

2013 Issue Number 149



Yu - Ai

Friendship

Newsletter of NPO 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.wfchiroshima.net/>

WFC blog <http://wfcnews.blogspot.jp/>

Chairperson: Michiko Yamane

Directors: Richard & Xinia Tobias

Breaking the Silence

Nikki Sadayo Nojima Louis



(Breaking the Silence Performance at Hiroshima International House on August 3rd)

In America, we have a saying: "out of sight, out of mind." But this is certainly not true of me. WFC and my time in Hiroshima are never far from my mind. I have felt ever since I left Hiroshima that the educational opportunities BTS and WFC created must continue. PAX's visit to New Mexico has strengthened my belief that we must have a cultural and educational exchange that is global, and I am working toward that goal.

Shoichi and Kenso; Soh and Kyle; Nobuko and Kiyomi; Etsuko, Mieko, Michiko Nishida, Kimiko, Kaori, Yoko, Shoko, Akiko; and of course, JoAnn and Larry--you made more than one friend at a time in New Mexico; you made many fans! In two days in Albuquerque and one day in Santa Fe, you presented at 7 schools--the children loved you. UNM sponsored a Forum, and the Peace & Justice Center gave a potluck attended by over 100 students, scholars, scientists, and peace activists--the people loved you. You educated, entertained and inspired us with your stories, your knowledge, and your presence. They signed a petition for your return. I was overwhelmed by the interest. I had to turn down requests from schools, churches and even the Balloon Museum because of lack of time. I think you inspired and energized our peace community. Everyone wants you back, and I've promised to plan for your return.

Two days before PAX arrived Kim flew to Albuquerque from Seattle and Chisao from Portland to help me. We contacted home stays, talked with schools and churches, scheduled presentations, arranged transportation, purchased omiyage, and met organizers. Herb, Kim and I hosted a welcoming luncheon for PAX and home stay hosts, and Mary Oishi was master of ceremonies for the potluck dinner at the Peace & Justice Center. The next day, we drove to Santa Fe, where PAX met with peace activists and visited Los Alamos. We also laid flowers at the site of the Santa Fe prison camp where Issei men, including my father, were held during WW II. I have sent a report to the Dean of UNM proposing an exchange program between us and universities in Hiroshima. I am writing a grant and fund-raising for my return to Hiroshima. I will be in touch with you as these plans solidify.

Mary Oishi has said the trip to Hiroshima changed her life; I know many others in our company feel the same. For me, Hiroshima represents the continuation of a relationship that began last August and was deepened by PAX's visit in October. The pioneering spirit that inspired you to bring BTS to Hiroshima has become contagious. I have caught the can-do spirit and am spreading it to others. The ties between Japanese and Japanese-Americans are silken and strong and reach across the ocean; we have much to offer and much to learn from each other. I am so happy to be part of this on-going adventure.

On the plane back to Seattle, Kim and Herb sat next to a woman who is the wife of a nuclear scientist. She said she heard Soh's radio interview and wanted to

volunteer for PAX's next visit. She gave Kim her name and e-mail address. One friend at a time.

Please stay in touch. Even though I am a tardy correspondent, it is because I am working hard to rejoin you.



(After One World Peace Concert at Nagarekawa Church)

BTS in Hiroshima 2013

Herb Tsuchiya

Greetings from Seattle where it is sometimes sunny and sometimes raining. My physical body is in Seattle but my heart is in Hiroshima especially with all of my BFF (Best Friends Forever) at the World Friendship Center. I miss you and love (ai) you all. My wish is to "futatabi issho ni naru tai desu". Perhaps, God willing, maybe next year (rainen). Your hospitality and kind friendship shown to us as visitors from America as cast and crew of the "Breaking the Silence" drama play was so generous and touched our hearts. We are so grateful. You transported us to so many places. You fed us good food. We talked, laughed, and enjoyed each person. You gave us many happy memories which we will cherish for our lifetime. Thank you for inviting us to Hiroshima. May the beautiful autumn colors of the changing leaves on the maple trees (momiji) and the golden

leaves of the ginkgo trees remind you of the joy and happiness that you all shared with us.

