



# Seattle Hiroshima Club

シアトル広島県人会

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[www.seahiro.org](http://www.seahiro.org)



Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata  
 President, 2018-2020  
 Seattle Hiroshima Club

## President's Message

The new year 2019 is only a month away. 2018 was a busy year for the Seattle Hiroshima Club. This newsletter summarizes our Club's major activities from June to October 2018.

As of July 20th, 225 people were confirmed dead and additional 13 people reported missing across 15 prefectures in Japan. More than 8 million people were advised to evacuate across 23 prefectures. This was the deadliest freshwater flood-related disaster in Japan. Hiroshima Prefecture was one of the hardest hits. After consulting with the cabinet and board members, we launched a fund-raising campaign for victims in Hiroshima. As I report in this issue, we had overwhelming responses from our Club members and we were able to donate \$8,000 to Hiroshima Branch of Japan Red Cross. Thank you all for your kind and generous contributions.

Hiroshima Prefecture Government again invited two high school students and an adult chaperon/leader to participate in the International Youth Exchange Program in Hiroshima this summer. Ana Tanaka and Drew Deguchi, our youth delegates, and Lori Tanaka, chaperon, ably represented our Club. Their impressions and experiences are described in this issue.

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, our Club and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple jointly hosted the 73<sup>rd</sup> Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service. We received a special message from Hiroshima Governor Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki which was read at the service. Later we also received a letter and "Peace Declaration" from Mayor of Hiroshima Mr. Kazumi Matsui. Our Club share their goal to maintain world peace without nuclear weapons.

**The 2019 New Year Party will be held in Terry's Kitchen (5625 – 119<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006) at 11:30 am on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Please mark your calendar! This restaurant has a large private event area allowing us to celebrate in style. So please invite your family and friends and let's all join in on the fun and celebrate the new year together and renew our friendships.

Lastly, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all cabinet members and others who have helped me throughout the year to plan and carry out various Club's activities and participation at community events on behalf of our Club. I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and look forward to another year of collaboration and fun.

Warmest regards,

Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata  
 President, Seattle Hiroshima Club

## Participation in Hiroshima Youth Exchange Program in Summer 2018

Hiroshima Prefecture Government invited 2 high school students and one chaperon to the International Youth Exchange program held in Hiroshima from July 29 to August 7, 2018. The youth program seeks to inspire young members of overseas Hiroshima Kenjinkai to develop a deeper appreciation of the prefecture and engage them with: first-hand experience of cultural activities, exchange programs and excursions. The goal of our youth program is for participants to further appreciate the activities of their Kenjinkai and to prepare the next generation for playing a role in the exchange between Hiroshima and each of their countries in the future. Our delegates were Miss Ana Tanaka, Miss Drew Deguchi and Ms. Lori Tanaka as a chaperon. Their activities included observing Sake Brewery, exchanges with high school students from Hiroshima and other countries, visiting Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima Island, visiting Mazda Automobile Company, attending Peace Memorial Ceremony and many others. Here are their experience, impression and thought about Hiroshima.

### By Lori Tanaka, Chaperone of Seattle Hiroshima Club

The Hiroshima Youth Exchange Program was phenomenal! I was very impressed with the organization and details that went into this program to make it such a success! Inaba-san, Oboshi-san and Tanaka-san (and the HIC staff) were always making sure we were okay and concerned of our well-being. We really enjoyed getting to know them and spending time with them. They definitely contributed to the fun and excitement every day!

During the workshops, I learned something new about the history of Hiroshima—the people, the hobbies, the foods, the industries and the companies that were such a large part of Hiroshima and how they contributed to the lives of the people back then and today.

Visiting with relatives was so amazing! Not only did we shop, eat and go places together, we also sat down, three generations of the family, and studied the family tree. We added my layer of family to the tree as well. One family member shared with us the horrific story of her sister who survived the atomic bombing but suffered the week following and the sadly passed away. This family member described in detail how horrific it was and how she cared for her sister during that horrible last week. It was very eye opening to hear this story and really made it feel even closer to home. Having only met these relatives twice before, we bonded and felt connected at the end of this visit. It was an emotional and meaningful time together.

We were very fortunate to see and participate in so many places and activities in Hiroshima. Every place and activity had a purpose and was very special and meaningful. From the tea ceremony in Miyajima to the tour of Mazda and lunch with their employees, to the kagura performance and Peace Park, we were never bored! (There were many more places and activities!) And during any free time we had, we enjoyed spending time with the other delegates and chaperones. We had a great time playing ping pong and basketball in the gym and playing music and dancing in the music room at the HIC. We were always doing something and having a great time doing so! Some of the delegates became close and it made for very emotional and teary-eyed goodbyes on our last day. They stayed up all night the last night so they could spend their last moments together laughing and just hanging out! It truly was a very special experience.

