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Yu - Ai

Friendship

Newsletter of NPO World Friendship Center

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Greetings, and welcome to the Autumn 2014 issue of the World Friendship's Center, Yu-Ai. We are very glad of this opportunity to keep in touch with each one of you, and appreciate your continuing interest in, and support of, the WFC. Incidentally, we now have a fairly active Facebook page – go to World Friendship Center (Hiroshima) to see us there!

As ever, life at the WFC is busy with many things, and Yu-Ai tells just a little of what we have been doing. One thing that is already occupying us, and that we are really looking forward to, is the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the World Friendship Center: Masako Kido and Michiko Yamane's report tells something of our preparations for this event.

You can read about WFC-related events for this year, too: June's "Fun Time in English", with a focus on New Zealand, presented by Dean McLaughlin; the events of August 6th, here at the WFC and at Peace Park, as reported by our directors Xinia and Richard Tobias; and Herb Tsuchiya's account of the Tsuchiya family's visit to Hiroshima, also in August.

We also hear from two students from Hiroshima Shudo University, Ayane Osada and Nana Morita, who report on their internship at the WFC in September. Finally, this issue of Yu-Ai concludes with this year's North East Asia Youth Peace Camp: introduced by Jim Ronald and with some early reports (more to follow!) from junior high and high school students Yuri, Sayaka, and Kotomi.

Reflecting on 50 years of the World Friendship Center Masako Kido

It was 1965 when I first visited the WFC, which was right after the establishment ceremony in Shukkeien Park. At that time, the WFC was located in Minami-Kannonmachi. Across the road from the WFC a house was prepared for visitors including Hibakusha. During the early years, Barbara Reynolds relied heavily on donations from her friends for much needed financial support. In 1971, the WFC moved to Midorimachi. As Barbara wanted to live in a true Japanese home, Midorimachi's house was a perfect fit because of its style. In that same year, the American Committee was established in La Verne, California.

After Barbara left Hiroshima, and returned to California, many different directors came to the WFC and made significant contributions. For example, knowing that the WFC was in financial difficulty, one of the directors made accessories of black coral from Hawaii to sell and even made several large sized futons for the foreign guests. Another point worth noting is that WFC staff worked without compensation. All the members worked with a strong volunteer spirit. In 1986, the WFC moved to Minamimachi, while at the same time, Mr. Hiromu Morishita succeeded Dr. Tomin Harada as the chairperson.

The WFC moved once again in 1995, from Minamimachi to our present Higashi-Kannonmachi Japanese house. The house itself is not new but it is a comfortable place to meet and talk.

In 2014, the WFC was registered as a center to study about peace and cultural understanding. I know if Barbara were alive today, she would be very happy.

50th Anniversary Events 2015

Michiko Yamane

World Friendship Center will mark the 50th anniversary next year, 2015. Barbara Reynolds planted a seed and it has put down deep roots in the soil of *Hiroshima* and is blooming beautiful flowers.

We are planning the 50th anniversary events in April, 2015 to commemorate and celebrate the 50-year existence. Many people from America such as Barbara's daughter, Jessica, the Reynolds's family and former directors at WFC are coming. We do hope from the bottom of our hearts that you will attend these events by all means.

Date	Events
Wednesday April 8	You are expected to arrive in Hiroshima at the latest. 
Thursday April 9	Welcome potluck party at WFC
Friday April 10	50 th Anniversary Ceremony at Seifukan in Shukkeien Garden   Tour to Schmoe Museum
Saturday April 11	One World Peace Concert 14:00~16:00 at Nagarekawa Church 
Sunday April 12	Worship Service in the morning at WFC 14:00~17:00 Symposium, round table talk
Monday April 13	Tour Peace Memorial Museum Barbara's Monument Kataribe event (talk session) 
Tuesday April 14	Sightseeing 2 days trip Kagura-Monzen-Tojimura (Sacred music and dancing & hot spring) Farewell Party  
Wednesday April 15	Back to Hiroshima

New Zealand Presentation at the World Friendship Center Dean McLaughlin

When asked to present about my home country I felt honored. I enjoy sharing about my country New Zealand, but I wondered, do many Japanese people know about New Zealand? To my surprise, many of the attending people knew a lot about New Zealand. Some had even been there!

I presented with a slide show of many New Zealand treasures, cultures and traditions. We also watched a video of the famous All Blacks haka. Many people had questions and some even brought their own New Zealand maps to show. It was very encouraging to share my presentation with such enthusiastic and supportive people. We ended the presentation by enjoying some New Zealand food; fresh fruit kababs, dairy milk chocolate, and of course, pavlova with cream and kiwi fruit.

I had a fantastic time at the Friendship Center and wish to thank Kaori and everyone who attended and supported the event. I look forward to attending more international presentations in the future.