God bless, ja mata, sara ba ja, Herb Minoru Tsuchiya, 81, "jodan sensei"

Mike Stern

After my first trip to Japan in April 2012, I had no idea I would be returning in 2013 to visit my new friends again so soon. My wife Carol and I - along with the rest of the Breaking the Silence cast - were all so generously hosted by the kind, committed & charming volunteers from the World Friendship Center.

It was particularly a great honor for me to be able to sing for the 2nd annual One World Peace Concert on August 5th, 2013 at Hiroshima Nagarekawa Church, & also to do a mini-concert prior to one of the performances of "Breaking the Silence". I'm always glad to share my music with the broader world peace community, but it was especially meaningful for me to do so in Hiroshima City during the week of the August 6th memorial, & to sing the song I wrote for Hiroshima, "As If the Flowers Knew".

Thank you all so much for helping make this trip possible. I hope I will be able to do more peace concerts with you in future years. Keep up the good work.

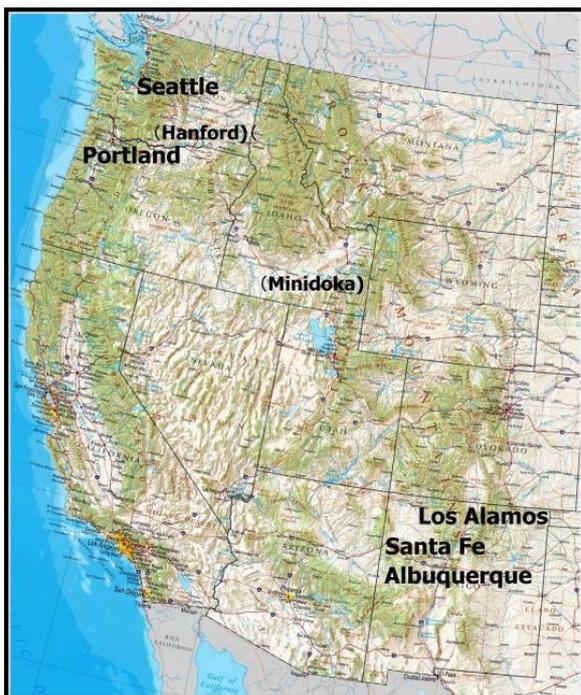
Mike Stern www.mikesongs.net



Mike Stern & Chisao Hata (One World Peace Concert at Nagarekawa Church)

PAX to America Shoichi Fujii

PAX (Peace Ambassadors Exchange) team consisting of sixteen members toured the USA for three weeks, from September 14 to October 5, 2013.



(Seattle Airport)



Map provided by The National Atlas of the United States of America ®

Cities in BOLD added to show PAX locations for trip

(Seattle→Hanford→Minidoka→Portland→Seattle→Albuquerque→Santa Fe→Los Alamos→Albuquerque→Seattle)

Coordinators of the tour, Larry and JoAnn Sims met the team as we arrived at the Seattle Tacoma Airport on September 14th, along with some members of the Seattle-Hiroshima club.

From September 15 to September 17th we visited several sights, touring by charter bus. In Washington we saw fossilized ginkgo trees. We went to Hanford, Washington and toured the Hanford Reactors Site where the plutonium used in the A-bomb dropped on Nagasaki was produced. In Idaho we visited the site of the Minidoka Internment Camp. In the camp 12,000 Japanese Americans were

detained for three and a half years during WWII. We then went to the Wanapum Dam in Washington.

September 18th: We went to McMinnville, Oregon to the First Baptist Church where Larry and JoAnn are members. There we met and were introduced to our host families. On this date we gave our first presentations at Linfield College.

