



# Seattle Hiroshima Club

シアトル広島県人会

Seattle Hiroshima Club, P. O. Box 94083, Seattle, WA 98124-9483



Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata  
President, 2016-2018  
Seattle Hiroshima Club

## President's Message

As announced in the last newsletter, two youth delegates (Emily Ko and Kira Kusumi) and two adult delegates (Ms. Kimie Kuramoto and Ms. Tina Ko) participated in the International Youth Exchange Program hosted by the Hiroshima Prefecture. They represented Seattle Hiroshima Club from July 31 to August 9, 2016. This was a once-in-a-life-time opportunity. Please see their articles and photos in this newsletter. We hope to hear more from them at our New Year Party.

Our club jointly hosted the Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service with Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple on August 7. During the service I showed 20 photos of Hiroshima which were taken about 3 months after the A-bomb explosion by American serviceman, the Late Mr. Dwight E. Burkett. His daughter, Sheila Burkett-Luckey, who works with my daughter Naomi at Washington State Services for the Blind was kind enough to share these photos with us. They were in the family's possession until his death and had not been shared with the public before. I greatly appreciate Sheila and her family for their generosity in sharing these invaluable photos with us. Two of the photos are shown here. It is amazing that Hiroshima City was completely burned down and flattened 71 years ago but the city now is one of the most attractive modern cities and is one of the most popular tourist spots in Japan among foreign visitors. Hiroshima City is well-known as a symbol of world peace. I believe Hiroshima Club can contribute to this effort by sharing messages regarding dangers of atomic bombs and the importance of achieving peace in the world.

Hiroshima has been in a celebratory mood because their baseball team "Hiroshima Carp" won the league title in Central League on October 15, 2016 advancing to Japan Series for the first time since 1991. We would like to share its celebration with people in Hiroshima and congratulate them on their victory.

We set the date and place for the 2017 New Year Party, so please mark your calendar for Sat., January 28<sup>th</sup>, at Joyale Seafood Restaurant, Pacific Rim Center on Jackson. Invitation letters will be sent in December.

A year-end donation request will be enclosed. We will greatly appreciate any amount of your contribution to cover expenses for the Club's activities.

Warmest Regards,  
Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata  
President  
Seattle Hiroshima Club



## Hiroshima Youth Exchange Program

By Kimie Kuramoto

Kira Kusumi, Emily Ko, Tina Ko, and I attended the Kenjinkai & Guanajuato International Youth Exchange Program in Hiroshima Japan from 7/31/16—8/9/16. When we arrived in the evening at the Hiroshima Airport on July 31<sup>st</sup>, I saw many friendly faces on the other side of the gate. We never met each other before but, I felt we have been friends for a long time. The newly made friends are Ms. Kawahara and Mrs. Dai-maru from the Hiroshima International Center. Once we greeted each other, my weary body perked up.



I was looking forward to going, to learn and to meet people, when I saw the very precise schedule from the first day to the last day filled with wonderful warm welcoming activities.

The number one highlight of the trip was attending the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6. We were treated as VIPs with seats for non-Japanese guests in a very nice location. I found that those non-Japanese guests were from 94 different countries. I thought it was an honor to be seated with them as an American citizen. I appreciated the unbelievable experience they gave me.

The second highlight was when we met Hiroshima's Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki on August 5. Governor Yuzaki asked us, "Is this your first time attending this program?" I replied we have not had anyone attend since 2009. But this year, I appreciated the Hiroshima prefecture committee including the Seattle group. I wish they will include Seattle again in the future but who knows; I can only hope. At this opportunity, Kira presented Washington State's Governor Jay Inslee's message and Emily presented omiyage gifts from the Seattle Hiroshima Club to Hiroshima Governor Yuzaki. Tina and I handed out omiyage gifts to Mr. Inaba and his staff from the Hiroshima prefecture office.

I did not expect this but I enjoyed the August 5<sup>th</sup> evening performance of Hiroshima Kagura. It was a very energetic performance. I think non-Japanese speaking people also enjoyed it. I noticed one 16 year old girl who was one of the performers; I am sure she worked and trained very hard after school to have a great performance.



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on Page 3....**



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It was a hard day with the heat and various activities, but attending the Hiroshima Kagura performance was time well spent.

I was most pleased with the manner the guide had prepared us with information, knowledge, history and even how we were supposed behave in the traditional Japanese manner on a daily basis just before visiting the palace, office, school and factory. Because of this preparation, we had no problems with our visits and most of us all enjoyed it, 120 percent.

