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Yu - Ai

Friendship

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Peace Camp – My First Time

Reiko Takaya (Age 15, 3rd year, junior high)



This was my first time to join Peace camp. I have met foreigners who live in Japan many times but I have never met foreigners who don't speak Japanese. So when I first met Chinese and Korean members, it was a little scary. And also it was exciting for me!

If we don't have communication, we will make war. But when we have communication, we can be friends. I learned it from Peace camp. Many people

have prejudices between foreign countries. I want people to lose those feelings. When they say something bad, I will try to talk about Peace camp and will try to help them lose that feeling.

This year, it was necessary for me to leave camp early. I didn't want to leave because that time was the happiest time in my life. I want to meet my new friends again. Thank you very much for your kind heart!! Other campers helped me a lot of times. I was glad.

Yuni Sakata(Age 11,6th grade year, elementary)

This is the first time for me to join Peace Camp. And I'm in 6th grade. I wanted to join the Peace Camp for a long time, because my two sisters have joined the Peace Camp many times, and they seemed to have fun. This year, I heard that my sister Yuki will join the Peace Camp as a counselor, so I could join the camp too.

First, I worried whether I could communicate with the other participants. In Japan, we start to study English at school from 6th grade, but that is only simple English. I learned English at private school for the study of English, but I haven't succeeded in speaking with someone yet. In the camp, everyone talked to me with body language, or Japanese participants translated for me. Then I became gradually began to understand what they are talking about.

Our countries are really close to each other, but there are so many different culture and customs. However I found that some words and games are similar. Before I joined the Peace Camp, I thought it would last too long, but it finished too fast.

Next year, I will become a junior high school student, so I will study English as much as I can to speak and listen by myself. I want to join the Peace Camp again!



Joined Hands of Friendship among 50 people from 8 countries in Hiroshima

Shoichi Fujii (WFC Riji)



Group Photo (Aster Plaza August 2012)

NARPI (Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute Headquarters: Seoul, Korea) is a NGO organization of the northeast where grass-root groups are from Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Pakistan, Nepal and Canada work together to transform the culture and structure of militarism, and communities of fear and violence into just and peaceful ones by providing peacebuilding training, connecting and empowering people in Northeast Asia. World Friendship Center (WFC) is one of NARPI's connecting organizations.

The first NARPI Peace Building Training took place in Seoul and the DNZ, with 50 participants from 13 countries and regions, from August 14 to August 28, 2011.

NARPI Steering Committee decided to hold the second peace training in Hiroshima. Hiroshima has been reconstructed as a City of International Peace and Culture during the 68 years after it was completely destroyed by the first atomic bomb in 1945.

The Steering Committee had several hurdles to overcome before it became a reality. We could not make a reservation of public facilities because the training period was for two weeks and the number of participants had not been confirmed. We also had difficulties in collecting donations and human resources in the city.

Fortunately President Takaaki Kuwada and the General Secretary Shouji Kakubo at Hiroshima YMCA kindly offered cooperation which then provided the Minochi Training Center in the country side.

The training was held in two different parts of Hiroshima from August 12 to August 25, 2012. The first week was downtown at Hiroshima Aster Plaza. The second week was at Hiroshima YMCA Yuki Training Center surrounded by beautiful mountains and green rice fields.

In the six courses offered over the two-week training, participants and facilitators worked collaboratively to build understanding about the following themes: Understanding Conflict and Peace, Trauma Awareness and Healing, Restorative Justice, Theory & Practice of Peace Education, Arts & Storytelling for Peacebuilding, and Skill Training for Peace Building.

During field trips between the first and second week, the participants visited Peace Park and the Peace Memorial A-bomb Museum. They listened to the story of Ms. Sadae Kasoka who told her painful memories of the Hiroshima A-bombing. She personally and urgently appealed for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons on Aug. 17. They also visited Okuno-jima, where the Japanese Army manufactured poison gas during the Asia and Pacific War in 1940s. In one evening session, they visited the World Friendship Center. They listened to the lifelong peace dedication of Barbara Reynolds by Co-directors Larry and JoAnn Sims and deepened their understanding of WFC's activities.