September 19th: We gave presentations in McMinnville, Salem and Lincoln City, Oregon. We finished our day at the home of Larry and JoAnn Sims along with our host families.

September 20: Presentations were given in Portland, Sherdan, and McMinnville, Oregon.

September 21: We did some sightseeing at a Pacific Ocean beach. We then gave a presentation at Willilamet University in Salem, Oregon.

September 22: Presentations were given at the First Baptist Church in McMinnville.

September 23: We had Question& Answer session at Linfield College.

September 24: More sightseeing at Mt.St Helen in Washington. We had a welcoming party with the Schmoe family. From there we went to the home of Steve and Gail Sumida. Steve and Gail are cast members of "Breaking the Silence".

September 25: Presentations were given at Garfield High School and the County Day School in Seattle. We met Seattle's deputy mayor. We then had a reception at the Japanese Baptist Church.

September 26: We went to Mt. Ranier National Park.

September 27: Presentations were given at many places. We went to Seattle's Peace Park and placed one thousand paper cranes from Hiroshima at the Sadako Monument. Had a reception at the Seattle Hiroshima Club.

September 28: To Bainbridge Island where 227 Japanese American were detained in yet another internment camp. We then visited the Nohonzan Myohojin Temple.

September 29: We journeyed to Albuquerque, New Mexico

September 30: A presentation at Central New Mexico Community College and another presentation and panel discussion.

Oct 1 : More presentations at primary schools, high schools and a community college in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. We visited an Indian Art and Folk Craft

Museum. We met with Information Exchange with PAX Christi. Also a Nuclear Watch and other peace organizations in Santa Fe.

Oct 2: We visited a monument for Japanese Americans at Frank Ortiz Park.

We lit a candle to pay tribute to the victims and offered flowers. From there we went to Los Alamos where the A-bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were made. While there we offered our prayers for world peace. We then offered our 1000 paper cranes.



Oct 4: It was back to say our farewells to the Sims, Sterns and all the friends we made.

(Hanford B Reactor in Washington)

Evaluation

- 1) Our deepest gratitude to Larry and JoAnn Sims for all their work and effort as PAX teams planners and coordinators in the Portland, Oregon area. Also Mike and Carol Stern who were the coordinator in Washington, and Professor Nikki Nojima Louis as coordinator in New Mexico. For all the requests they had for our presentations they accepted only about 90%.
- 2) Larry and JoAnn spoke about the nearly 50 years of the WFC promoting Peace. This they did at most of the presentations.
- 3) We met so many wonderful people and deepened our friendship with them.

Things to re-consider for the next Peace Trip

- 1) We feel no more than 8 people should be on a PAX team. This would simplify both transportation and finding host families.
- 2) Not only A-bomb survivor experience, but also the reconstruction history of Hiroshima and peace activates should be included. Also to be considered is how the A-bomb has threatened the city of Hiroshima for years. Consideration of the nuclear threat to Fukushima should be included in the presentations.



*Monte Del Sol Charter School
(Albuquerque)*

Report about PAX 13

Soh Horie



(Sadako Monument at Peace Park in Seattle)

First of all I wish to express my gratitude to the Larry and JoAnn Sims family. I am also grateful to other participants who were concerned about my health, because I was just recovering from illness. This was my second PAX trip to USA. I remember on my first trip the security check was not so strict. But this time it was very strict. We were so well received by all the American hosts. This is especially true of the members of the "Breaking the Silence" team, who visited Hiroshima this past August. I want to give my special thanks to them.

