



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

Our Club's Annual Membership Meeting and New Year Party were held at Joyale Seafood Restaurant on January 28, 2017. It was wonderful to see so many attendees, total of 115, including our Club members, guests from the Japanese Consul General Office, other Kenjin-kai clubs and Nik-kei community organizations. As reported by Curt Nakayama in this newsletter, the proposed bylaws changes were overwhelmingly approved by members: 89 "yes" vs. 3 "no". Beth Kawahara, Chair of the Scholarship Committee presented the Club's scholarship to two outstanding high school seniors: Miss Kate Guion and Mr. Aaron Ramos. We had an opportunity to listen to brief reports of Hiroshima International Youth Exchange Program Delegates, Emily Ko and Kira Kusumi, and adult escorts, Kimie Kuramoto and Tina Ko, who spent 10 days in Hiroshima last

summer. Then, we enjoyed watching Japanese traditional dance by Kira and Michaela Kusumi and singing along "What a wonderful world" and "Uye wo muite arukou". Several attendees commented that they enjoyed the hot delicious dishes. Much thanks to the Planning Committee for their hard work in helping to make this event a successful one.

The Club endorsed the performance of Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble at UW Kane Hall on April 15th. Many Club members attended and were very impressed with their great performance. On the same day some of our Club members had dinner with Mr. Keiichi Nagayama, a reporter of Chugoku Shinbun (a major newspaper in Hiroshima Prefecture), at Joyale Seafood Restaurant. He was visiting the Northwest to interview with oyster farmers and scientists to investigate the impact of global warming on oyster growing in Oregon and Washington. As we said our good-byes, he expressed his appreciation to Hiroshima Club and commented that it was a wonderful way to end his visit to Seattle; he even got to hear Hiroshima-ben (Hiroshima dialect), so far from home. On May 5th, I received a series of his articles "Future of Oyster Growing: report from U.S.A." published in Chugoku Shinbun Newspaper warning that a rise in sea temperature can have a great impact on oyster growing and fishing business in the world. Mr. Nagayama is interested in the history of Hiroshima Club and its members and asked our Club to send him information on history of immigrants from Hiroshima and any special projects in the future. If anyone is interested in reading his Japanese articles, please let me know and I would be glad to forward them to you.

Our Club's coming major activities are (1) hosting the golf tournament at Foster Golf Links on July 17th, (2) hosting the atomic bomb victims' memorial service at Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple on August 6th, and (3) hosting the Club's picnic at Perrigo Park, Redmond on August 13th. Please mark your calendars! We hope to see you there!

Warmest Regards,

Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata, President
Seattle Hiroshima Club

New Bylaws for the Club

By Curt Nakayama, Chair of Bylaws Committee

In March of 2016 the Seattle Hiroshima Club Board held a retreat for the purpose of improving our Club. The members of the retreat created a new mission statement for the club and the retreat consultant suggested several recommendations to improve the Club and the governance of the Club. The new Mission Statement is “We are committed to education and communication of Hiroshima heritage through community and social engagement.” President Namekata then appointed a by-law committee to recommend changes to our by-laws to be in accord with our new mission statement. The members of the committee were Dale Kaku, Russell Akiyama, Curt Nakayama and Tsukasa Namekata.

The major change to the by-laws was to eliminate within the requirements for regular membership the requirement that the individual has to be a descendant of Hiroshima Prefecture or spouse or direct descendant of a descendant of Hiroshima Prefecture. The new requirement is “Anyone who is in accord with the Club’s purpose”. The category of Honorary Members was eliminated.

The number of directors was changed from 30 elected directors to 15 to 30 in order to provide flexibility in the number of directors. The membership will be able to vote for the directors electronically in the future, but the method has not yet been established. The criteria to be named an Honorary Director was changed from 15 years of service as an elected director and 80 years of age to 10 years of service and 75 years of age.

The Seattle Hiroshima Club is over 100 years old but is still evolving as an organization. The by-laws will have to keep pace with the evolving nature of the Club. It is my view that the by-laws should not be cast in concrete but should be reviewed and updated periodically.

Welcome Mr. Keiich Nagayama from Chugoku Shinbun Newspaper in Hiroshima

By Nami Namekata and Dale Kaku

Mr. Nagayama was referred to our Club from Mr. Inaba of Hiroshima Prefecture Government about 2 months ago. He was interviewing oyster growers and scientists on issues of global warming and how to affect oyster business in Oregon and Washington. We invited him to dinner at Joyale Seafood Restaurant on his last day of his visit, April 16. We presented to him a copy of DVD containing interviews with A-bomb survivors done by SHC in fall 2010. After showing it to his staff in charge of A-bomb related matter in Hiroshima, Mr. Nagayama informed us that our DVD is very valuable and will donate it to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum making available for all visitors to watch it. We are so glad that our effort to create this DVD can contribute to educating the public on danger of a-bombs and world peace.

