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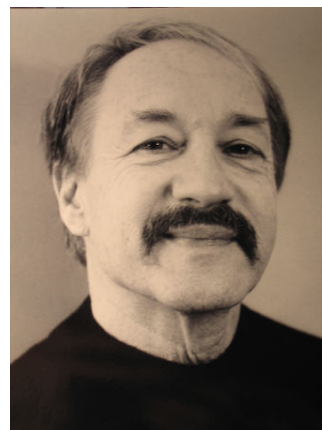
Yu - Ai **Friendship**

The Newsletter of NPO World Friendship Center
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The Goals of "Hibakusha, Our Life to Live"

David Rothauser

Early during the production of "[Hibakusha, Our Life to Live](#)" a question came to mind, "What are my goals in making this film?" I began listening closely to hibakusha stories. Each one expressed the same sentiment, "We hope our stories will reach younger generations so nuclear war will never happen again." Another question was, "How can I answer their hopes and wishes?" I soon realized that their unique stories needed connections that would reach younger generations emotionally and intellectually. So I tried to find the most honest and truthful way of telling the story of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. More questions came to me.



David Rothauser

What was the context of this great terror? Obviously it was World War II. How did WWII affect the lives of adults and children in Japan and the U.S.? The answers came quickly. As a child growing up in America during WWII, I had some frame of reference. But was it true? Much of my experience then was based on scientific secrecy and propaganda. I learned my lessons from Hollywood movies. War was a game that I enjoyed playing. How about Japanese children? Their experience before WWII was based on secrecy and propaganda. They too played war games. By including my own experience in the film I found the key to the truth behind the development and use of atomic bombs on Japan. Hibakusha stories became my story as well. I found that I could best tell hibakusha stories by including many elements – a sort of family tree – that would help younger generations understand what happened in 1945 and what it means for them today and in the future.

Following the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan, I became keenly aware that the world I was living in had changed forever. In a strange way the A-bomb had united all humans world-wide in a common denominator of survival – SURVIVAL UNDER A NUCLEAR CLOUD. I began assembling the many elements that I felt would tell this story with power and meaning. In viewing the film you (the audience) will see changes from one tense to another. For example, in the film, the bombing of Hiroshima takes place during the 60th Anniversary arts festival in Peace Park. It is a way of showing younger generations that nuclear warfare is possible at any moment of the present and future. The bombing of Nagasaki is shown from the perspective of a Shinto wedding ceremony. The effect is intimate and haunting. The story of Yoko, the little girl who travels to Hiroshima with Harada-san, is to show the link between the younger and older generation and to show how their activities together have helped in the education of younger generations about nuclear war.

I had three dreams. One was to make the film. The second is to take the film on a world tour where audiences will be engaged in discussions about nuclear war and the abolition of nuclear weapons. The third dream in showing the film is to open up the possibility for a global Article Nine to prevent not only nuclear wars, but all future wars beyond the defense of one's homeland. Life is a precious gift. May we live it without fear.

Hibakusha to Travel to USA

Barb Siney

Exciting times are approaching for World Friendship Center. After a busy summer of Peace events including PAX from America and many August memorials, WFC has an unprecedented opportunity in the fall. [The University of Central Missouri](#) in Warrensburg, MO along with [the Truman Library and Museum](#) in Independence, MO has invited WFC to arrange for Hibakusha to travel to Missouri from September 22 through October 6, 2010. Heading the project for UCM is Dr. Wendy Geiger, Associate Professor. It was recently announced that Dr. Geiger has been added to the Honors Faculty and is currently of Associate Dean of Graduate School at UCM. She has arranged for Hibakusha to address three large group events, including UCM and the Truman facility, as well as numerous smaller groups.

Hibakusha: Emiko Okada, Kiyomi Kohno and Sadae Kasaoka along with their translators: Michiko Yamane, Nobuko Morikawa and Sachiko Hiraoka will travel to Missouri in the escort of Barb Siney and Naomi Kurihara. Their time will be divided between educational speaking engagements, some formal and some more casual. The topics will surround the events of August 6, 1945, their experiences of that day, the immediate aftermath and the insights they have gained through this horrific event. The insights that they share will range from peace and the ever present threat of nuclear weapons to personal philosophies on life and living. The primary goal in speaking to the public is, as stated repeatedly by Hibakusha, their desire for "No More Hiroshimas". This invitation has presented the opportunity to reach many people in many walks of life.

