



Seattle Hiroshima Club

シアトル広島県人会

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



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

President's Message

Time has flown so fast. Only less than two months left before year 2018! This newsletter summarizes our club's major activities from June to October 2017.

June 10th we welcomed Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, a historian recording and documenting life of Japanese immigrants in the world. Mr. Kobayashi was born in Hiroshima City in April 1944. He said that it was a miracle that he survived in their home located only 2.2 km from the hypocenter. According to his mother, at the moment of the atomic bomb blast, his mother was holding him at the age of 16 months in her arms and he was thrown into the air and landed in the storage hole under the kitchen floor where grains and vegetables were stored. He fortunately survived without injury, but he

suffered from gastro-intestinal disorders for a long time because of exposure to high dose of radiation. After graduating from college, Mr. Kobayashi worked for Hiroshima City Hall where he had an opportunity to study history of Japanese immigrants who lived in North and South America. It became his life-time project. Mr. Kobayashi is interested in learning about the life history of the club members. I asked some of you to write your life history. Mr. Kobayashi said that he wants to include your life stories in his book. So, I encourage you to write your life history and send it to me (namekata@comcast.net) and I'll forward it to Mr. Kobayashi.

Our club lost a long-time board-director and devoted member, Mrs. Yoshie Hiroo on August 28, 2017. With permission from her daughter Patty Mastrude, I shared Yosie-san's life story to honor her dynamic life. On behalf of our club members, I thank Yoshie-san for her dedication and long-time service to the Hiroshima Club.

Our club's mission is "to educate and communicate with the public regarding Hiroshima heritage through community and social engagement." Such educational opportunity was presented to us. Yotsuba Gakuin Elementary School requested that our club speak to 3rd – 6th grade students in Bellevue on October 28th about Hiroshima Prefecture. The teachers and administrator agreed with us that issues of A-bomb effects be included in the presentation so that students can better understand and think about world peace.

The 2018 New Year Party will be held in Joyale Seafood Restaurant (900 South Jackson Street, #203, Seattle, WA 98104) at 11:30 am on Sat., Jan. 27th, 2018. Please mark your calendar! This is the same location where the last New Year party was held. Invite your family and friends and let's all celebrate the new year and renew our fellowship together.

Continued on Page 2

President's Message Continued....

Lastly, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all cabinet members and others who have been helping me for the club's activities.

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

Meeting with Mr. Masanori Kobayashi on June 10, 2017

By Tsukasa Namekata

Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, an overseas immigrant researcher who lives in Hiroshima City, visited Seattle and met with the cabinet members and others to listen to their life history on June 10th. Everyone shared their unique life experiences which were deeply appreciated by Mr. Kobayashi. He will include our stories in his book to be published in Japan. In appreciation, he gifted the Seattle Hiroshima Club a Hiroshima Carp's T-shirt. As you know, Hiroshima Carp became a 2017 champion in Central League of Japan's professional baseball. Many congratulations!



Above: Meeting with Mr. Masanori Kobayashi (center in a front row) in Kawabe House.

Below: SHC members had dinner with Mr. Kobayashi at Joyale Restaurant.



21st Medical Examination for Atomic Bomb Survivors in North America

By Kimie Kuramoto



The Medical Team and Volunteers

Seattle Hiroshima Club volunteers (Kimie Kuramoto, Rikuko Tanaka, Ritsuko Kawahara, and Kiyoko Nakanishi) helped the medical team consisting of 4 physicians and 4 supporting staff from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to conduct free screening for atomic bomb survivors at the Pacific Medical Center in Seattle on July 22nd and 23rd 2017. A total of 32 Hibakusha (survivors) and Hibakusha-Nisei came from Washington State, Northern California and Canada. For more than 20 years the volunteers from our club, Pacific Medical Center and the Committee of Atomic Survivors have been supporting the medical screening and hosting luncheon, refreshments and dinner for physicians and other staff. The medical screening is conducted for Hibakusha every two years.

I would like to express my much appreciation to the SHC for their monetary support and many volunteers for their support of this important screening.

