple of chickens lived), and a three or four floor wing with bedrooms (with ensuite bathrooms – luxury!). We were assigned rooms: two-person, two-nationality rooms! Dinner was waiting for us in the dining room, with dishes set at four large round tables. Early on in the camp, participants sat with others of the same nationality, but this became less important as the camp progressed. Sometimes, too, there was a mainly counselor table, but often we just joined whoever was already seated. More Sichuan food, but not much that was spicy – just a couple of the six to eight dishes each meal.

Counselors' meetings took place each evening, mainly with an evaluation of that day's activities, and an explanation of the following day's activities and assigning of roles for these. At this first meeting, we assigned participants to three age-based groups for the week's camp activities. We reminded ourselves that this was a peace camp, not an English camp, and that the various languages available should be used to best accomplish, and least hinder, the goals of the camp.

Each of the four mornings of the camp, from Tuesday 27 July to Thursday 29, we had outdoor activities, managed by Duen, Wang Ying's husband. These were designed to help us learn to rely on each other, and to overcome fears, such as the fear of heights! Some of the activities, such as "Broken Bridge" or repelling down a cliff, were conducted one by one. This gave people waiting a good chance to chat together as we waited.

The afternoon sessions were focused around peace-related themes: Day 1: Peace and Conflict; Day 2: Communication; Day 3: Mutual respect (or Human Rights). Each session started with counselors, or students, introducing key concepts and vocabulary. This was done through skits, with the audience shouting out the words. We got better at doing this through the camp. We then divided into three mainly age-divided groups and did activities such as making and explaining pictures using symbols of peace, making skits or songs, or hearing reports of peace-related activities and then discussing related issues. These were not always easy to do. We had problems of understanding, frustrations at trying to express ourselves, and differing abilities at being willing to risk. As the camp progressed both counselors and students got used to it, and either reduced the reliance on language, or gave more language support as needed.

On Wednesday evening, we had a Culture Night, with each country group doing different performances – a performance of Mulan and a song by the Chinese team, some Tae Kwan Do and traditional dance and drums by the Korean team, and a song

and teaching to make paper cranes in groups by the Japanese team, and some country dancing by the North American counselors team.

Thursday evening included a very moving poem about the atomic bomb and forgiveness by Yuki Sakata. One of the Chinese students, Linda, had prepared something to say. She talked about her bitterness and hatred of Japanese people because of what they had done to the Chinese in the past. And she said about how through the camp her feelings had changed – and that now glad those feelings were gone, and that instead she had Japanese friends. The Japanese group also stood up to speak. We said sorry for what Japan had done, about our fears that we would not be accepted by the Korean and Chinese participants, and our thanks and relief at everyone’s kindness and warmth. We finished the evening (officially – many students stayed up most of the night chatting!) sitting around a large map of the world, each lighting a candle around the map, then placing our candle somewhere on the map as a prayer for peace. The area between China, Japan and Korea was especially bright with candles and hopes for peace!

The last day we packed, breakfasted and left early, had a smooth drive back to Chengdu, saying goodbye to our new Chinese friends at Nanchong, and our Korean friends at Chengdu Airport. Our return trip, with a night at Shanghai Airport, went smoothly. Many, many thanks to all who supported the peace camp and made it happen. All I can say is that it is worth it. And worth continuing!

Report on Peace Camp in China– August 2009
Were the aims of organizing the Peace Camp realized?
Krishna Somanah (Facilitator in the Peace Camp)



Frontrow(L-R): Choi, Karen, Yoonseo, Janice, Inhye, Johnson, Wang Ying, our nurse
Secondrow(L-R): Kim sensei, Holly, Mark, Eric, Krishna, Wise, Brother Song, Eileen, Kazue
Backrow : Jim Ronald

I think that on the whole the Peace Camp in China was a great success because on the last day all the participants (students and facilitators) agreed that they had all shared an unforgettable experience with one another .The main goal of organizing the Peace Camp was to give the opportunity to students from China, Japan and South Korea to work together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

We all hoped that friendship ties would be developed among the students from the three countries and that the positive outcomes of the Camp would serve as reference for the future, if other Peace Camps would be organized. In that respect, the aim was fully met because all the activities that were organized (physical or intellectual) gave the participants enough opportunity to work together as a team. Even if some of the activities were individual (like climbing a ladder) the participants encouraged one another, and we could all feel that we were behaving as a single united team. The afternoon activities were related to peace – building and all of them were well organized and students could interact with the facilitators in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship – and that, by itself, was a most rewarding experience for all of us.