The evaluation from the participants follows : They had a more memorable and productive stay for two weeks than they had expected.

- 1) All facilitators were instructive and friendly. The participants from 8 countries and areas promoted mutual understanding of other cultures and deepened the ring of friendship.
- 2) They were touched with Hiroshima hospitalities, the staff members of the facilities, and the resource people provided.

The hurdle in the Hiroshima Training was that the yen appreciation and high commodities price did not allow more foreign participants to join the training. We also feel sorry that no participants from Hiroshima attended the training.



Evening Session at WFC (August, 2012)

What Is Restorative Justice?

JoAnn Sims



(Mr. Ko in the center front row with the attendees in the WFC living room after sharing his story)

Coming home from work Ko Jung Wong found his wife, mother, and his son dead obviously without some sort of struggle. How does a person continue living when their loved ones were killed so violently?

Ko Jung Wong shared his story with nearly 15 people in World Friendship Center's living room on the evening of August 24, 2012. Ko is from Korea and was in Hiroshima with North East Asian Region for Peace building Institute (NARPI.)

His story was so compelling WFC invited him to share his story with those beyond the participants of NARPI.

Ko for a time was angry at whoever did this terrible thing. He was even angrier when he found out that the killer had intended to kill their neighbor for a recent misdeed, but the neighbor's door was locked. The killer then entered Ko's home and killed those present because the killer was so intent on killing that day.

Ko tried to commit suicide several times. His remaining daughter pleaded with him to visit the Catholic church and join a grieving group. It was at church he discovered understanding friends and he learned of God's personal love for him. Soon Ko's anger turned to a deep ache and sorrow for first himself and then the killer too.

When the killer of Ko's family was found and placed on trial, Ko visited him. Ko spoke to him of his own sorrow because the killer had taken the life of so many of his family members. Next Ko looked into the eyes of the killer and expressed his deep sadness for him because he had done such a terrible thing. Ko also said that he would pray for the killer and he hoped the killer would find God's love and forgiveness.

Ko now shares his story of gaining new life after his family tragedy. His story was made into a documentary film. Today he helps prisoners rebuild their lives, replacing the anger and hate that once ruled their life with the power of self-forgiveness and of God's love. He also shares his story with groups such as NARPI so they can use the power of forgiveness in peace building.

YOUTH PEACE FORUM

Larry Sims

During the activities surrounding the August 6 Commemoration in Hiroshima, the local YMCA sponsored a Youth Peace Forum in which youth from around the world discussed peace activities in their nations. Toward the closing end of the



Forum, there was a group activity during which the students were able to talk with Peace leaders from the Hiroshima community. WFC was asked to be one of the participants, as a peace organization, in the group discussions.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of Clifton Truman Daniel and Ari Beser. Mr. Daniel is the oldest grandson of US President Harry Truman, the person who authorized the world's first use of atomic bombs in August 1945. Mr. Beser is a grandson of Jacob Beser, who was onboard each of the B-29s which dropped the Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mr. Daniel and Mr. Beser were visiting Japan to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the tragedies. They visited Japan at the invitation of the Sadako Legacy nonprofit organization. The head of the NPO, Sadako's brother, and Mr. Daniels had developed a relationship over the past few years leading to the invitation. Comments from both men indicated that their goal was to help spread the stories of hibakusha to ensure nuclear arms are never used again.

WFC representatives were able to have brief discussions with both of these men following their presentations.

It is my hope that the participants in the Forum took home from the evening session the knowledge that there are many organizations, such as WFC, throughout the world actively working for peace. In addition, we helped show

the participants that peace makers represent all age groups. WFC has a strong desire to improve access to hibakusha stories for people around the world.



Interns from Shudo University

JoAnn Sims

Both Miki and Yuji seemed a bit shy when Larry & I met them at our first meeting with their advisor, Jim Ronald, who is also on the WFC Riji (Board of Directors.) After sharing their goals for the internship and listening to the goals of WFC Miki and Yuji lost their shyness and sparkled with enthusiasm to begin their two week time at WFC.