UCM has graciously arranged for travel, accommodations, meals and many leisure time engagements. As the time approaches we will be busy perfecting the visual displays needed for the presentations and coordinating the speakers for each event. We are happy to receive the assistance of Kent Sweitzer with preparing the visual documentation. His skill is invaluable and will assure a professional media presentation.

The UCM Project

Sadae Kasaoka

Age at the time of the A-bombing 13 years old
Location 3.8 km from the hypocenter, at my house

When I remember what happened at the A-bombing, tears well up. When I tried to talk about it to other people, the scenes came back in front of me. I couldn't speak about my experience. I may have fled from those memories. About ten years ago, more than 50 ashes of the A-bomb victims were found in the ground of the elementary school of my grandchild. (The school was used as a temporary first aid station after the bombing in 1945.) The students, who didn't know about the A-bombing, asked survivors to tell our experiences. When asked by my grandchild, I told my A-bomb story for the first time. The fifth and sixth year students in groups intently listened to the survivors.



Sadae Kasaoka

Then, they drew pictures, wrote their opinions and ended up making their A-bomb play. They tried to understand what had happened in Hiroshima. Even these children took actions. If I don't tell children, they wouldn't know the facts or understand what had happened. Since then, I began to tell my A-bomb experience to others.



A single atomic bomb burned the city instantly, destroyed everything and killed people. The survivors in Hiroshima and Nagasaki strongly desire that everyone in the world will be free from the same tragedy, including the effects of radiation and mental suffering. We want to make an appeal for abolishing nuclear weapons.

(Sadae Kasaoka, Sachiko Hiraoka)

I don't know the political matters, but I think we have to talk if we want to solve any problem. I think everyone has love within their heart. We don't need war, which makes people miserable. Please know the facts of the A-bombing. I think that we

can love each other by knowing and understanding. Peace is love which connects people. An individual voice and power may be small, but if we put them together; they will become a big and powerful voice, which can lead to the realization of a nuclear-free, peaceful world.

Kiyomi Kohno

Current address: 1-15-25 Eba-nihonmatus, Naka-ku Hiroshima

Age at the time of bombing: 14

Location at the time of bombing:Asakita-ku Hiroshima (35 km from the hypocenter)

The day after the atomic bombing, August 7, 1945 I went to Hiroshima City to look for my two elder sisters.

I went back and forth between Yaga-station and Ujina in Hiroshima all day long.

I walked in the destroyed city to find my sisters after the bombing. I can't forget the miserable scenes that were in every direction, everywhere I looked.

I started telling my A-bomb experience because my daughter is a teacher of Junior High School students in Osaka. I talk about my experience every year when Junior High School students from Osaka visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park for the peace educations.

In 2002 the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki along with NHK Hiroshima Broadcasting Station co-sponsored a call to "convey the desire for peace across the centuries". This was an invitation for survivors to submit remembrances of their experience through drawings. I submitted three drawings. One of them was accepted as part of the booklet "Memory of Hiroshima".

In 2008 "I Will Never Forget That Day" was publish because of the encouragement of Akira Hayasaka, who served as Editorial Supervisor. It is a publication of my A-bomb story and pictures.

Nuclear weapons deprive people of life indiscriminately. It ruins the lives of people who survive. It is a frightening weapon that can kill children who should have a full future before them. Children and others can be killed without regard, like worms.



Kohna Kiyomi



I, together with people all over the world, wish for the abolition of nuclear weapons, for the good of the earth.

Nobuko Morikawa, Kohno Kiyomi

Emiko Okada

Age of exposure: 8 years old and the third grader at National Elementary School
Place of exposure: my house 2.8km from the hypocenter

I became a member of "Peace Volunteer" at Peace Memorial Museum nine years ago and studied a lot about the A-bombing. Later I enrolled in "Association of the A-bomb survivors organized by Peace Culture Foundation"

I am telling this A-bomb experiences not to blame Americans, nor to make them feel guilty. It is because the A-bombing was not just a one time event what happened 65 years ago. I don't want the same tragedy to happen again. So please listen to me, keeping in mind that nuclear weapons are an issue today. It is hard to understand what hibakusha experienced on August 6, 1945. It requires your imagination. I'd like you to take home the message of how inhuman nuclear weapons are.



Emiko Okada

Man has made some 25,500 bombs that can destroy the entire planet once a leader of some country pushes the button. These weapons are in the countries which are known to have nuclear weapons or countries suspected of having them. They have been strictly controlled by the top leaders without having been used again. But now it is more and more feared that terrorists may get control of nuclear weapons. It is no longer wise to rely on nuclear deterrence.