Cheers,
Dean



Xinia, Dean, Kurumaji, Nishida, Ikeda (left to right)



August 6th

Richard Tobias

August 6th is a day of Commemoration when the city of Hiroshima assemble in the Peace Memorial Park. Thousands gather to pay tribute to the thousands who perished as a result of dropping the A-bomb on 1945. For many years has always been a bright sunny day. On this August 6th it was a very rainy day and yet thousands came. At that time the WFC had a group of students from Canada staying with us. They along with four adult advisors, accompanied us as we went to the Park. Some of our volunteers provided transportation.

Always on this day the Ambassadors of many countries join the Commemoration. The program started at 8:00 AM. When it was 8:15 AM there was a moment of complete silence. At 8:15 AM on August 6th 1945, an A-bomb exploded over the city reducing it to ashes and rubble and immediately killing thousands of innocent people including children. Thousands more were left to suffer severe burns. Many more died minutes, hours and days later. It is estimated that in the next three months following the attack, 140 thousand people died. For months and years later thousands more died from cancer as a result of the radiation produced by the bomb.

Following the ceremony our group gathered at the Monument of Barbara Reynolds, founder of the WFC in 1965. There we laid flowers and we then walked back to the Center to hear Soh Horie-san, an A-bomb survivor/Hibakusha, relate his memories of the bombing. We had about 40 people joining us in our rather small living room to hear Soh-san. Then we engaged in dialogue.

In the afternoon several of us gathered with others at a place in Peace Park where there is a large earthen mound where the remains of about 800 people are buried. We sang songs, we read poems, and comments were heard honoring those buried there. Xinia shared a comment that was made by one of our guests from New York, which reads "...war is a very terrible experience, made more evil by the scale of devastation that can be caused by nuclear weapons. Our regard for human life should be held higher than the desire for power or land or control. I hope the world will learn from this".

In the evening we then gathered another time in the Peace Park near the Children's Monument to write out messages promoting the need for Peace and the abolition of all nuclear weapons. After singing several songs, we took our messages which were on small floating rafts and joining hundreds of others placed them in the river. Inside each floating raft was a lighted candle. There we watched as the river's current took them away. Watching these individual messages, making their way to the open sea, was an unforgettable memory. There yet another August 6th is a memory for us to cherish.

Herb Tsuchiya family visits World Friendship Center Herb Minoru Tsuchiya, 82

August 12, 2014, 23 members of Herb Tsuchiya's family from America arrived for a visit to WFC. They were overjoyed to meet so many wonderful WFC friends at the welcome party.

Herb gave a power point presentation which included photographs of his parents' family located in Hiroshima Prefecture, Sera-cho, Sera-gun. His parents had a rice farm. His father was recruited by American railroad company immigrating to the state of Montana to work as a laborer. He was educated as a school teacher but after the Russo-Japan War he was unable to obtain a teaching job because Japan was suffering an economic depression. Father moved to America where he and mother raised seven children which included one girl and six boys. Herb was born in 1932 as the seventh child.

Herb talked about how God challenged him as a Japanese American Nisei marrying a Chinese American (Bertha Chinn Lung Tsuchiya) in a Christian marriage. Herb married at age 38. He was a Presbyterian. Bertha was a Baptist church member. She was a widow with 4 young children. Her husband had died of leukemia. Herb's mother did not approved of the marriage until after their 5th child, Teri, a girl, was born and his mother got to babysit Teri, her granddaughter. Herb's mother loved being a grandmother. During their dating-courtship time, Bertha cooked delicious meals for Herb which amazed him. The children enjoyed Herb's visits especially the 2 younger children.

He would play games on the floor with them. He was like a new friend and playmate. Bertha said that the reason he got along so well with the children was because he behaved like one of them (like a child). One reason their marriage lasted over 40 years was because each worked separately. Bertha who was a pharmacist-owner worked in her own pharmacy while Herb worked in his own pharmacy. Bertha was analytical (strict and detailed) and she was the disciplinarian (set rules of behavior) for the children while Herb was global (more casual, relaxed, flexible). However when the children asked mother for permission to do something and she said, "No.", if they next asked Herb if he would give permission, he wisely replied, "If your mother said, "No.", then I say "No." " That is why Herb is still alive. (joking/jodan desu)

Bertha and Herb believed in cultivating a personal closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ, the power of prayer, the word of God which is the bible, the fellowship of other believers which is the church, and the unity of family. That is why each year our family of 23 persons travels together on a family vacation to reinforce unity. We have been blessed by God with a family of 5 married children and their spouses and with 12 grandchildren.

God gave Herb two gifts: the gift of encouragement and the gift of hospitality. He encourages others old and young, but especially young persons because they are our future. During his 50 years as a pharmacist-manager-owner he would occasionally hire a young person to work in his pharmacy who had no work experience. He would train them. They became some of his hardest working, most loyal and productive co-workers on his team.