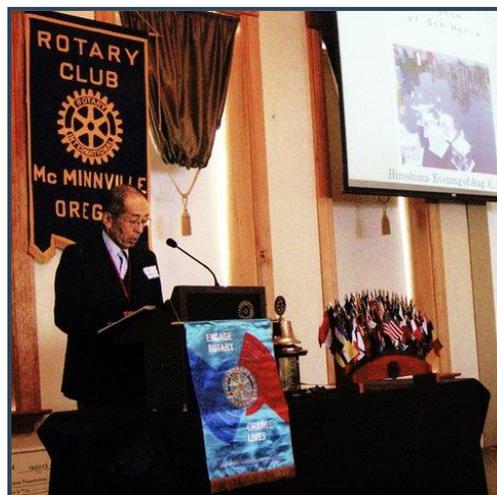
We had many wonderful experiences during our presentations. I also enjoyed the times when we were able to do some sightseeing. I was filled with deep emotions when I visited the Los Alamos Laboratory, where the bomb "Little Boy" was assembled.

I spoke about my experiences as an A-bomb survivor, global warming, and nuclear power plants. The American people seemed deeply moved by my mother's short poems translated by Yamane-san. First I read these poems in Japanese, and then JoAnn-san and Kyle-san read them in English.

The head of our team, Mr. Fujii had suggested that we bring some Japanese food with us. Japanese cooking was popular among American people. So I cooked

breakfast several times. Especially the Sukiyaki party for 13 people in Herb san's house is a nice memory for me.

The Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) took blood samples from A-bomb victims, but didn't treat them at that time. A-bomb victims were treated like guinea pigs. These samples are still very valuable to the Americans for research. There are some Hibakusha in USA, but Americans don't study their own Hibakusha. I can't understand why the USA is spending so much money on making new nuclear weapons.



Rotary Club (McMinnville, Oregon)

Mrs. Mary Oishi introduced me to Mr. Paul Ingles, a famous interviewer in USA. He asked me the following questions:

1. Why did USA drop A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
2. Was the dropping of the A-bombs necessary?
3. What do you think about the fact that some American veterans think A-bombs were necessary at that time?
4. What is the most important message you want to give Americans as an A-bomb victim?

To be improved: 16 participants were too many to arrange transportation, lodging, and consensus building. The appropriate number of participants should be 5 to 6. I promise to welcome the many people who took care of us so very kindly while we were in the USA, and the US PAX members coming to Japan in 2 years.

*Michiko Hamai
Touchstone Kindergarten
(Portland)*



2013 PAX Tour to America

Kiyomi Kohno



(Sheridan Japanese School, Oregon)

From September 14 to October 5, 2013 I traveled to America with PAX. I'm deeply grateful to the other members, because of all the kind consideration they showed to me as the eldest member. I had slight misgivings about my physical condition before departing, but I decided to start this adventure leaving my fate to God. Our former WFC directors, Larry & JoAnn planned this wonderful tour and they supported us side by side every step of the way. I wish I could find enough words to express our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you for all your kindness. This PAX tour was a very large-scale program. I was especially impressed by Larry and JoAnn's large network of friends. They are experienced and naturally virtuous people.

This was my first home stay and I'm 82 years old. I stayed with four families. They were really marvelous to me. When I expressed my gratitude, they said to me, "We are honored to have you in our home." To me, this was an unbelievable generous hospitality and I felt a little ashamed of my previous narrow minded thinking regarding Americans. I would like to thank all the people from all the churches across America. They were so kind and hospitable to us.

In Oregon, I met a graduate student, Matthew, and a high school student, Rosie, who came to Hiroshima in May. They listened to my A-bomb story. I felt very happy to see them again. After my presentation, Rosie's family kissed me in tears,

and a male student said to me, "Listening to your story was one of the best experiences of my life." Another girl student apologized in tears, "Please forgive America for dropping the A-bomb." In Seattle I met many people from the Seattle Hiroshima club. I deeply appreciated their welcome. I was very glad and proud to see Japanese Americans living full and happy lives. In New Mexico I saw our former WFC directors, Ron & Barb. They looked fine and well. These encounters, as so many encounters with other people, continue to flash across my mind.