On the first day of the Camp, we could feel that students from the three countries were not really willing to interact with one another (because of the language and historical contexts, most probably). But as they began to spend more time with one another, all of them became good friends and on the last day; we could see that they were all sad that the Camp was over .

For me, the most rewarding moment of the Camp occurred on the last night we spent there. On that night, all the participants were given the opportunity to express themselves and say what they wanted to say about the Camp. The Chinese students read a long message saying that their feelings about the Japanese had changed completely and that whatever happened during the war had to be forgotten in a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness. That said it all because I felt that the Peace Camp did bring people who were at war with each other in the past together and that the future could be brighter for them if they could spread that sort of message in their respective countries .

From the point of view of the facilitators, it was an enriching experience for all of us because we had the opportunity to work with one another and to learn about each other's culture. So I think that it is an activity that must be organized every year and that we must try to bring more participants to the Camp in the future.

My Peace Camp in China

Kazue Tamaru

On July 25th 2009, I arrived in China. To be honest, I have to say that I didn't have a good image of China. One reason for my joining this camp was that I wanted to get rid of this negative image. In addition, I also wanted to see how Japanese, Chinese and Korean junior and senior high school students would get on together. It was with thoughts like these that I joined the camp.

Arriving in China, I was struck by many differences – how the streets looked, how the people were. The next day when we set off for the camp, we saw many scenes that we wouldn't see in Japan. On our way to the campsite, we stopped at the Panda Center. It was really surprising to see the pandas moving their soft cuddly bodies faster than I could have imagined. We set off again for the campsite. With the bus breaking down, it was getting dark and we still hadn't arrived at the campsite. But thanks to the cheerful lively Chinese and Korean staff, the mood in the bus stayed good. The place where we stayed for the camp was really Chinese! The day following our arrival the peace camp started for good. In general, in the camp we spent the mornings doing activities outside and from the afternoon onwards we were inside doing peace-related activities. To start with, I myself just joined in the activities without really knowing what we were doing. There were activities I hadn't done in Japan or things such as all singing together that I hadn't done for years.

The outdoor activities included things that we would rarely encounter in Japan. Especially on the third and fourth day, doing things such as jumping high up from one plank to another or going down a cliff were things that I'd only seen on television. For someone like me who's not good at heights, doing these things was very scary, but it was very exciting too. I learned to do many things that I wasn't able to do before. We did these accompanied by shouts of "Ja-yo!" or "Highting!" – "You can do it!" in Chinese and Korean. Wang Ying, our Chinese camp leader, encouraged us to do these things, explaining, "You get confidence through doing these things – confidence that you will use later." However, it was interesting to see that this same Wang Ying said, "I can't do this!"

Regarding the activities indoors, at first it was hard to get involved but as we did the activities we began to feel better about doing them. It seemed a very unusual thing to use skits to help us reflect on what peace means, but it was very fresh and impressive. We also drew pictures or sang songs as ways to express words or concepts. We could feel things through different ways of expressing or performing other than speaking. I think these performances are good ways of communicating with people with different languages.

Through this camp I was able to achieve the goals I had when I chose to join the camp: to overcome my prejudices and to witness the junior and senior high school students from the three countries getting along together. First, I really feel I've got rid of my prejudice and discrimination. I felt the Korean team staffs were kind and sensitive because they had previous experience of this type of activity. The Chinese staffs too were kind and fun people. The entire staff was friendly and taught me various things,

they didn't seem to worry about my terrible English, and I had a good time getting along together. Living in Japan I am bound to get impressions from the media or from people, like "China is like this" or "Koreans are like that" and end up with images or stereotypes, but talking one to one you see how each person has their own identity and you couldn't even say "They are that type of person." It's true that lifestyles and cultures differ and people have various attitudes, but I don't think I'll ever forget how warm and welcoming the hearts of people I spoke with were. If we have a desire to accept the person we're talking with, I think that even if our countries and languages are different, I think that we should be able to understand each other. As for witnessing how the Japanese, Chinese and Korean junior and senior high school students got along together, I think that over the week they changed completely. At first they seemed awkward but I saw how little by little they got to talk and play together. Seeing them playing Uno or table tennis together or taking pictures together, I was really pleased too. I think that for people from different countries to make friends like that is the first step towards peace.