They were able to meet lots of WFC people at the August 6th Ceremony and the floating lantern event that evening. Their official time began the first of September and ended on September 14.

Internship at WFC means learning how to operate a Bed & Breakfast guest house, teach English conversation classes, respond to reservations, manage a budget, learn how an NPO operates from our Office Manager and Bookkeeper, and

participate in the peace activities of WFC. Miki and Yuji also read, *Phoenix and the Dove* by Barbara Reynolds to fully understand WFC. This year Larry & I listed several projects interns could complete to benefit WFC. Yuji chose organizing the CD's, videos, and DVD and listing them in English and Japanese. He also prepared a practice packet for guests on how to fold a paper crane. Miki chose to organize the Japanese book library section labeling the topics in English. She also developed an English menu for the corner restaurant.

Yuji and Miki stayed overnight at WFC to "experience" being a guest one night during the week. Each intern was eager to speak English every day. On one day they shared the responsibility to be in charge of everything.

The Internship Committee joined many other interns at Shudo University on October 25th. A large number of students shared their intern experiences. We listened to Miki and Yuji's excellent power-point presentations in both English and Japanese about their World Friendship Center Internship. A stand up buffet was held after the presentations were completed. It was a successful experience from the first meeting to the last farewell at the Shudo University evening presentations.

HUE Internship

Larry Sims

Ever since the time WFC began planning for the One World Peace Concert with Mike Stern, students from Hiroshima University of Economics have shown a great deal of interest in work done at WFC. This was especially evident when Mike performed a "sampler" concert at the University in April and the Paper Crane Club gave a presentation about their current project. During this past summer, the HUE students also helped with Peace Camp and then asked about doing an internship with WFC in the fall. Their request was unique because they had no requirements from the University to do an internship – they were doing it on their own time and not for university credit!

We worked with a total of 6 students from HUE's Paper Crane Club who worked out a schedule that fit their individual needs for classes, for part-time jobs, for travel considerations, etc. Because of the size of WFC and our basic needs, the

group was divided into two groups. One group did their work during the period September 17 - 21 and the other was at WFC from September 22 – 30 with some down-time due to their schedules.

It was decided that the HUE students would follow the same basic program as the students from Shudo University. Please see the article on the Shudo internship elsewhere in this Newsletter for a detail discussion of specific activities.

Providing for internships for University students benefits both the students as well as WFC. The students go away with a better understanding of the non-profit sector and how small organizations operate. WFC's story in addition to the stories of how a peace organization works can be heard by many more people. The students also provide WFC with some help with projects that are often left undone – like trimming the trees and bushes in our garden. The interns prepared leis of paper cranes for presentation to our guests who were in Hiroshima for the opening of the Floyd Schmoe Memorial Museum.

WFC is seeking to expand internship opportunities to colleges and universities in other countries such as the US and the UK. If you have any suggestions of colleges or universities that might benefit from having their students participate in WFC's internship program, please let the Volunteer Directors know.



(Serving breakfast, From left to right, JoAnn, Yuto, Takuya and Akinobu)

Schmoe House: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

Yoko Imada

(The Society for the Remembrance of Floyd Schmoe's Houses for Hiroshima Project)



"I know that Junod gave us medical supplies, but what did Schmoe do?" Most people ask this question, even those who are interested in peace movements. The sign board of Schmoe House, a favorite meeting place for local residents, reads, "This house was built for Hibakusha and donated to the city..." We had been content with this information, but one-dollar fund raising for

hand-repair of Sadako's statue in Seattle Peace Park triggered me to seek more information about Schmoe's life. I visited City Hall and Ward Office. I traveled around Tokyo, Hyogo, Kanagawa and Nagasaki to collect information.