Bertha and Herb's home is used to share God's gift of hospitality. Relatives, friends, foreign students, missionaries, pastors in the past and present have been welcomed to sleep and eat at their home. They believe in caring and up-lifting others because they have been personally blessed by the love of God. Therefore it is that love that needs to be shared with others.

The 3 rules of life that Herb shares with his children and his grandchildren are:

Rule 1: Be Kind

Rule 2: Be Kind

Rule 3: Be Kind



Herb's 12 grandchildren



Kurumaji, Yamane, Herb, Koizumi, Nishida, Fujii
(left to right)

Hiroshima Shudo University Internship

Richard, Ayane, Nana, Xinia (left to right)

Nana Morita

The Department of English Language and Literature:

3rd grade

I want to be a teacher. I want to educate others and teach them about peace because I am anxious that all prefectures other than Hiroshima and Nagasaki hardly have any classes where they learn about peace. When I lived in Yamaguchi, the prefecture which is next to Hiroshima, there were few people who even knew clearly when the day of the A-bomb is. Also, when I was watching TV on August 6, a woman living in Tokyo said, "It is important to consider about peace, but I haven't really ever felt the fear of war." It was really a shock for me. I thought, "How can such as adult person be indifferent? It's unbelievable!" I was struck speechless – not even one in a million people in Hiroshima would react like this. I strongly want to study about Hiroshima and to tell about it.



I was able to know about Hiroshima in a way which I'd never heard through this Internship. Firstly, it's about Barbara Reynolds. I was surprised that "an American" tried to spread the Hibakusha story to the world and thought, "This is

great!" Secondly, I didn't know that many Koreans were taken to Hiroshima by force and killed there by the A-bomb. After the A-bomb was dropped, people who survived were walking around the city as they didn't know what had happened. They thought weapons might have exploded in the military base. To learn about the people's circumstances was a precious experience for me because I couldn't have imagined how they felt. While listening to one of the Hibakusha, Goro-san, I realized "Small considerations develop into PEACE!" Members of WFC are quite considerate and everyone helps each other, so there is always a good atmosphere, and WFC has nothing to do with war. The best way of spreading peace may be by doing small things such as being kind to the next person. I was able to learn so much about peace, but I know I need to learn so much more. I'll continue to study.

Ayane Osada

The Department of English Language and Literature: 3rd grade

Elizabeth Chappell, Ayane and Nana (left to right)

Looking back to this Internship, I could learn many things, think about peace while learning about the devastation of nuclear weapons. I did not have the opportunity to meet many guests, but when I was at WFC I could always practice my English with others.



At first, I was so nervous. But

thanks to Richard and Xinia, I could use English with increasing confidence. Through this experience, I could recognize that my English skills needed more work, but also I was inspired by many people who joined English class and are volunteers. All of these are good experiences. I want to continue to my next step using some things that I learned in here. And I want to continue to think about peace not only in Hiroshima but also around world.

I want to continue to my next step some things that I learned in here. And I want to continue to think about peace not only in Hiroshima but also around world.

Peace Camp

Jim Ronald

This year's North East Asia Youth Peace Camp took place from the 30th July to the 6th of August, and was mainly held at a center on the island of Ganghwa, in the north-western corner of South Korea. This year, of the total of 30 camp participants, ten people from Japan joined the camp: six campers and four counselors, including myself as the coordinator. The campers were composed of two junior high school girls from Hiroshima, one high school boy from Hiroshima, one high school girl from Yamaguchi, and two high school girls from Hokkaido. We counselors were from Hiroshima, Osaka, and Hokkaido.

We were met at Incheon Airport by Korean campers and counselors, and we waited for the campers from China and Hokkaido before heading off together on a bus to our "campsite", a kind of youth hostel or hotel. Below is a schedule of what we did, and the campers' reports are the best places to look for the insiders' experience of the camp.

Joining the Peace Camp

Yuri Saito

Yamaguchi Kenritsu Asa high school (16)

Yuri Saito, Sayaka Watanabe, Kotomi Nakajima (left to right)

I think there are two good points in the peace camp. International communication is one of them. It was the first time for me. I could make friends. Also, it changed my way of thinking about Korea and China. I can say with confidence that it was really good to participate in the peace camp. In fact before



experiencing the camp, I was worrying about the camp more than looking forward to it, but all that worry changed to fun through experiencing the camp.

Since the venue this year was South Korea, again and again family and friends asked me, "Will you be all right?". I myself did not worry about it that much, but looking at the newspapers and TV news, I was a little worried about the safety.