Michiko Yamane, Emiko Okada

I don't think it is possible for President Obama alone to abolish nuclear weapons only by saying positive things. It is a grass-roots movement of ordinary people that is needed to influence the leaders of the world. Instead of leaving it up to politicians, before it is too late, we should do what we can. As one example, we can sign the petition of 'Mayors for Peace'. If your community is not involved, you can sign on-line at the Mayors for Peace website.

(L-R, Kiyomi Kohno, Sadae Kasaoka, Sachiko Hiraoka, Barb Siney, Emiko Okada, Michiko Yamane, Nobuko Morikawa)



New Classes for Children at WFC

Barb Siney

Interest from the community around WFC has been growing. We have been surprised by several requests to offer conversational classes for children. The first has already been in session for four month! This class is especially for pre-school children four or five years old and is offered on Friday afternoon at 2:30. The one hour class is full of song, activity, inter-active computer session, and play. We are encouraging parents or grandparents to join in this time of learning.

A second class is to begin on Saturday, April 17 at 10:30 AM. This class is for young elementary age students and will have a form similar to the original class with the addition of role playing, and recognizing alphabet sounds that will allow the student to begin combining letters to form words.

Both of these class demand special help from WFC staff and volunteers. Miho Ikada and Kaori Kurumaji have stepped up to help Barb with translation (and fun) on Friday. Chiyoko Ogura will be translating on Saturday. WFC has received suggestions and learning materials from several adult class members to have had experience teaching young children. We are continually looking for new ideas for fun classroom activities and we welcome suggestions. Each person offers an additional skill, style and humor to the classes. What a joy it is to see young people eager to try new things and broaden their world.

Open House

Chiyoko Ogura

WFC held an "Open House" on March 27th for the first time. We started by making flyers and handing them out in the neighborhood and also distributed invitations to volunteer facilities.

At first, we were a little nervous that no-one would come. We waited, uneasily, for interested parties. Eventually people arrived. A total of 5 groups attended. There was fun in the air and having those first visitors made us feel grateful beyond description. Although there are no new class members yet; surely it is important to keep trying. I picture WFC becoming even more cheerful with even more people.

I cannot wait!

Future Peace Guide Group

Shizuko Kamibeppu

I have taken part in the Wednesday morning English Conversation Class at WFC since last September. I was thankful to be able to join in the Peace Guide Group.

I wanted to know about WFC. What is WFC? How did it get started? What other things does WFC do as an organization? I had never known about it before September.

Recently some of my questions have been answered. In class we have been using a text written by Barbara Reynolds. I have learned the purpose Barbara Reynolds had for WFC and I have learned that many members are working for peace.

I appreciate the work done by Directors Ron and Barb as well as all of the members of WFC. I would like to help with any job at WFC I am able to do.

I recently learned the sad news that my favorite playwright, Hisashi Inoui, had passed away. He had words that fit my feelings. I would like to borrow his saying: I try to tell things easily instead of in a difficult way to the visitors. I try to tell the easy things more deeply to the visitors. First of all, I try to do it merrily. It's the best way to get through with visitors. They are my aim and my dream.

New Riji Members Become Acquainted with WFC

Jim Ronald

I was introduced to the World Friendship Center, by my (then future) wife Midori Kanmei, over twenty years ago. Bill and Jeanne Chappell were Directors then, and as the WFC was on my way home from work, I'd often drop in to chat with them, and benefit from their sensible, thoughtful wisdom. Directors changed, but I stayed in touch, and when the English meetings of local Amnesty International group were looking for somewhere to meet, the WFC kindly offered to host the meetings. And this has continued for about 15 years! Those monthly meetings kept me in touch with the WFC, as did a couple of Japanese members of the WFC (Yoshiko Sakuma and Michiko Yamane) who joined a Bible study which I hesitantly took over leading after Bob and Alice Ramseyer returned to the USA. Thank you so much for that parting gift, Alice!



I'd hear about the various activities of the WFC, including the PAX trips to Korea. I was interested in this, as much for the food as any serious reason, applied to join the group, and went! I thought I might be able to help, at least with English, but didn't really think of the two countries' history as really to do with me. How wrong I realized I was! To the Koreans, I met, and in whose homes I stayed, I was from Japan, spoke Japanese, and was one of the Japanese group. And they would ask me about Japan's stance on "comfort women", official apologies, or selective, defective Japanese history textbooks.