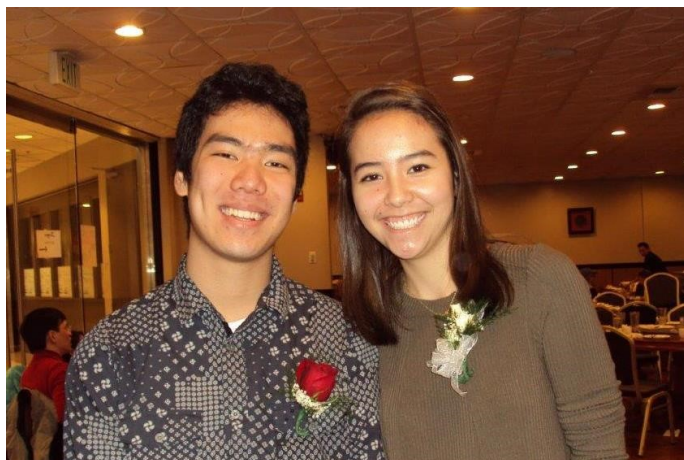


Mr. Keiich Nagayama is at far left next to Namekata. From right around table, Keko Namekata, Shizu Kaku, Ritsuko Kawahara, Aiko Fujii, Dale Kaku, Tom and Kimie Kuramoto, Megumi Tanaka and Osamu Sawada (friends of Namekata).

2017 SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Beth Kawahara

This year we had two highly qualified recipients of the Seattle Hiroshima Club Scholarship who were presented to the membership at the annual New Years' luncheon held on January 28, 2017, at the Joyale Seafood Restaurant.



Kate Yukiko Guion is the daughter of Eric and Roxanne Yasuda Guion, and granddaughter of Ted T. Yasuda. Kate is a current student at Holy Names Academy, who has managed to maintain a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average, despite taking a rigorous load of classes. In addition to her studies, Kate has been taking ballet lessons since 2003, and still devotes approximately 16.5 hours per week attending the highest level of classes offered by the Pacific Northwest Ballet School. In addition, she is the first chair flutist in the school's orchestra, an active member of the Girls Scouts, a weekly volunteer at the Ballard Food Bank, and when time permits, babysits, and manages job placements for other sitters. At this time, Kate is currently considering a future in medicine and healthcare.

Kate's Essay "What Hiroshima Mean to Me"

Growing up one of the books my mother read aloud to me was *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. Taped to the inside back cover was a photograph of Harumi Yasuda, my grandfather's sister who was one of the thousands of victims of the Hiroshima atomic bombing. Years later, walking through the streets of

Hiroshima with my 8th grade Japanese class, it was hard to imagine the desolation that occurred 71 years ago. Skyscrapers dotted the skyline and flashing traffic lights supervised the crowded city streets as we explored a flourishing modern city. The only physical reminder of the devastation of August 6, 1945, was the Peace Memorial Park, a symbol of remembrance of the mass destruction. In the middle of this park stood the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, a museum whose exhibits told the heartbreaking stories of the 70,000 men, women, and children who lost their lives in a matter of seconds. Yet this museum went beyond mourning the wreckage of their beloved city. Its ending exhibits featured a new purpose of the community as they shared their message with the world. By rebuilding, Hiroshima has become an international symbol of peace, hope, and the resilience only found in the darkest of times. It was only after visiting Hiroshima that I realized I had already encountered this unwavering resolve in the life of my grandfather. He is a man of quiet resilience whose fortitude carried him through the racism and hate of WWII. His steadfast endurance embodies the new found values of Hiroshima as both the city and my grandfather demonstrate the strength in determination, perseverance, and hope for a better world.

Aaron Akira Ramos is the son of Andrea Mano, grandson of George and Irene Fujii Mano, and great-grandson of Yoshito and Yukiko Fujii. As a student at Edmonds Woodway High School, Aaron has challenged himself by enrolling in a number of classes offered in the rigorous International Baccalaureate program. To date he has earned a 3.970 cumulative grade point average. As principal violist of the school's select Chamber Orchestra, Aaron keeps a very full schedule of daily rehearsals, as well as numerous scheduled concerts and competitions. He plays on the baseball team, also on a select baseball team, a year round commitment, and plays a leadership role in the church's Boy Scout troop. Aaron is

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looking at a possible major in some aspect of engineering.

Aaron's Essay "What Hiroshima Mean to Me"

After the events of World War II, the word Hiroshima carries an incomprehensible weight, with warranted association to the Atomic Bomb in 1945. Hiroshima holds a different meaning to me, a notion of hope, that was ironically taken from so many at Ground Zero in Japan. Hiroshima is a reminder of my past and how it shaped me and my world today. It is a reminder of Kojuro and Yoshito Fujii, who believed in the opportunity and fortune in the country that would later bring death and suffering to their birthplace, Hiroshima.