I found that Floyd Schmoe and three other Americans came to ruined Hiroshima in August, 1949 with donated funds of \$4,000 to recompense the guilt of A-bombing. Cooperating with volunteers from Tokyo and Hiroshima, they built 21 houses and meeting places by 1953 and donated them to the city and people. The meeting place was relocated 400 meters southeast and re-opened as an affiliated display facility of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Opening ceremony was held on Oct. 31st. Mr. Schmoe's son, who looks exactly identical with his father of 63 years ago, Andrews and others came to Hiroshima in spite of their old age. They told us episodes of the days when Hiroshima Houses were built and about the peace-seeking philosophy behind it.

We have a culture to celebrate 60th birthday. This house, having been around for 62 years as a local community's meeting place, is going to start new life as a display spot to show various support given to Hiroshima by foreigners. We, citizens of Hiroshima, will tell the stories of unforgettable people to future generation.

Schmoe Museum Project December 2011-November 2012

JoAnn Sims

The Schmoe Project was successful by every measure. What began with a request from a Hiroshima City official in December of 2011 for Larry & I to possibly represent Seattle at the Schmoe Memorial Museum opening grew to a historic week in Hiroshima (October 27-November 4, 2012) around the museum opening. The success of the project was due to the help and coordination of the entire Riji, many of the students in the English Conversation classes, and WFC Peace Choir. A special thank you is in order for Kaori Kurumaji who introduced Larry & I to Yoko Imada who had worked more than ten years to preserve the last remaining Schmoe house. Kaori helped us plan and work with Yoko Imada and the City of Hiroshima.

Wilfred Schmoe, son of Floyd Schmoe, and Floyd's grandson and grand-daughter attended the ceremony and the week's events along with Brooks Andrews, son of Emery Andrews. Both Floyd and Emery were granted the Fourth Order of the Sacred Treasure medal bestowed by Japan for their work building houses in Hiroshima from 1949-1953.

Also in attendance from the United States were Yosh Nakagawa, his wife Sue, Herb Tsuchiya, and Brooks Andrews' wife, Corean, and Joycie Yee. Also from America were Fred Hasegawa (Hibakusha) and his wife, Kumi, along with Mitch Homma and his wife, Stephanie Stone. Mitch is the nephew of Fred Hasegawa. Additional friends of Yosh Nakagawa were Harou Kazama from Kobe, and an American businessman, Tomio Moriguchi. Mr. Moriguchi was in Tokyo on business and attended many of the week's events. Mr. and Mrs. Koya Azumi attended from Tokyo. Koya Azumi worked on the houses with Floyd Schmoe and Emery Andrews for two summers.

Ten days from October 27-November 4 were filled with activities that were of an historic nature in Hiroshima. There were many TV and newspaper reporters at every event interviewing participants and providing press coverage. The week focused on the stories of Floyd Schmoe as told by Wilfred, the stories of Emery Andrews as told by Brooks, and the Japanese American Internment stories told by Michiko Hamai, Yosh Nakagawa, and Herb Tsuchiya.

The week began with a symposium entitled "Japanese American Internment Symposium." It was sponsored by WFC. The room was filled and there were several people standing. Next on October 31 was the Official Opening Ceremony at the Schmoe Museum in Eba. There were about 80 people in attendance. The museum features those people from outside Japan who helped rebuild Hiroshima. A presentation of flowers at the Cenotaph took place in the afternoon. A Welcome Dinner attended by 70 people was held in the Serenade restaurant in the International Conference Center at Peace Park. Gifts to the Schmoe Museum were presented by the American guests. A scrapbook of Emery's diary and photo album was given by the Andrews family. From the Schmoe family, an oil painting of Floyd Schmoe wearing the Fourth Order of the Sacred Treasure medal was presented. The medal was also given to the museum. Yosh Nakagawa presented the museum with \$2,000 from the Japanese Baptist Church and the Seattle Community.

On November 1, Mayor Matsui met with the guests from 1-1:30pm. He expressed gratitude for the work and spirit of peace that the Houses for Hiroshima project brought to Hiroshima in 1949-1953. That evening a lecture was presented for the Citizens of Hiroshima at Memorial Hall with 87 people attending. Detailed stories of the Schmoe houses and the process of saving the house and turning it into a museum were shared from the city. Details about the building of the houses were shared by the sons of Schmoe and Andrews.