However, the actual Korea is a very good country, and there was not one thing we had to worry about. And, as for the people, the Koreans - and Chinese too - were very gentle, and friendly. And I thought, the anti-Japanese impression is strong when viewed from the TV, as far really, but really there was no such thing. That's how it was, not only with people who participated in this camp, but even those we met by chance in the same hotel, or the Korean shop clerk. Even when people knew I was Japanese, I never saw an unpleasant face – everyone I met greeted me with a smile. That experience really made me glad. I was able to make foreign friends for the first time in this camp. You can play games and sing with everyone, to deepen our friendship or to be talking about peace. To discuss about one English word is especially impressive for me. A way of thinking about it is different, of course, but surprisingly, when we translated English into each mother language, the pronunciation and writing was very similar. And, that made me feel at ease with the Chinese and Korean campers. We talked together as we had our meals or spent free time together - teaching each other's countries card games. I don't speak much English, but this showed me a good way of getting better at speaking.

Second, I could learn about peace. But we didn't only talk about peace; we also went to some museums, including a Historical Museum. At Ganghwa Observation Deck, it was the first time in my life that I saw North Korea with my own eyes. I did not know that there is such a thing in South Korea: a wish for peaceful reunification with North Korea. One of the Korean counselors appealed, "Help us!", with tears in his eyes.

I thought, no one knows when there might be war again - it's the same for all of us. I strongly believe that we should reject war and build peace. In Japan, the right of collective self-defense was set up. I feel that Japan is approaching war. I think we should stop this immediately. I learned that it is important to turn our ideas into an action, even it's only small. I was recalled of this idea by the camp.

I have had a very good experience. I think this great camp should continue to be held, for many more people.

Peace Camp in Korea

Sayaka Watanabe

Hiroshima Shiritsu Yano junior high school 3rd grade (15)

Between the 30th July and the 6th August, I joined the 2014 Peace Camp. Before joining the peace camp, all I knew about Korea or China was from the news, and my image of them wasn't very good. But as some friends told me, if you don't see it yourself directly, not just from watching TV, you won't know what it's really like. But the reality was quite different from what I'd imagined. Everyone was friendly, calling out in a relaxed way. I was embarrassed of the image I'd just made up. I felt really bad about that. From now on, I don't want to be prejudiced or anything like that.

The most fun thing we did at the camp was Culture Night. The group from Japan sang "*Sekai ni hitotsu dake no hana*" with sign language and "*Yosakoi-Sourari*". When everyone joined in with "*Yosakoi-Sourari*" and copied our dancing and calling out, it was really exciting! I didn't want it to finish.

The saddest thing was when we visited and heard about the "*Nanum no ie*" – Japanese army "comfort women" history museum and international peace human rights center. Listening to the explanation, I just felt like crying. One of the counselors, talking about this type of thing, had said, "Why do I have to be Japanese?" For me, too, I thought that it felt hard to be Japanese.

Now that the peace camp has finished and I think about what I learned, what I experienced, I feel like I should tell people around me about it. As the people who experienced war are getting older, and there are fewer and fewer people who can tell how important peace is and how terrible war is, I want young people to start doing this and tell people this. I want to start doing what I can do, as well.

Peace Camp

Kotomi Nakashima

Hiroshima shiritsu Yano junior high school 3rd grade (15)

This year, I joined the peace camp for the first time. I heard about it from my mother. I decided to join because I thought, "I want to make many Chinese and Korean friends!" I looked forward to joining the camp, but I was afraid, too, because I thought that many Chinese and Koreans might dislike Japanese people.

But these campers were kind to me so we became good friends, and I had a good time. I regretted a little because I hadn't studied English harder before. I wished I could communicate better with them in English because I wanted to talk to them more. I spoke with my bad English, and did gestures in order for them to understand me. I made a lot of efforts to use as much English as I could so that we could talk more.



(Kotomi with Korean and Chinese campers around her)

Everyday was fun, and days passed very quickly. We ate, talked, played game, went shopping, and studied about peace and so on together.

We visited "the House of Sharing". The exhibition was about the Japanese army and "comfort women". I discovered many problems through the tour. I found the word, "victims", and the scriptures of "Flowers (women) who didn't bloom" etc. I also saw many pictures of them and related matters.

There were many messages from around the world there. Here is a message from a Japanese person, "We have kept on following constitution Article 9". However, thinking that the Abe government is going to change the interpretation of constitution of the Article 9, I felt sad.

When the camp started, I thought "Koreans and Chinese dislike Japanese". But the campers were kind and so were the people at the hostel in Korea. It is said that many Korean people hate Japanese, but I felt that was not generally true. Maybe I was a little influenced by stereotypes before visiting Korea.

Through this experience, I want to make more friends overseas, attending more peace camps. Thank you very much.



*Kana Nakamura:Sapporo Sacred Heart High School 3rd grade
and Hina Nakamura(Twins):Sapporo Daiichi High School 3rd grade*