Finally, I just want to express my thanks to all at the World Friendship Center who provided the opportunity and support for us to join this camp, to the Korean and Chinese staff, and to everyone we met at the camp. I want to use what I've gained through this experience and tell other people about the preciousness of learning to understand each other.

Thank You Letter Abbey Pratt-Harrington

Hello, Since I did not get a chance to say "good-bye" to most of you I want to take the opportunity to do so now. I have had such an amazing summer. I have had a chance to travel and also learn about Barbara Reynolds. She was an amazing woman who committed so much of herself to Japan; it really is an inspirational story. I hope that I will be able to convey her story well when I return to America. I could not think of a better way to leave the summer than witnessing the Peace Ceremonies in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They were both very moving experiences which I will always take with me. I want to thank you for allowing me to come and helping me while I've been here. I hope someday to return to Japan and when I do I will stop back in Hiroshima and the World Friendship Center. Until that day Thank you and may there be peace in the world.
Blessings,

At Peace Resource Center in
Wilmington College with Abbey and
PAX team



2009 PAX to America

Michiko Yamane (board member at WFC)

Early in 2009, the PAX Committee started communicating with the American counterpart. Two college-student participants were recruited; one from Hiroshima and the other from Nagasaki. Though other applications were open to all the WFC members who had not participated in PAX before, nobody had applied until June. So at the board meeting, Asaka Watanabe and I were chosen as participants. Without any hibakusha in the team and with the shortened travel schedule (2 weeks from 3weeks), we did not know if we would be able to make enough impact or have sufficient opportunities for presentation.

I will briefly introduce the itinerary and main events. On Sep. 8th we left Japan and returned on Sep. 22. It was just a two week trip. First we flew to the East Coast and stayed in Virginia and Washington D.C. for 4 days. Then we stayed in Indiana and Ohio for 4 days and lastly in Oregon for 4 days. We crossed the continent and realized how big America was. Moving took a long time and we wished we could stay in one place longer.

On arriving in America, we visited Don and Pauline in the Shenandoah Valley, which is famous for its natural beauty, and spent two days there. Don had had a stomach cancer operation in July and was not fully recovered but the couple welcomed us warmly. I cannot thank them enough for their hospitality. In their house there was one room which was called Japanese room and spared entirely for displaying all the things Japanese, photos in Hiroshima and souvenirs or gifts. I was glad to know that their life in Hiroshima was so special to them. We had a presentation in front of twenty students at Bridgewater College the next day.

The next two days we saw the sights of Washington D.C. As I had lived there for one year 15 years ago, I felt a special closeness and nostalgia. I did not notice any big change in particular. We visited National Japanese-American Memorial, which was built in 2000, with two bronze cranes trapped in barbed wires. It was dedicated to Japanese-American patriotism, military service, and perseverance of 120,000 people interned in relocation camps during World War II. I was moved by the following words: "Here we admit a wrong. Here we affirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law." President Ronald W.Reagan gave an official apology and compensation in 1988.

We traveled to Chicago, and Joel and Bev welcomed us with big smiles and hugs. Each skyscraper in Chicago looked very distinctive and characteristic. Joel told us that all the buildings were burned by the great fire in 1871. We had lunch at the restaurant called Signature Room, which was on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Center, a 100-story building 344 meters tall. We enjoyed the birds-eye view of harbor and Lake Michigan through the clouds below. Then we moved to Goshen to have dinner at the house of Evie and David. It was a great pleasure for us to see three former co-directors, Bertsches, Alberts and Eikenberrys at once. We had a home stay at Charles and MaryAnn's house.