In addition, I am so glad the lodge was in Higashi Hiroshima HIP, away from the main city. Students enjoyed some activities outside while I enjoyed the quiet evenings and had a wonderful breakfast looking at the view of the mountains through the large window.

I want to send big hugs of appreciation to the staff, starting from Mr. Inaba from the Hiroshima Prefecture and Ms. Kawahara from the Hiroshima International Center for making the best possible program for foreigners.

Lastly, I felt all students were like my own grandchildren. They are all kawaii (かわいい) and good students. I am sure they will grow up to be excellent ambassadors and will create a strong bridge between Hiroshima and United State and Mexico. I too, will try to create good relations between Hiroshima and Washington State.

I would like to say, "Thank you" to Tina Ko for her great help. With her help, I enjoyed my experience in Hiroshima.

### Newsletter by Email?

If you prefer to receive your Seattle Hiroshima Club newsletter by email, please contact newsletter@seahiro.org.



### Kiku Hayashi receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Metropolitan Democratic Club (MDC) awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award to Kiku Hayashi for her lifelong commitment to social justice at its recent Diamond Jubilee Celebration. Hayashi is the immediate past president of the MDC and is a precinct committee officer for the Democratic Party in the 37th Legislative District. She also is a board member of the Food Bank at St. Mary's, King County League of Women Voters, Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, and the Squire Park Community Council.

International Examiner, October 19, 2016 - November 1, 2016, p. 3.

### Seattle Nikkei Community Honors Three Retiring Professors

Irene Mano, a lifelong SHC member, presented a plaque at a reception to commemorate the many years of teaching by Professors Kashima, Sumida, and Nomura at the University of Washington. The Seattle Nikkei Community presented the plaque upon their retirement.



### Welcome New Members!

Tamae Moriyasu  
Emi Olson  
Andrea Mano

## Hiroshima Student Summer Trip

By Kira Kusumi



I never thought I would ever be a part of foreign exchange program, but the Seattle Hiroshima Club and Hiroshima Prefecture Government made this amazing opportunity a reality for me! I dove into this mysterious adventure completely blind, not knowing what to expect. I'm more than glad to report that my experience throughout the entire trip was like none other and impossible to forget. The moment I arrived in Japan, everyone was kind, caring, patient, and as helpful as they could be towards me. There was a lot of free time to roam around and do what we wanted when we visited the famous cities and locations, which was really nice. The highlight of the trip was definitely hiking to the highest point in Hiroshima, Mt. Misen! The view was breathtaking and I definitely got a work out; I've never sweat so much in my life. Biking around the city was also a great way to shop, exercise, and bond with the fellow exchange students on the trip. I definitely recommend anyone to go on this trip if they can. Not only will you make lifelong friends there, you'll also eat the freshest rice, smell good food everywhere, become more in touch with your roots and culture, and everywhere you go, your breath will be taken away. Thank you, Hiroshima Prefecture for treating me so well!

どうもありがとうございました,  
Kira Kusumi (キラ久住)

## Hiroshima Youth Exchange Program

By Emily Kikumi Ko



Thank you for an amazing opportunity to allowing me to represent the Seattle Hiroshima Club and helping me reconnect with my Hiroshima heritage. I am so thankful that I was able to visit the place where my family came from.

From July 31 to August 9<sup>th</sup>, Kira and I represented Seattle at the 2016 Hiroshima KenjinKai & Guanajuato Mexico International Youth Exchange Program. The group of 22 participants got to reconnect with our Hiroshima background. I had never been to Japan, so I was beyond excited to experience traveling around to different places, meet new people, use my limited skill of Japanese, and (most importantly) to eat food.

We took Hiroshima Appreciation and Hiroshima cultural classes at the Hiroshima International Plaza, where we also stayed for the duration of the trip. We traveled to a variety of places including the island of Miyajima, Onomichi, did a homestay, met different college exchange students and Japanese high school students, and cooked Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki! The highlight of the trip was attending at the 71<sup>st</sup> Peace Memorial Ceremony. I still remember the thousands of people walking quietly toward the Peace Park to remember the victims of the atomic bomb and to hope for peace. It was amazing that so many people of diverse backgrounds came together, mourning those who lost their lives on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945. The grave faces of the survivors attending the ceremony as they remembered that day, and the stories of the victims will help me live by this saying: fight hate with love, not hate. Thank you again for a great experience that I'll always remember. I cannot wait to go back to Japan!