Other things that took my breath away were the beautiful marble of Oregon state capital, Mount St. Helens, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, a statue of Sadako at Seattle Peace Park, a hundred freight trains in Idaho and Oregon, the Columbia River, the dazzling sunlight in New Mexico, the huge shining beautiful stars, the Milky Way in Albuquerque and the vast landscape that is America. All of these, and more, I now look back on with fond memories.

However, none of these had as big an impact on me as visiting the Hanford B nuclear reactor site and Los Alamos. I felt that these places were where it all began. This was the main culprit, and I could not stop trembling all over. I became fully aware of the world's cruel history, and I felt miserable that we, the human race don't seem to be able to turn back now. In Minidoka Internment Camp site, tears welled up in my eyes, because I remembered that my aunt who lived in California was sent to such a camp.

Lastly I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mike & Carol, Herb, Nikki, Richard & Xinia, Michiko Yamane-san, and the board members of WFC.



(Willamette University in Salem ,Oregon)

Reflections of my grandfather Otto Hahn, by his grandson Dietrich Hahn

Richard Tobias, Volunteer Co-Director WFC

(Reception for Dietrich Hahn)

What an honor it was to be in the presence of a man who is the grandson of Otto Hahn, the German Chemist who won the 1944 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his discovery of Nuclear Fission. Dietrich Hahn came to Hiroshima on September 30th to give a lecture on the life of



his grandfather. On Monday evening, Sept 30th, approximately 90 people gathered at Hiroshima University to hear Mr.Hahn's lecture. He came to Hiroshima at the invitation of Hiroshima's former mayor, Mr.Tadatoshi Akiba. The World Friendship center was also involved in this event.

Mr.Hahn presented his grandfather as a very humble man who loved children, and who was a very strong advocate for World Peace and the abolition of all nuclear weapons. He told the gathering how his grandfather became extremely depressed upon hearing the news that an atomic bomb was dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It was his dream that his discovery of nuclear fission would be used for the betterment of mankind not the destruction. As a German scientist he was being detained by the British when Germany surrendered. He was in England on August 6, 1945, and upon hearing the news that America had developed an atomic bomb and used it, he began to consume large amounts of alcohol. Those close to him feared he would take his own life.

Dietrich Hahn was born in 1946. His father was an officer in the German armed forces during WW II and was severely wounded while fighting on the Russian front. Both parents died when he was 14 (in 1960) at which time he went to live

with his famous grandfather, Otto Hahn. His grandfather would tell of his close relationship with such notables as Albert Schweitzer and Albert Einstein and other Noble Prize winners. His grandfather rejected any justification for the use of the Atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki stating both were a needless crime.

In 1988 Dietrich established the Otto Hahn Peace Medal in memory of his grandfather. He has a committee of peace advocates who meet every December 17th to determine the medal's winner for the coming year. He stated when they met last December it took them only 3 1/2 minutes to determine the 2013 winner. " Never before had the decision been made so quickly." The winner was Mr. Akiba for his endeavors promoting peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

On the following evening we were invited to a press conference with Mr. Hahn, and the World Friendship Centers' Board Chairwoman Michiko Yamane. We also met the present mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui. From the press conference we were invited to a dinner party given in honor of Mr. Hahn by Mr. Akiba.

My first summer in Japan

Xinia Tobias, Volunteer Co-Director WFC

(Xinia Tobias)

My first summer in Hiroshima Japan was and will always be an unforgettable experience. When Richard and I arrived at the Hiroshima Airport we were greeted by three friendly Japanese men. This was the beginning of our first summer in Hiroshima filled with new adventures and wonderful experiences.

It was a very busy summer for the volunteers for Richard and for me. Plans were on the way for the Breaking the Silence Readers Theater Performances and also for the One World Peace Concert. During the meetings at the WFC, the volunteers were very energetic and detailed about all the planning for these activities and the activities of August 6th, the



day citizens of Hiroshima and people from all over the world come to commemorate the attack on Hiroshima in 1945.