On November 2 a lecture for young people was held at Jogakuin University where the detailed stories of Schmoe and Andrews were shared. The story of Japanese American internment was shared by Herb Tsuchiya and Koko Kondo shared her Hibakusha story and her connections with Schmoe and Andrews. Before the lecture the guests were welcomed by the President of Jogakuin University. The lecture was attended by about 35 people.

A wonderful Farewell Party was held at WFC for all guests. The guests presented WFC with several gifts totaling approximately 136,000 Yen. A gift was presented to the Seattle guests from Yoko Imada who had collected money from those at the Welcome Dinner for the repair of the Sadako statue in the Seattle Peace Park near the University of Washington.

The amazingly successful week created new ties between Hiroshima and the US, restored and rekindled the power of peace and hope to many Hiroshima residents. This project was very successful for WFC, for the Schmoe Museum, for relating Japanese Internment stories, and for the City of Hiroshima.



(Wildred Schmoe, Floyd Schmoe's son, seated on the left. Mayor Matsui is seated on the right. World Friendship Directors, Chairperson, visitors from Seattle, and Yoko Imada are standing behind in the Mayor's office.)

My memory with Mary Blocher Smeltzer

Masako Kido

Mary Blocher Smeltzer served as Director of the World Friendship Center from 1981 to 1982. She was a woman of great energy, wise counsel and sharp wit who loved nature, color, and music. It was the autumn of 1981 when I first met Mary, a small, short-haired lady in a Burberry coat. I was in a street car for Ujina Port, on the way to the WFC in Midorimachi. She had just arrived at Hiroshima and was also heading for WFC. This was the beginning of a friendship that lasted for 31 years, long after she left Hiroshima.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit her home in La Verne, California. I learned many things from her; one, in particular, was her treatment of water as a scarce resource. I, who was brought up in Japan where water is abundant, was very much surprised at her using the flow of water like a chopstick

point when she washed the dishes. When I asked the reason, she told me that she had lived in the Republic of Botswana in Africa before, and experienced how precious water was there. She loved reading books and never failed to read every night before sleeping. She also loved Japanese food and asked me to bring a deep noodle bowl (Donburi chawan) she couldn't get it in La Verne. She was very happy when I brought one to her from Hiroshima.

According to her eldest daughter Marty's letter following her death, and her obituary notice enclosed in it, Mary and her husband Ralph devoted their lives to public service, the Church of the Brethren, and its witness for peace and social justice. In 1942, they quit their teaching jobs in L.A. to teach in the Manzanar internment camp. Because camp conditions were harsh, they obtained support from the Church to set up a relocation hostel in Chicago. From 1943 to 1944, they assisted approximately 1,000 Japanese-Americans to resettle in the Midwest. They then started a similar hostel in Brooklyn. During this time, Mary developed a lifelong love of Japanese culture.

On October 8th, 2012, she passed away at the age of 96. She died in her home as she had wanted, with her three children and other family at her bedside. Good luck, Mary, please sleep in peace.



(Mary Blocher Smeltzer 1915-2012)

Upon delegation of peace ambassadors to South Korea In March 2013

Chizuko Taguchi

The Peace Ambassadors Exchange (PAX) between Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and South Korea that began in 2003 has been deepened year by year. To date, about 20 people have visited each other's countries to build up a close friendship relations. Through our visits, we were able to learn about partner country's history that could not be known in our own country, or faced problems that were threatening peace. During home stays, we were amazed at many surprising similarities such as Confucian feelings, customs and food cultures.

On the other hand, regarding issues about Takeshima or comfort women, even after many years of attempts to solve problems between two governments, anger still erupts in South Korea today. I keenly think about the weight of sins committed by Japan in the past. The only way for humanity to co-exist is that each of us need to be aware and discern the direction of the country and work together to overcome the difficulties strictly monitoring mistakes.

PAX is a chance of a lifetime to foster international understanding and friendship. I do hope that the Peace Ambassador Exchange (PAX) mission this time will be even more fruitful.