I am very grateful to have been a part of this program and having the opportunity to be immersed in the life and cultures of Hiroshima. I will always remember this time with happiness, respect and a warm heart.



From left, Ms. Cheryl Sora (chaperone from Hawaii), Mr. Koso Inaba (officer of Hiroshima Prefecture Government), and Ms. Lori Tanaka (chaperone from Seattle)

## By Ana Tanaka, Youth Delegate

My trip to Japan was one of the greatest trips I have ever been on. I can truthfully say that I have never felt more welcome than I had when we walked into the restaurant with my cousins and aunt. I will never forget the moment we walked into the restaurant and my entire family—cousins, aunts, uncles, great-uncles, and great-aunts—was sitting around the table with a pre-ordered meal sitting on the table in front of them. My whole family was just ecstatic that we were there and had made plans for our meals ahead of time just because they wanted us to go through as little trouble as possible. Although my mom and I weren't able to speak to them through proper Japanese or English all the time, we were all able to understand each other. The number of laughs in one sitting are unparalleled. My experience at dinner that night set the tone for the rest of our stay with them as well as for the rest of our time in Hiroshima. I came to learn that the culture of Japan—or Hiroshima at least—was similar to that of my family: welcoming, loving, and genuinely kind even to strangers and foreigners like us.



From left, Drew Deguchi & Ana Tanaka showing letters of 花 flower and 愛 love after Japanese calligraphy class.

This respectfulness was also consistent with our visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. The heat was like nothing I had ever experienced before, and as was the tone of the ceremony: I was expecting it to solely consist of the mourning of those who died because of the bomb and a time of grief. It focused mainly, however, on the need for peace. Those who died were—and will always be—mourned, but they were also thought of as a symbol of the necessity of reconciliation. It was extremely inspirational to see the people of the city that literally built itself back up from ruins advocate for peace rather than manifest their anger about the bombing of their hometown. They also greatly support friendly relations and the strengthening of ties between countries. The fact that the ceremony wasn't solely focused on the tragedy of the past, but on the actions that need to be taken going forward as well was especially eye-opening.

was on our last night in Hiroshima when about six of us were in one of the dorm rooms just having genuine conversation. Time wasn't a worry and nothing was on our minds except whatever topic we were talking about in the moment. As soon as we knew it, the sun was coming up and it was 5 o'clock in the morning. We had talked for the whole night simply because we genuinely enjoyed each other's company. In a matter of ten days we fostered friendships that stretch across the distance world and will last even longer.

Everything about Hiroshima, from the delicious meals with my family to the wonderful people I met throughout the trip, was an unforgettable experience that I will forever be thankful for.

(Note) Brother: Brayden Tanaka; Parents: David and Lori Tanaka; Grandparents: Don and Karen Akira; Grandparents: Shobo and Toyo Tanaka; Great grandparents: Katsuzo and Yoshiye Iwamura; and Great-great grandparents: Jiro and Chiyo Iwamura

Exchange activities with Hiroshima Senior High School and all delegates from various countries. Ana and Drew had a wonderful experience and exchange with students from Hiroshima, Hawaii, California, Peru, Brazil and Argentina.





## By Drew Deguchi, Youth Delegate

Upon arriving in Hiroshima, I was taken aback by the layered mountains and towering trees that greeted me. Even in the sweltering heat, the harmony between nature and city reminded me of home. However, besides the landscape, very few things seemed familiar to me as Japan was like a completely different world. This was evident through food, culture, and societal norms all contrasting of the western traditions which I am accustomed to. This provided an opportunity to push myself outside of my comfort zone, and explore a culture in which I am connected to, yet know little about.



Drew and Ana at Peace Memorial Park

One of the experiences that specifically stood out to me was the visit to the high school in Hiroshima. All the students held enthusiasm and excitement to learn and exuded politeness. I found it interesting to talk with the kids and find common interests between us. Despite the 5,000 miles and completely different cultural norms, somethings such as sports and music proved to be universal.

Another thing I found interesting was Hiroshima's history. Although in school we were briefly taught about Hiroshima and the devastation it endured during World War II, I knew very little about both the culture and my family history in Hiroshima prior to this trip. While walking around downtown, I was fascinated to learn about how quickly the city recovered after getting bombed.

Although many of the buildings were rebuilt during the same decade, I believe that one who was unaware of Hiroshima's history would not have realized the city's tragic past. However, its history seemed to live on through the people. The message of peace was prevalent in many of the people I met, including my host family. It was also intriguing to talk with the high schoolers about peace, as it was clearly an important value that they embodied. This trip allowed me to learn more about my Japanese heritage and introduced me to authentic Japanese culture. In addition, connecting with people my own age from around the world was a very valuable experience as it exposed me to other people's point of views. Overall, my time in Hiroshima was very educational and I enjoyed learning more about the prefecture, my roots, and Japanese culture.