Coming home to Japan, I had changed – I started studying Korean (still a beginner 18 months later!) and became interested in peacebuilding. And became someone who wasn't so happy sitting on the fence and doing nothing! The following year – 2009 – I was asked to join the Peace Camp in China for Korean, Chinese and Japanese young

people. I did hesitate, for a minute or two, but my newfound foolhardiness stood me in good stead, and I agreed to be coordinator for the group from Japan. That, too, was a wonderful experience – I realized that we can help make a difference, and many lives were changed through that short camp. This year, too, we are hoping to send a group from Japan.

As you can see, I've been becoming more involved with WFC-related matters in recent years, including the starting of an internship for my university's students to experience working at the WFC. I've also become more concerned about peace, too, and am honored to join the Riji, the board, of the World Friendship Center. Thank you for inviting me!

Yoko Hirasue

I was surprised to see dozens of shoes at the entrance and outside of the house when I first visited WFC. My friend had invited me to WFC's Christmas party about two years ago. Many people who gathered in the meeting room welcomed me warmly. I was moved to see Christmas play, watch the hula dance, listen to choir, hear the piano and charming singing voices. I saw beautiful photos, too. There was a house in a snowy scene. Christmas candle lights sparkled through the windows. It was the home of Sarah and Kent in Indiana. All of their family had gathered there on Christmas Eve. I remember being deeply touched by these impressive photos.

I became a member of English Conversation Class as soon as the New Year (2008) started. The Wednesday class was divided into morning and afternoon class due to over enrollment. The new afternoon class started with six members. In Barbara's room we enjoy studying not only English but also meeting and talking with guests from abroad learning about differences in cultures and customs. The class always gives us new excitement and joy. It's a great pleasure to be part of WFC and share workshops, cherry blossom viewing, excursion and volunteer activities with other class members.



Yoko Hirasue

Shoichi Fujii

I have been a WFC member for 30 years since I met Ms. Barbara Reynolds and Dr. Tomin Harada, co-founder. I feel honored to be chosen a Board Member. I have also been a board member of international organizations including Hiroshima Interpreters and Guide Association, Hiroshima UNESCO Association and Hiroshima Japan-Korea Friendship Association and Hiroshima Vietnam Association. I will make efforts to contribute to the development of WFC.



Shoji Kamikubo



I am Shoji Kamikubo and was born in Kyoto in the year of the rabbit. I soon came to Hiroshima where I was raised and spent most of my life. My career with the YMCA began 35 years ago at the Hiroshima YMCA, and I have also worked at the National Council of YMCAs of Japan in Tokyo as well as the Fukuoka YMCA in recent years. In April of 2010, I became General Secretary of the Hiroshima YMCA as the 8th person to serve in this position. I followed in the footsteps of previous general secretaries including Mr. Aihara, Mr. Hayashi and Mr. Shimobo. The Hiroshima YMCA is an international volunteer organization that strives to play an active role in society by building meaningful ties and friendly relations with many local and global organizations. The Hiroshima YMCA originated in 1938 in the city of Hiroshima and at present YMCA programs and services are also conducted in the cities of Fukuyama, Higashi-Hiroshima, Miyoshi, Yuki, Yonago (Tottori Prefecture), Iwakuni (Yamaguchi Prefecture), Otake, and Uzuki Campsite. The Hiroshima YMCA aims to make a contribution to society by offering a host of activities in the areas of youth education & training, vocational schooling, wellness development, outdoor education, social services, life-long learning, international exchange and cooperation, and so forth. The World Friendship Center, which has done so many important and wonderful things over the years, is an organization that I greatly respect and one for which I look forward to building effective partnerships.

WFC Says Goodbye to Past Director, Maurine Parker

Kaori Kurumaji

Maurine Parker died on December 27th, 2009 in Santa Barbara, California, at the age of 100. She was a director of WFC from 1977 to 1978.

I first met Maurine at a UNESCO association picnic in Hiroshima which was part of an international exchange program. Several months later I became a live-in staff member at WFC and worked with Maurine. At that time, WFC rented an old Japanese house in Midori-machi near the prefectural hospital. Maurine and I lived together at the house and worked for WFC. I remember those days with the contentment of happy times together.

Maurine's only son had died as a teenager and her husband had also passed away prior to that time. Her only family was a brother and his family in the US, but she seemed to have many friends since she was a Quaker.