Community welcome for Japanese Consulate-General Yoichiro Yamada

By Dale Kaku

On a very hot Aug. 3rd, the Japanese community welcomed the new Japanese Consul General Yoichiro Yamada. The welcome was held in the Kimochi room at Keiro NW and hosted by the Nikkei Community Network, including the Seattle Hiroshima Club.

Consul General Yamada's previous assignments include Moscow, Brussels, Warsaw, New York and Nairobi. His most recent position was in Brussels. Mr. Yamada was born in Kobe and received his bachelor's degree from University of Tokyo and master's degree from Columbia University in New York. He and his wife have one young son.

Harold Taniguchi was the MC for a "town hall" format. After a welcome by Keiro CEO Jeff Hattori and a toast by Tomio Moriguchi, Mr. Yamada gave a short speech stating that he was mindful of the important international companies in the area and was impressed by the Seattle people immediately upon arriving at the bustling SeaTac Airport.



Responding to questions, Mr. Yamada stated that his hobbies include golf and playing the piano. He once played 5 rounds of golf in single day. He stated that he had always wanted

to see various parts the world as the reason for joining in the Japanese diplomatic corps. He recited the moving history of another Japanese diplomat during the Holocaust, Lithuanian Japanese Consulate Chiune Sugihara. He expressed his wish to further the relationship between Japan and the United States; that citizens of each country would feel comfortable sending their children to visit without any fears or worries. Harold Taniguchi asked that Consul General Yamada repeat his wish in Japanese to a group of students visiting from Okinawa.

The planning committee headed by Tomio Moriguchi included Dale Kaku, Harold Taniguchi, Tsuchino and Mike Forrester. The committee received excellent planning and cooperation from the Keiro staff of Linda Asami and Ron Youmans. Shizu Kaku and Lil Hayashi greeted and registered the arriving attendees to the event. Seattle Hiroshima Club welcomes Consulate-General Yamada and hope to continue our special relationship with the Japanese Consulate.



Seattle Hiroshima Club Picnic

By Russ Akiyama

Sunday morning, August 13, 2017 began a little colder than we would have like or what we had become used to this summer. The weather did cooperate and 30 members and family arrived at Perrigo Park in Redmond. Russ and I cannot thank enough everybody that attended the picnic. The food was excellent and ranged from hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and okonomiyaki to fabulous desserts. Russ and Joyce created games where everyone enthusiastically participated and everyone went home with a prize.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING!

By Beth Kawahara

The applications for the Seattle Hiroshima Club Scholarships have been in the high schools since September, 2017. This year SHC is able to offer three \$1500.00 awards to qualified seniors who plan to pursue their higher education beginning the fall of 2018. Please encourage your child/grandchildren to get their application from the scholarship coordinator of their school, call Beth Kawahara at 206-232-3894, or request an application via email at bethkawahara@yahoo.com. Also, scholarship applications may be obtained from the website www.seahiro.org, and click on Scholarships. Any high school senior, whose parent is a current member, and who has maintained a 3.8 cumulative grade point average from grade 9

through grade 11 is eligible for consideration, and applicants will be evaluated on academic achievement, awards and recognition, extracurricular activities, community involvement, recommendations and an essay. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, December 21, 2017.

The 72nd Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service Held on August 6th, 2017

By Tsukasa Namekata

This annual memorial service was jointly hosted by our club and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Service was conducted by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki whose father was a survivor of A-bomb in Nagasaki, and Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata presided over the program. Incense offerings were made by Shogo Kusumi representing relatives of victims, Rikuko Tanaka representing survivors, and Ritsuko Kawahara representing Seattle Hiroshima Club. PowerPoint presentation of scenes of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki three months after bombing and the 3-minute interview video of Ms. Rikuko Tanaka describing her experience as a survivor were shown. Our club received a special message from Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, and its translation was read. He stated, "We, people of Hiroshima, have experienced unspeakable misery and tragedy, and have been appealing the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the world peace. To achieve the peaceful society in the world without nuclear weapons has been our long-time goal." As if the peace movement by both Hiroshima and Nagasaki was echoed throughout the world, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was approved and signed by 122 members of the United Nations in September. Most recently, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of nuclear weapons. Congratulations!