On the following morning, we attended the service at Manchester Church and I told a biblical story to children with my sidekick, Shin-chan, and Asaka sang a song of "Cherry Blossoms" to her own piano accompaniment. After that, we all gave presentations at Sunday school room. While eating lunch, we had a chance to talk a lot about the current WFC situation. I told them about Mr. Morishita's wish to resign as Chairperson, NPO, Peace Camp in China, NARPI (Northeast Asia Regional Peace building Institute) etc. American Committee members seemed to be pleased with the news.

We moved on to the next destination - Wilmington, Ohio. Although I have visited there in 1996 PAX, I really wanted to come here once again, because I have been involved in the Internship Program for Abbey from Wilmington College. We coordinated and arranged the interviews with those who knew Barbara Reynolds well in order to better preserve and discover Barbara's contributions to WFC and Peace Resource Center. The more I know about Barbara, the more I am attracted by her great dedications for peace and by her personality.

When we entered the building of PRC, we were welcomed by the beautiful portrait of Barbara, which was unveiled August 6th of this year. The Center opened the permanent exhibition, "Stories of Hope" in August 2008. The panels and artifacts are effectively displayed, telling inspiring and touching stories of Barbara Reynolds, Sadako Sasaki, the Hiroshima Maidens and Dr. Takashi Nagai. I saw familiar faces, such as Mr. Sekiguchi with Barbara at the Center's opening in 1975, and Michiko Yamaoka helping her hostess to dress in a kimono when she went to New York in 1955 to receive plastic surgery. Those pictures made me happy and gave a mixed feeling when I think of the present situation of Yamaoka san, who is bed-ridden because of a stroke. Since I visited Nagasaki in April with Korean PAX, I have been interested in Dr. Nagai's statement as a funeral address for the victims of Atomic Bomb, although it is still a very controversial issue. He said, "They suddenly changed their plans and decided to drop the bomb on Nagasaki, the second target. However, yet another hitch occurred. As the bomb fell, clouds and wind carried it slightly north of the munitions factories over which it was supposed to explode and it exploded above the Cathedral. This is what I have heard. If it is true, the American pilots didn't aim at Urakami. It was the providence of God that carried the bomb to that destination." I often reflect upon this and wonder how American people would interpret his statement. We met Canby Jones again. He came to Hiroshima to attend the 40th anniversary of WFC. I was so happy to see him looking very healthy and energetic. We know that without Canby's support, it was difficult for Barbara to establish PRC at Wilmington College. Jim Boland took us for a guided tour on the campus. We saw a building named "T. Canby Jones Meeting House". Mr. Jones celebrated his 88th birthday shortly after we came back.

We moved to Bluffton and were invited for dinner at Alice and Bob Ramseyer's home. Soon after dinner we went to the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University, where we had our presentations. We were welcomed by community members including former PAX members, Ray and his wife Elizabeth and a big stuffed toy lion and lamb. The Lion and Lamb Center was founded in 1987 to provide a resource for children to gain skills necessary for developing a vision of peace. There are many children's books and artworks in the room. On the following morning, we

joined a guided tour of an art gallery led by Louise Matthew for the third graders of an elementary school. Although all the pictures depicting smiles of children in the world were very impressive, there were some sad pictures, like the one which showed a Vietnamese child and his mother looking so scared and sad beside the picture of planes dropping bombs on the village. I was convinced that we adults are responsible whether we bring children smiles or tears.

After driving a long way from Dave and Evie's home to the airport early in the morning; we flew from Chicago to Portland, Oregon. I was so excited to visit Oregon for the first time in my life. Our host, Larry Sims met us at the airport and drove us to McMinnville to appear as guest speakers on the TV show, "Speaking Frankly". After we met Larry's wife, JoAnn and his son, Kyle (who has a good command of Japanese); we entered the TV studio. When I heard about this plan, I had been a little bit worried about what kind of difficult questions we would be asked. But the interviewer, Frank Nelson, a professor emeritus of Linfield College, had an attractive personality and his friendly attitude made us very relaxed and comfortable. He came to Hiroshima in 1981 to visit the Peace Memorial Museum and was shocked to see the terrible devastation. He emphasized that we should live in peace and harmony. Fortunately his questions were only about WFC, so we could manage to answer. That program was 28 minutes long with no commercials. It was sponsored by the Democratic Party. Later they showed us around the campus. Linfield College has no connection with any religious sect and actively engaged in "Study Abroad Program" to send their students to Japan.