## Generous Taniguchi Donation to Seattle Hiroshima Club, May, 2013

Henry, “Hank”, Taniguchi (1923 – 2012) was born in Bakersfield, Ca and emigrated to Hiroshima, Japan as a small child. He survived the bombing during WWII after fleeing from his house that was 1 mile from the epicenter. He tried to help his mother as she lay buried beneath their bombed house but his mother pleaded with him to leave and take care of his younger sister, Mary. He returned to the US in 1948, eventually settling in Seattle, where he lived until his sudden death in 2012.

Henry and his late wife, Lillian who was a cancer researcher, had no children. Extended family was first and foremost to them. He and Lillian toured Japan frequently, visiting childhood friends.

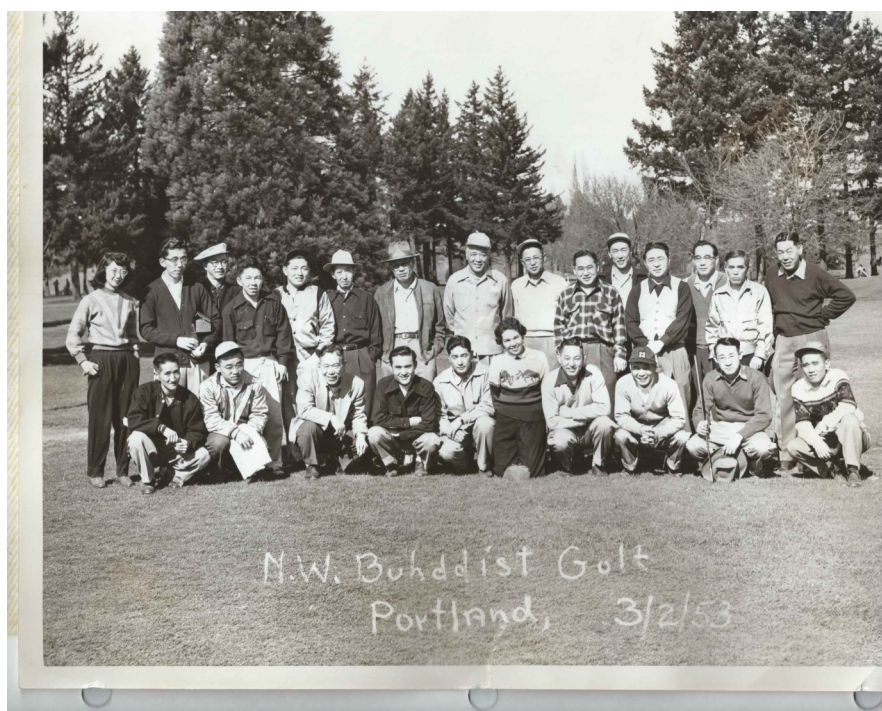
Henry was a private man with a *joie de vivre*. He photographed family, close friends and life events, rarely posing for his own photo. He often looked quite serious when he did. Some knew him through his work, surveying for an electrical power company in Japan, translating at Pike Place Market, or estimating for Isaacson Steel in Seattle. His and Lillian’s hard work and success in the equity market afforded them the ability to enter real estate and to subsequently retire.

Lillian’s diary entry from early in their marriage best describes Henry: Hank is such a dear. He is exasperating at times – quick tempered and a mixture of Japan still in his attitudes and manners. Yet how modern he is. He never fails to amuse me. In his own way he is a “character”. Hank is the sort of man who never bores me... I am thinking how happy we are – just Hank and I.

Henry took up golf in the early 1950s. He carried a single handicap. He also lost one eye to the sport. He continued to travel to Japan and Europe solo as well as with closest friends. He especially relished the art and culture of Paris. He would come and rake your leaves without your asking, fashion jewelry or art pieces only to give them away, or sit with neighborhood friends at his local Starbucks.

Henry died suddenly in January of 2012, leaving family and friends in shock. He is remembered as being modern yet old world, quick tempered yet caring, social yet solitary, witty, smart, loyal, kind and generous.

Henry Taniguchi made a generous donation to the Seattle Hiroshima Kenjinkai on May 2013,



without any stipulations. One close source thinks Henry would have liked the funds to go to youth who can use financial help in some way.

From Henry Taniguchi memorial and comments by those who knew him well.