She had a charming personality and a unique way of thinking. When Maurine was a director she was 68. In spite of her age she was very active and used to put her ideas into action quickly. She liked young people and made a lot of friends through teaching English. She was very kind to answer every little question. I remember she said that she would never live in an old people's home. She thought that isolating old people in a nursing home was not good. She believed a community should consist of various generations. True to her word, she became a member of a cooperative (group home) after she went back to the US and lived with her younger friends until she died. There was a big party on October 9th last year to celebrate her 100th birthday.

I was so impressed that Maurine had such passionate concern for social problems and peace issues. I still remember her habit of talking to herself as she read the morning English newspaper in the WFC kitchen. She was complaining about the politics and social problems. In the 1970's the American Government was trying to propagate its values all over the world. Maurine said that each country has its own history, traditions and culture. Therefore each country should be independent and controlled by its own people. I was astonished and moved deeply in my heart to hear her words. I have so many memories and episodes of her that I could not begin to tell them all.



Maurine Parker

But, I will tell you how Maurine fought against the hot days of the Japanese summer. The WFC in Midori-machi had no air conditioners, so Maurine took a shower several times a day. The heat of the summer was quite unbearable to her. She sometimes closed the door and windows in the morning to keep the cool air in the house. Maurine was here under bad living conditions, in a poor economy and yet she worked hard. She believed in WFC's future in spite of the economical difficulties of the time. I would like to thank her from the bottom of my heart and pray for her soul. God bless Maurine.

PAX 2010 from America

Rachel Kent

Rachel Kent is a sophomore at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio, who says "I have a major in Political Science with a Concentration in International Studies and a minor in Peace Studies. I think that going on this trip as a peace ambassador would be invaluable to my studies." Last August Rachel went to Nicaragua with a school group, and this summer she will be traveling to Israel and Palestine for two weeks...working with Quakers and NGOs in the areas to promote peace and do peace ministry.



Rachel Kent

Larry and JoAnn Sims



Larry Sims



JoAnn Sims

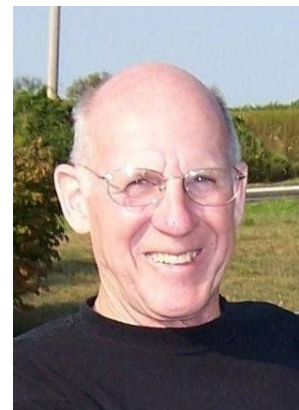
Larry and JoAnn Sims, husband and wife, live in Portland, Oregon and state that "We have partnered in many peace and justice activities." JoAnn, presently an adjunct professor/student teacher supervisor at Linfield College, mother, and grandmother, continues:

"Throughout my career as a professional educator at the elementary, undergraduate, and graduate levels, I have sought to promote worldwide friendships by inviting and hosting delegations, individual travelers, or fellow international teachers into my

classrooms for visits and exchanges...Being selected as an American PAX member would be an amazing way for me to continue my efforts of a lifetime toward peace, reconciliation, and hope. I look forward to the possibility of new friendships with people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to renew friendships already begun with former PAX team members and those associated with the World Friendship Center." Larry, an environmental engineer for 40 years, has been involved in ecological, camping, and peace and justice issues. He and JoAnn helped found Youth Care, an organization to help youth in crisis situations, and an organization focused on social concern issues.

Brad Yoder

Brad Yoder has been a sociology and social work professor at Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana for 32 years. He has been interested in peacemaking all of his life. Brad's extensive travels have taken him to many countries where his studies, tours, volunteer work, and peacemaking efforts have focused on injustice, poverty, and health issues. This summer he plans to dialogue with social workers in Russia about health care and other social services in the two countries. Brad states, "I have a desire for reciprocal sharing of culture and peace issues while in Japan, and to share experiences from Japan upon returning to the US, for the rest of my life."



(Brad Yoder)

Valued Staff at WFC by Barb Siney



Miho Ikeda has been part of the staff at WFC nearly as long as Ron and I have been Directors. In one year's time we have seen the value that Miho has added to the efficient operation of WFC. Her primary responsibility is keeping the accounting records up to date and accurate. It is impressive how many activities Miho-san seems to juggle at one time. She is a member to the Tuesday afternoon English class, a volunteer for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the mother of an active family. Miho-san's talents have supported WFC through puppet performances, drawing, and organization of special events. Thank you Miho-san for all you do.