These experiences would not have been possible without the graciousness of the Seattle Hiroshima Club, who gave me the chance to explore a completely different culture and world. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and will forever cherish the memories and new friends I made on the trip.

(Note) Brother: Shane; Sister: Paige; Parents: Jay and Bernadette Deguchi; Grandparents: Jean Deguchi



All youth delegates and adult chaperones



All youth delegates, chaperones at Peace Memorial Park and staff of Hiroshima Prefecture Government

## Fundraising Campaign for Flood and Landslide Victims in Hiroshima

By Tsukasa Namekata

In July the record-breaking rain hit Chugoku Region (including Hiroshima, Yamaguchi and Okayama Prefectures) creating flood and landslides in large areas causing many deaths and mass evacuation. Hiroshima was one of the hardest hits: 109 people died and 5 people were missing, and thousands were evacuated. In response to this enormous disaster, our Club engaged in a fundraising activity to help the victims in Hiroshima. Thanks to the overwhelming generous responses from our Club members, we raised a total of \$8,000 (896,480 yen) which was sent to the Hiroshima Branch of Japan Red Cross. We received a thank-you-letter from Hiroshima Governor Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki expressing his sincere appreciation to Seattle Hiroshima Club members. I thank you all for your generous contributions and your compassionate heart.

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## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARING!

By Beth Kawahara

The applications for the Seattle Hiroshima Club Scholarships have been in the high schools since September, 2018. This year SHC is able to offer three \$1,500.00 awards to qualified seniors who plan to pursue their higher education beginning the fall of 2019. Please encourage your child/grandchildren to get their application from the scholarship coordinator of their school, or call Beth Kawahara at 206-232-3894, or request an application via email at [bethkawahara@yahoo.com](mailto:bethkawahara@yahoo.com). Also, scholarship applications may be obtained from the website [www.seahiro.org](http://www.seahiro.org), and click on Scholarships. Any high school senior, whose parent is a current member for the 2018 year, and who meets the other eligibility requirements as stated in the cover letter of the application, will be considered for the award. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, December 20, 2018. Any questions? Please feel free to contact Beth Kawahara for more information.

## The 73rd Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service Held on August 5th, 2018

Reported by Nami (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 Namekata presided over the program. Incense offerings were made by Shogo Kusumi representing relatives of victims, Kiyoko Nakanishi 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. Momoe Hachiya 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, "I'd like to express my great appreciation to the Seattle Hiroshima Club for your holding a peace memorial ceremony on or around August 6 every year in Seattle. . . . Having experienced the unprecedented calamity caused by the first atomic bombing in the history of mankind, Hiroshima has continued to this day to appeal for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the everlasting world peace. Our greatest wish has been the achievement of a peaceful international society free of nuclear weapons."

We also received a letter and a copy of "Peace Declaration" from Hiroshima City Mayor Mr. Kazumi Matsui who read it at Peace Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Our youth delegates, Ana Tanaka and Drew Deguchi, and chaperon Lori Tanaka had a special honor to be invited to its ceremony. You can read Mr. Matsui's Peace Declaration (in English) from the link: <https://www.wagingpeace.org/2018-hiroshima-peace-declaration/> and listen to it in Japanese from the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvFTJ3nH-nk>.



## 2018 Hiroshima Club Annual Picnic

By Russ Akiyama

On August 12, 2018, the annual Hiroshima Club picnic was held at Perigo Park in Redmond which is new park with a nice covered eating area, great parking, and easy access to rest rooms. Although the weather was a bit on the cool side, a good time was had by all who attended. The Club provided hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, and watermelon while everyone who attended brought a variety of side items to share. All the food tasted



great and the many desserts were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Curt and Charlene Nakashima for setting up the BBQ and grilling the delicious hamburgers and hot dogs. Attendees were divided into teams and competed against each other for fun prizes. Also, bingo was played and many won individual prizes. We hope that more members can join us for next year's picnic.