On Saturday evening, a Peace Concert was held at the First Baptist Church. Mike Stern, a song writer and musician from Seattle and Bill Jollip from Greg Fox University in Newberg sang many beautiful and inspiring songs playing guitar and banjo. Asaka also sang to her piano, and I recited the poem called "Sky of Hiroshima" written by Yukiko Hayashi. There were about 90 in the audience, and among them I found Frank Nelson.

We had countless wonderful memories with the Sims's family. To name a few, we walked along the beach of the Pacific Ocean with bare feet, tasted very delicious clam chowder in a bread bowl, looked up at the countless stars in the heaven from the hot bath Jacuzzi on the veranda, and ate tasty tempura made by Kyle at a Japanese restaurant.

I can't write all the names of people who made our PAX trip so fruitful and meaningful, while spending so much time, energy and money. I am overwhelmed by their kindnesses and warm hospitality, such as providing us with comfortable beds, giving us a long ride while joking and laughing to entertain us without showing fatigue, and inviting us to their homes for dinner. I was so much impressed by American generosity while we were there. I am so grateful for everything they did for us.

From Hiroshima with love



PAX team (Seira Nigo, Satoko Tomono, Asaka Watanabe, Michiko Yamane) with American Committee (Joel & Bev Eikenberry, Liz Bauer, Carol & Dennis Horn, Mary Ann Albert, Evie & David Bertsche) at Manchester Church

Through PAX in America **Satoko Tomono (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University)**

Through this PAX, I found out many new things. Before I participated in this PAX, I knew nothing about Ms. Barbara Reynolds. However, what I learned about her before I went to America and what I learned during the 2 weeks made my interest in peace increase and my attitude toward peace changed too.

During the PAX we visited churches, and universities doing activities and presentations at each place. I heard that the number of those in attendance was fewer and the opportunity to do the presentation was also less when compared to the other trips. In fact, when I did the presentation, I thought that people listened to my story more sincerely when the group was small. I also thought that they understood what I wanted to say more than when I did it in front of many people. Maybe it is because we were able to talk not just as a guest, but like a friend. I do think that speaking in front of many people is effective to tell about peace and I do think that they would feel that peace is important. But I wanted people to feel that they want to be a peace maker, not only learning that peace is important. I was expecting to experience each encounter as an important thing. It really was a wonderful experience because I met many peace makers. This was my first time leaving Japan and doing peace activities. So I can't compare it with other activities but I thought that we were able to become not only guests but friends. World Friendship Center has a deep relation with each place. Though the days we spent at each places were short, the time was fruitful. This is a really good point of this PAX. I really appreciate that we were able to meet many peace makers who can encourage each other.

The theme for my presentation was foreign Hibakusha in Nagasaki. As I had anticipated, there were many people who didn't know that Hibakusha were not only Japanese. Ten minutes was not enough time to convey everything but I hope the time I spent was informative.

We were able to talk not only about peace but also about international problems and cultures so it was a fruitful trip for us in many ways. I thought that it would have been better if we had more time to spend time with the university students and had time to discuss peace issues. However, through many people's support, we were able to have a successful trip. I really appreciate the people of the World Friendship Center and the people who took care of us. Thank you



very much. What we do from now on can make a difference. I believe that though what we can do is limited, we are not powerless. I hope each of us can do what we can do, and work hard to make a wonderful world without nuclear weapons. Thank you very much. (Above photo: PAX team at Wilmington High School in Ohio)

American PAX 2009 **Seira Nigo, Hiroshima Shudo University**

I learned about this program through the International Affairs Center at Shudo University. By joining this program, I learned about WFC for the first time. Initially I didn't understand WFC or PAX at all. In the USA we visited 3 colleges, a university and some churches, were interviewed by TV staff, had a panel discussion and gave our presentation ten different times.