At this time I knew very little about the World Friendship Center and all the work that goes on here. I felt somewhat lost and overwhelmed in the planning of all the events. However I felt confident in what the different committees were doing. The volunteers at the WFC are some of the most committed and dedicated hard working people I have met. It has been a privilege to work with them and I know it will continue to be for the rest of our time as WFC volunteer co-directors.

On July 29th eight cast members from The Readers Drama "Breaking the Silence" and Michael and his wife Carol Stern came from Seattle Washington and stayed at the WFC until August 7th. BTS performed on August 1st, 2nd and 3rd. On August 5th Michael Stern gave his concert along with the Peace Choir and a group of very talented Japanese musical artists. All the performances were quite successful.

On August 6th we had the privilege to hear Mr. Herbert Tsuchiya, a Japanese American who is one of the actors from BTS, share with us at the WFC his experiences when living in one of the Internment camps in the USA. People of all ages came to hear him and there were about 50 people in attendance that day. It was a very hot and humid summer day. However, everyone seemed eager to hear what Mr. Tsuchiya had to say.

After August 6th the summer activities slowed down a little. The guests continued to come from all over the world and filled our house. It has been a great joy to serve them and to serve the people of Hiroshima. As I reflect on my first summer in Japan, I thank God for the opportunity to be a part of this great mission "To foster peace, one friend at a time".

2013 Youth Peace Camp – in China!

Jim Ronald, coordinator

These are dark times for Japan, and her neighbors, with even darker clouds on the horizon. A new “secrets bill”, aimed at muzzling investigative journalism, whistleblowers, or dissenting voices, has just become law... There are moves to further “clean up” Japanese school history books so that Japanese young people won’t feel ashamed of their country’s past... And there are plans to operate on Japan’s “peace constitution”, to remove the irritating part – peace.

At times like this, the North-East Asia Peace Camp really is like a small but brightly shining star in a dark sky. This year, from 28 July - 4 August, the fifth annual North-East Asia Peace Camp took place in Nanjing (Nanking), China. Sadly, only one camper – Yuni Sakata, a junior high school student – joined the camp from Japan, together with two graduate student counselors (Yuko Oaku) and myself (Jim Ronald) as coordinator. We were all a little nervous about going to China (here in Japan you hear nothing but bad news from China: pollution, politics, anti-Japanese feeling...) and to Nanjing, too, with its heavy historical legacy. All this may have deterred potential campers from Japan... And Nanjing is also known as one of the hottest places in China, and we would be visiting at the hottest time of the year!



Despite all this, our experience was all good! It was a wonderful camp, taking place in the city’s very green and relatively cool botanical gardens, and made up of a total of 32 friendly, fun people: 18 from China, 10 from Korea, and the four of us from Japan. We spent a large part of each day in mixed country groups,

playing, exploring, creating together as a team, and forgetting our different nationalities.

We spent time every day on peace-building and preconception-challenging activities, learning to appreciate each other's cultures and becoming friends. We played games, performed skits, took risks, and sang songs together... And at the end, we visited the Nanjing Massacre Museum.



The best way to finish this peace camp report is with the words of Yuni Sakata, our 12-year-old Japanese camper:

This was my second time to join the Peace Camp. However, last time it was held in Japan, but this time it was in China. So it was very hard to decide to join. I had heard of Nanjing, but I couldn't imagine where it is. Also, I was the only student from Japan, so I was worried whether I could communicate with the other participants. But at the camp, I was able to speak with everyone.

In the museum of Nanjing Massacre, there was written what Japan has done and the damage caused to China. I had learned a little at History class, but I hadn't realized it was so terrible. Japanese should know everything about this fact.

When I heard about Canada's internment of Japanese people at the time of the Pacific War from Jessica, I was moved by that story.