## 2018 Hiroshima Club Golf Tournament

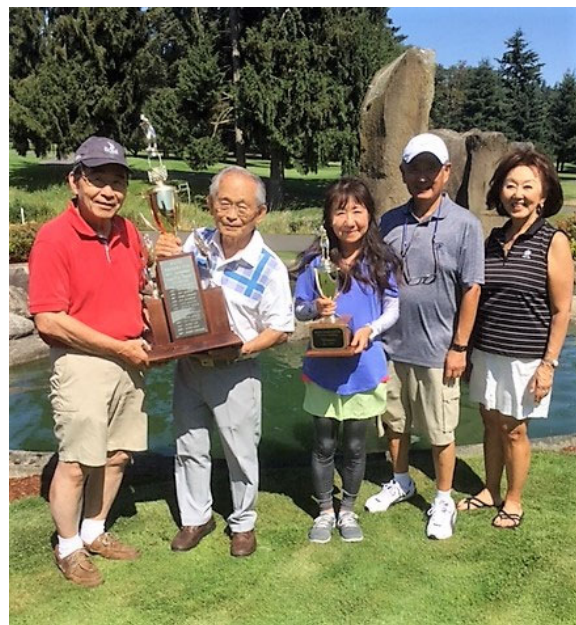
By Russ Akiyama

The 35th Annual Hiroshima Club golf tournament was held on July 16th at Foster Golf Links in Tukwila. Golfers enjoyed a warm sunny day. Afterwards, the winners were announced. The low net women's winner was Tomiko Teramoto; the low net men's winner was Jim Takano; and the low gross winner was Jeff Ko. Many thank to the many who joined us to make the tournament a success.

Co-chair, Dale Kaku, Men's Winner Jim Takano, Women's Winner, Tomiko Teramoto, Chair, Russ Akiyama, Co-chair, Beth Kawahara



2018 Hiroshima Club Golfers Enjoying A Beautiful Day





## Hanford Trip

By Dale Kaku

In early September, I took a trip with the Kumamoto Kenji Kai to visit the nuclear reactor in Hanford, WA. The trip took about 3 hours from Seattle to Richland, then another 45 minutes from the visitor's center to the historic site of Reactor B at Hanford.

I did not realize before the trip, but Reactor B is probably one of the most historic sites in state of Washington. Reactor B is the world's first nuclear reactor and the plutonium from the reactor was utilized in the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. The Hanford site has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the US Parks Department. Ultimately there were three nuclear reactors constructed at Hanford.

Construction began in October 1943. Hanford was selected because of its remote location, gravel for concrete and Columbia River for cooling water. At the peak employment, over 100,000 people worked on the top secret project. Many people thought the project was an airplane plant. The reactor was completed on Sept. 26, 1944, one year after ground breaking.

The reactor was a stack of carbon bricks 46 ft. wide by 38 ft. deep and 41 ft. high. The carbon bricks making up the reactor appeared to be about 9 in. wide by 9 in. high and 4 ft. long. You can imagine the number of carbon bricks needed to make the carbon reactor 41 feet tall. All the carbon blocks, the cooling pipes, and nuclear rods were hand machined. This was before the advent of computerized machine tools and computes as all engineering design was done with slide rules.

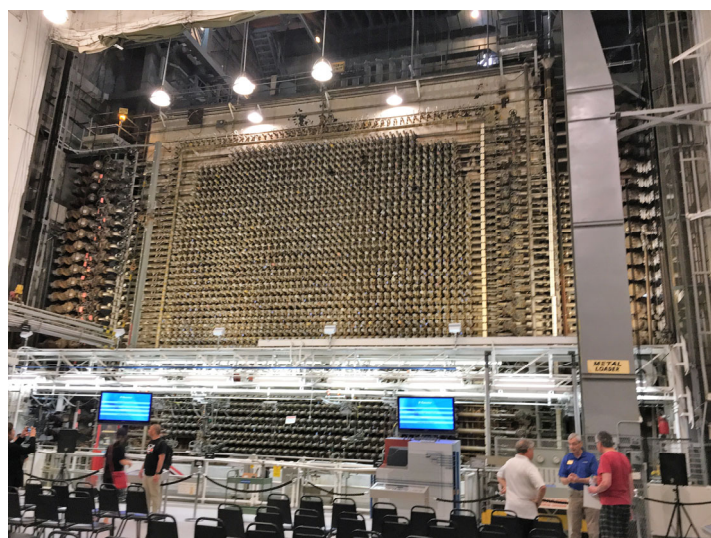
The US Parks Department has done an excellent job in developing the site and providing docents to explain the construction and operation of the nuclear reactor. In the first photograph is the front face of Reactor B and in the second photo, I am sitting at the sole control panel that controlled the temperature of the reactor. The desk was manned around the clock in 2 hour shifts. It was critical that temperatures were maintained in a certain range to ensure the reactor would not have a "melt down" and

release radiation. Visitors to the reactor site had free access to all parts of the reactor, control rooms, and cooling systems.

The planning for the atomic reactor was urgent as information indicated that Nazi Germany had advanced atomic bomb research. I was amazed at the speed in which the reactor was completed, less than one year and the number of people employed at Hanford during the War. It was a very educational trip and I highly recommend the tour.



Dale Kaku at Hanford





# Seattle Hiroshima Club

## 2019 New Year Party

Saturday, January 26, 2019  
11:30am

Save the Date! The Seattle Hiroshima Club's New Year Party will be held at **Terry's Kitchen** in Bellevue (5625 – 119<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE). We hope to see you there!!

### Seattle Hiroshima Club 2018 - 2020 Officers

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