## Seattle Hiroshima Annual Golf Tournament

By George Shimizu

The Seattle Hiroshima Club's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual golf tournament, held at Foster Golf Links on July 18, 2016, started on a cool cloudy morning and stayed cloudy till the end. Once again our golf tournament was held on a weekday (Monday) to reduce the tournament expenses. The total expense for hosting this golf event was \$44.24. Thirty-five players including 8 women and 27 men participated. As usual, we prepared and handed out a sack of goodies including water, snacks, and a sleeve of Callaway golf balls for each player.

An award presentation was conducted after the tournament by Dale Kaku, Beth Kawahara, and Russell Akiyama. Awards including a KP award for selected par 3 holes and four low net prizes for men and women.

The following players were recognized as winners for the 2016 golf tournament: In the men's group, Jimmy Yoshinaka received the men's first place perpetual trophy, Brent Nikaitani (2<sup>nd</sup>), Jerry Uyeda (3<sup>rd</sup>), and George Shimizu (4<sup>th</sup>). In the women's group, JJ Mito-ma received the women's first place perpetual trophy, Nancy Fukuhara (2<sup>nd</sup>), Gloria Yoshinaka (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Olivia Uyeda (4<sup>th</sup>).



This event was organized by Beth Kawahara, Dale Kaku, Russell Akiyama, and George Shimizu. Thank you to thank Dale Kaku and Russell Akiyama for purchasing golf balls and arranging prize awards, and to Beth Kawahara for arranging goody bags for each player and tabulating the results. The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Seattle Hiroshima Golf Tournament was an enjoyable and successful event.

After 13 years of organizing the Seattle Hiroshima Golf tournament, I have decided to hand over this task to Russell Akiyama. I would like to express my appreciation to Dale Kaku and Beth Kawahara for their tireless support.





## Annual New Year's Party

The annual Seattle Hiroshima Club New Year's Party will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the Joyale Seafood Restaurant, 900 S. Jackson, #203 in Seattle [206-623-1318](tel:206-623-1318). There will be great food, games, entertainment, an update on past and future club activities, and the completion of annual club business. The cost will be \$25 per person. Please be looking for your invitation in December.

## 2017 SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Attention all eligible high school seniors! The Seattle Hiroshima Club has three \$1,000 scholarships waiting to award outstanding seniors in high school. You are eligible for consideration if you are graduating by June, 2017, have a 3.8 cumulative grade point average, have plans to attend an institute of higher education in the fall of 2017, and if your parent(s) are 2016 members of the SHC by the end of October, 2016. The scholarship application with specific information will be available in the high schools by the end of September. For more information, please contact Beth Kawahara at 206-232-3894 or at [bethkawahara@yahoo.com](mailto:bethkawahara@yahoo.com).

## Toro Nagashi at "From Hiroshima to Hope"

**Green Lake, August 6, 2016**

Over 2000 gathered at Green Lake in Seattle for the annual lantern floating ceremony honoring victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all victims of war. An online story and video can be found at [bit.ly/2cWah09](http://bit.ly/2cWah09)



## Evening with Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae

By Dale Kaku

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Nikkei Community, Seattle Hiroshima Club, and the Japan America Society of State of Washington hosted the Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae in the NVC Memorial Hall. The Ambassador was in Washington to sign a trade agreement between Japan and the State of Washington.

## Seattle Hiroshima Club Annual Picnic



## Seattle Hiroshima Club Members Supporting the Community



Aiko Fujii & Midori Mono Thiel  
at "From Hiroshima to Hope"



Minidoka Pilgrimage 2016



Kinue Kuwahara  
and Aiko Fujii at  
Seattle Bon Odori



Dragon Boat Races

### Seattle Hiroshima Newsletter Notice

SHC Members, we look forward to articles about activities that you are involved in. Articles should be sent in MS WORD format and PHOTOS must be unformatted. Send to [newsletter@seahiro.org](mailto:newsletter@seahiro.org). Listings or articles will be accepted from paid members and their immediate family. Please keep us apprised of any marriages, births or deaths in your family. You will be notified when your article is received. The deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter is March 15, 2017.

### Seattle Hiroshima Club 2016 - 2018 Officers

Tsukasa Namekata <a href="mailto:namekata@comcast.net">namekata@comcast.net</a>	President	Kimie Kuramoto	Japanese Recording Secretary
Curtis Nakayama	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Dale Kaku	Treasurer
Karen Iwamura Akira	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Dale Kaku	Investments
Russell Akiyama	Recording Secretary	Shogo Kusumi	Auditor
Shizu Kaku	Corresponding Secretary	George Shimizu	Auditor