I could speak more than last time, so I had a really fun time during some activities. Every activity was interesting because it made us cooperate and help each other. And on Yuko-san's birthday, we were able to celebrate, making our hearts one.

At the culture night, each country showed their own country's music. The Japanese team sang "Arigatou". It was popular with the others, and the Korean people sang together. I thought that was a good time.

I'm not good at speaking (English), so I was worried whether I could communicate with other participants, but counselors and roommates helped me. I spent a really fun time in China. I really want to say thank you to everybody in this camp!

Shudo University Internship

Hiroshima Shudo University

Chika Nomura

This internship was a precious experience for me. First, it changed my character and my way of thinking about English. I was shy and I did not have any confidence in my English before the internship. However little by little I became able to speak English without hesitation while I talked in English with WFC members and guests.



In the front row (Left) Chika Nomura (Right) Miho Katarao

I think my English improved because WFC members and guests were so willing to listen while I spoke. So now, thanks to them, I am not so shy when I speak in English, I don't have to struggle with grammar in my head as I prepare what I want to say, and I'm more willing and able to speak, too.

Next, when I joined in the many activities at the WFC, I realized how little I knew and that I was utterly ignorant about Hiroshima and the A-bomb. Xinia and Richard took time to teach me about it.

One experience made me so conscious that I have to learn more about Hiroshima. One day, I was explaining Hinamatsuri (the Girls' Festival) to the guest who came from Switzerland. However, I didn't know about its history, the names of the dolls

name which people display for Hinamatsuri, and so on. The guest told me the culture of Switzerland, but I hardly knew anything about my own country. How can this be cultural exchange? From now on, I need to study not only about the cultures of foreign countries but also about my country's culture.

Finally, the most important and unforgettable thing to me is connecting with people from all over the world. Meeting many members of WFC and the many guests has made my internship such a precious experience. Although I did my internship at the WFC for only two weeks, I have since helped out on several occasions. I really enjoy the time I spend there. The people I meet at the WFC have such cheerful smiles and kind eyes. I feel they are just like family. I continue to receive invitations to WFC for many of the events.

Thanks to you all, I feel that my world has got larger. I was very happy to work at WFC, and I'm deeply grateful for everything. Thank you!

Reflection on my internship

Hiroshima Shudo University

Miho Katarao

There are two reasons why I chose the World Friendship Center. First, I wanted to speak English, and I thought it would give me a good chance to do that. When the internship started, I couldn't speak English properly because I was so nervous.



In the front row (Left) Miho Katarao(Right) Chika Nomura

However, I got less and less nervous because everyone listened to me so attentively and wanted to know what I was trying to say. When I talked with Xinia she would always say, "Speak! Speak! Speak! That's how you get better at

English!" Her words impressed me, and reminded me that if I want my English to get better, I have to speak.

The second reason for choosing WFC was because I didn't know much about Hiroshima or peace. It was through listening to the Hibakusha testimonies and hearing from the Peace Park guides that I learned about Hiroshima. And then I was able to share what I learned with the directors. And I started noticing peace around me. For example, as I talked with the directors and guests as we sat around the breakfast table, I realized that learning about other countries is related to peace. To get to know each other is one step to peace.

I want to thank all the people I met at WFC. It's thanks to you that I was able to experience all these things. I want to make the most of what I learned through my time with you. I'm looking forward to new challenges in my life. Thank you very much!

Spanish Class

Miho Ikeda

Hola! Como estas? It is really fun to study Spanish. We have enjoyed learning it at the new class started this September.

We have two classes, one for beginners like me, and another class for those more advanced students. We beginners first learned common greetings, male and female, singular and plural nouns, and so much more. With each class we practice the things we learn. The advanced class enjoys speaking in Spanish. On one occasion, they watched a movie, and then had a discussion in Spanish about the movie.

Looking forward to the first lesson thrilled me so much because I have never done it before. Xinia is our excellent teacher!! She, a patient educator, gives us lessons so kindly. Pleasantly, at times so briskly, and we also learn by singing. A one hour lesson goes by so quickly.