Personal History of the Late Mrs. Yoshie Hiroo, a long-time member of SHC



Yoshie Hiroo was born May 31, 1926 in Portland Oregon to Tatsuhei and Toyo Sugikawa. She was raised near the corner of Couch and Davis streets where her parents ran a small café called

Sugikawa-U.S. Restaurant. They served home-style American food. Yoshie and her older sister Fumi helped their parents at the family restaurant. She attended Japanese Language School and the Portland Buddhist Church.

In 1942 the family was sent to the Portland Racetrack awaiting relocation to Minidoka Internment Camp. At Minidoka their family lived in Block 35, Building 9. Yoshie graduated from Minidoka High School in 1945. She met Mickey at camp. During this time Mickey joined the military and they corresponded with each other. She married Mickey November 2, 1952 at the Spokane Buddhist Church. Yoshie moved to Seattle after the wedding and worked for the telephone company then Kinomoto Travel Service. Patty was born in 1957 and Lisa in 1963.

In 1972 Yoshie changed careers and began working for the Seattle School District. She was employed by the Seattle School District for 18 years and completed her career as a head secretary at Brighton Elementary School.

Yoshie was very active in the Buddhist Temple and its many organizations. She was the most involved in was SBBWA (Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association). She served on many committees, and was the SBBWA

President from 1998-1999.

Her creative skills were boundless, there was nothing that she could not do which involved crafts - painting, knitting, card making, jewelry, mizuhiki, Japanese embroidery, sewing, and many more. She had a special gift in that she could look at a handmade item and recreate the pattern while adding her own special touches.

Yoshie will be remembered as always thinking of others. Her travels to Spokane to visit her sister and brother-in-law would result in many

family and friends receiving fresh fruit and vegetables, homemade sembei (rice crackers that her sister and she would make), and canned fruit. She was very generous and all her travels included trinkets brought back for family and friends.

In 1992 her granddaughter Alysse was born. Yoshie was so thrilled to have a grandchild and shared her Japanese culture with Alysse.

In 2009, friends began to notice a change in Yoshie. It was later discovered that she had developed vascular dementia. During this time Mickey became her caregiver. He was devoted to her and ensured she was always well cared for. Yoshie attended Kokoro Kai (adult day program) where she saw longtime friends, and she was involved in artistic pursuits and music. In 2014, Mickey and Yoshie moved to Nikkei Manor (Assisted Living) where she received attentive, compassionate care from the Nikkei manor staff and volunteers. Yoshie peacefully passed away at Nikkei Manor on August 28, 2017.



The Annual SHC Golf Tournament Held

By Russ Akiyama

The 34th Annual Hiroshima Golf Tournament was held on July 17, 2017 at Foster Golf Course. There were 34 golfers this year. The weather was great and a good time was had by all the participants. We are already planning for the 2018 tournament. If anyone is interested, please email, Russ Akiyama, Tournament Chair at akiyamarj@comcast.net.

Pictured from left to right are: Dale Kaku, 2017 Men's Division Champion; Russell Akiyama, Tournament Chair; and Beth Kawahara, 2017 Women's Division Champion.



Seattle Hiroshima Club 2018 New Year Party

Saturday, January 27, 2018

11:30am

Save the Date! The Seattle Hiroshima Club's New Year Party will be held at Joyale Seafood Restaurant in Seattle. We hope to see you there!

Seattle Hiroshima Newsletter Notice

SHC Members, we invite you to send your news articles and ideas for future issues to newsletter@seahiro.org or mail to the PO Box below.

Seattle Hiroshima Club 2016 - 2018 Officers

Tsukasa Namekata namekata@comcast.net	President	Kimie Kuramoto	Japanese Recording Secretary
Curtis Nakayama	1 st Vice President	Dale Kaku	Treasurer
Open	2 nd Vice President	Dale Kaku	Investments
Russell Akiyama	Recording Secretary	Shogo Kusumi	Auditor
Shizu Kaku	Corresponding Secretary	George Shimizu	Auditor

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