The most impressive thing for me was to visit Wilmington College. Before going there, I heard that there are still many people who support the war in Wilmington, but at the College there were many people and students who work for peace. I was therefore, moved by such people. Because Wilmington College has the Peace Resource Center, which was founded by Barbara Reynolds, who also established World Friendship Center, I felt that many students were interested in peace. Most of students have been to Peace Resource Center at least one time. We learned this when we visited classes at the college and asked them how many students have been there so far. Moreover, when we gave presentations at lunch time, many people came to us and took notes while listening seriously.

We also visited Bluffton University and gave presentations there. That university has a Peace Club and there were also many people and students who are interested in peace. After giving presentations, I was very glad and also surprised because most of the students came to us and asked many questions. It is so great that my generation learns about peace with interest and tries to understand it. I was so impressed with such posture. Nowadays, many students don't have any interests in peace even though they live in Hiroshima where the atomic bomb was dropped for the first time. I strongly believe that the younger generation must study peace and work for peace more.

Before joining this program, I was naturally interested in peace, but through this program I've thought about peace more deeply. As I gave presentation many times, I keenly realized the fear of nuclear weapons again and also how important it is to try to achieve peace everywhere. Now, I'm really proud of my being the third generation of an A-bomb survivor, because I can hear the real story from my grandmother directly, and then I can tell others that story. Moreover, I discovered some subtle things when telling others about the A-bombing of Japan and that is I must not tell the story with too much strong emotions. The listeners, especially Americans, may feel a kind of rebuke. If they feel so, many people don't want to listen.

Dropping the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were horrible. However, on the other hand, Japan oppressed Korea and China, and forced citizens to work in Japan. From the view point of Chinese and Korean, they have trouble in forgiving Japan. Japan is also terrible. Therefore, now we need not to simply accuse each other but to understand each other completely. It is easy to say, but difficult for people who experienced the atomic bomb to feel. They were robbed of their family and suffered from the fear of the radiation. If I were such a person, I couldn't do it. However, I am the third generation. This position is the best for becoming the bridge of mutual understanding and establishing a peaceful world. I can think about my grandmother's story more deeply and remove my opinion from the story, and then I can tell it to others as it happened. This is the most revealing experience which I discovered during the PAX program.

It was a nice experience for me to exchange opinions with many generations. We always stayed in homes during this program and we moved many times. We changed host families every two days. It was a little hard to continue packing our luggage, but thanks to that I could have many opportunities to talk with my host parents and learned many new things.

During our visit to American Committee meeting I was asked some questions by committees. These questions were "What should we do to involve young people in peace activities for the future?" and "Are you interested in peace activities? What do you want to do for peace?" Through these questions, I could have a good opportunity to ask myself how I think about peace and what I should do for peace in the future.

Lastly, I really want to say “thank you” very much for everyone who was involved in this program. While staying in America everyone was really kind and sweet to us everywhere we went. Some people drove us to the airport in spite of very early morning travel. Others waited for us at the airport for over one hour. Others took us to the next place we needed to go despite a long trip. I can’t describe how thankful I am. I appreciate PAX committees of WFC who planned and arranged this program for a long time. Through this program I felt and learned so many things. I’ll tell many people my experience of this time. Thank you very much. (Above photo: PAX team with Louise Matthews at Bluffton University in Ohio)



Participating in 2009 American PAX Asaka Watanabe (board member at WFC)

In 2001 I participated in the German PAX sponsored by WFC. During the time between then and now I have been experiencing the feeling of life and peace through song. Often songs reach into my soul and ask me “how and why are these scenes of life played out?” I am forced to think about and formulate ideas about events throughout the world and in my own life. I am then able to reason and feel what it means to live in peace. It was necessary for me to do this to prepare for the 2009 American PAX. As a result of the atomic bombing on August 6, 1945 many people unwillingly lost their lives. We should not forget this loss. Many times it’s appropriate to respond to our memories of them through films, song or poetry. And I was able to do so through song while in America.

I was energized by my experiences with the American PAX – the meetings, the presentations – the tours. How wonderful it is to have a friend such as Michiko Yamane to translate during our stay. To the WFC staff I would also like to express my sincere appreciation. And finally, to the American committee and supporters, I’d like to say “thank you” for being hosts and friends.