Spanish pronunciation is similar to Japanese so the students can speak words rather easily. Some words are the same, however with different meanings. Learning Spanish is so much fun - one day it hit my laugh spot! I always look forward to Fridays.

I am just able to say only some easy phrases now. I have an incredibly big dream that in two years I will be able to debut at giving WFC guests a guided tour of the Peace Memorial Park.... in Spanish! Everyone is welcome to observe our classes. Muchas Gracias!!

PEACELOVE 2013



Peace Choir on stage at Pe-A-Ce-Lo-Ve



(Surrounding Lim Dongsik and his seeing-eye dog, Ramble)

Asaka Watanabe

PEACELOVE has been held in autumn every year. We took part in this year's 30th PEACELOVE. WFC Peace Choir sang on stage to the accompaniment of the guitar by our director Richard.

Sarta-andagi, Okinawa-style doughnuts, home made by our members, loquat tea from Iwajima Island, and postcards made of recycled paper from folded paper cranes were displayed and sold at the WFC booth. We also sold nice items hand made by the physically disabled, which were provided by Sachie Harada.

Mr. Lim Dongsik, a Korean resident in Japan and a former Hansen's disease patient, had a talking session in the open air together with Ramble, his seeing-eye dog.

This 30th PEACELOVE will be the last one, and our former director, Jeanne Chappell Kingsbury sent a message to the last PEACELOVE. Emiko Okada, who received the letter, introduced it, and Xinia, our director, read it aloud on the stage with translation into Japanese by Keiko Miyamoto. The letter was then handed to the organizing committee chairperson.

WFC has participated in this gathering for international exchange most of the time. One of our fondest memories was when we sang in a heavy rain storm two years ago.

Jeanne Chappell Kingsbury

September 26, 2013

Dear Executive Committee,

I was so sad to hear that the P-E-A-C-E-L-O-V-E Festival is in its final year. Thirty years is a long time, but not nearly long enough. Where are the younger people to take over this event? The same thing is happening in the United States, the younger people are not as enthusiastic about peace and love. Interests have changed.

It must have been 1986 that World Friendship Center first heard of P-E-A-C-E-L-O-V-E, and we were so happy to join in having a booth at the festival. We all made paper cranes, Peace cookies - yummy, and we had a wonderful display of peace literature. I was so happy to see the many booths representing several different countries of the world. It was such a fun day for everyone - dancing, singing, playing and learning about working together for peace in the world.

My husband and I enjoyed working at the festival for three years and then returned to the US. When I visited Hiroshima again, in 2009, I was taken to the stage area of the event to hear the WFC choir and to see some of the other stage performances. I especially appreciated the handicapped group as they performed. Even so, I noticed that some of the acts on the stage had nothing to do with peace. I wish I had had time to visit the whole festival that year.

The festival is/was important to the city of Hiroshima. I pray that sometime in the future, other people will find a way to remind the people of your great city, of their past. We can have NO MORE HIROSHIMAS in this world.

My thanks to each of you on the committee for doing this positive event each year for 30 long years and I pray that peace may be a never-ending work in progress.

Jeanne Chappell Kingsbury
World Friendship Center Director
1986 – 1990

The passing of Mary Ann Albert

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the death of Mary Ann Albert on November 27th, 2013. Her funeral was December 2, 2013. Mary Ann was 75 years old. She and her husband Charles, were the volunteer co-directors of the WFC from 1997 to 1999.

She was born in 1938 in Michigan. She taught kindergarten for 27 years in Indiana. She died due to a massive stroke.

Those who knew Mary Ann remember her as a soft hearted lady with a contagious beautiful smile that made others feel comfortable and happy.



Mary Ann Albert with other former Directors at the 40th Anniversary of WFC in 2005 (Mary Ann is the second from the left in the front row)