Kojuro Fujii was one of the first pioneers of Japanese immigration to the United States and he sent hundreds overseas. Among the many Japanese immigrants was Yoshito Fujii, Kojuro's son and my great-grandfather. Kojuro and Yoshito Fujii both believed in the opportunity of the United States. Hiroshima was their home, which nurtured their hope that would later manifest itself into a strong Japanese Community, a new home in the United States. Hiroshima is representative of Kojuro and Yoshito Fujii, who believed in success that could be founded in the United States.

Yoshito Fujii established himself as a leader within the Japanese community. He is famous for promoting Americanization, the idea of becoming more 'American', yet not so much as to become ignorant of our past. I adhered to these principles whether I realized it or not; I am a direct product of 'Americanization'. In accordance with Yoshito's beliefs, I inherited an interest and desire to learn about my past. While researching Yoshito Fujii for my Internal Assessment in IB History, I learned that during World War II Yoshito Fujii ardently fought for the enlistment of men of Japanese ancestry for the

United States during the Japanese Internment. Loyalty to the United States was fiercely debated by Japanese and Japanese-Americans during Internment, yet Yoshito Fujii's unwavering support of the United States was propelled beyond his lifetime. Loyalty to America was no longer an ambiguous and controversial government survey with questions 27 and 28, but a statement I can make with confidence and resolve.

The Chairman at Camp Minidoka during Internment, Yoshito Fujii fiercely supported and promoted Japanese-American enlistment. His support was powerful, yet controversial. Many Japanese and Japanese-Americans resented the United States because of Internment; some dug a grave for Yoshito Fujii and his association with the United States, a testament to the divided community and Yoshito Fujii's unfaltering resolve and support of enlistment and of the United States. Yoshito Fujii supported enlistment so that the youth who went to war could prove their loyalty to the United States and receive recognition, honor and a future from their country. Yet, he also fought for future generations; I am reminded of Yoshito Fujii when I think of Hiroshima, his home, and how his actions and dedication shaped my home. A home where I can be proud of the Japanese-Americans who fought in World War II, a home where my loyalty is not unfairly questioned in a survey, a home where my future is not limited by being a Japanese-American descendant of Hiroshima.

Hiroshima reminds me that my life was shaped by the hopes and dreams of my ancestors. My life would be much different had Kojuro Fujii not sent immigrants to America, had Yoshito Fujii kept quiet about 'Americanization' and his support for Japanese enlistment. Hiroshima is a reminder that the opportunities I receive today, are thanks to the decisions and dedication of my ancestors.

Farewell to Consul General Masahiro Omura

By Dale Kaku

On April 9th, the Seattle Hiroshima Club joined 17 community organizations to bid farewell to the Consul General of Japan in Seattle, Masahiro Omura. After 3 and ½ years in Seattle, Consul General Omura has been requested to return to Tokyo for reassignment. The new Consul General is expected to arrive in May.



The Farewell event followed the “Holocaust and Japanese American Connections” event at the Blaine Methodist Church. Consul General was presented with a paper cutting artwork by Aki Sogabe at the farewell. Mr. Omura has been very supportive of the Japanese community during his assignment in Seattle and he will be missed. He did not reveal his next assignment.

Hiroshima Junior Marimba Ensemble Performs at the University of Washington

By Nami Namekata

Seattle Hiroshima Club made an endorsement to promoting their performance by helping to sell tickets among our club members and persons in Nikkei community. Dale Kaku and Nami Namekata presented a plaque showing our appreciation after their performance at UW Kane Hall on April 16, 2017. *“For promoting their message of peace, they were honored with the International Cultural Activities Prize from the Japan Cabinet Office and the Hiroshima UNESCO Prize.”* If you want to listen to their past performance, you can visit: <http://hiroshimajuniormarimba.org/music/>



2017 Golf Tournament

By Beth Kawahara

The 34th annual Seattle Hiroshima Club golf tournament is here again, and we are encouraging all golfing members and friends to join us in this fun, low-key event. We will be playing at Foster Golf Course on Monday, July 17th, and all of the specific information is explained in the application form which can be found in this newsletter. So come one, come all, and please invite your friends to join us this year. For those who are not golfers, please feel free to join us during the awards program, which will take place immediately following the completion of the tournament at the restaurant located at Foster. We hope to see you there!

The Golf Tournament entry form is included on page 7 of this newsletter

Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival 4/21-23/2017

By Nami Namekata

Our club was shared Kenjin-kai Booth with other Kenjin-kai. The following members volunteered at the booth to welcome visitors: Fumi Groves, Francis Palmer, Dale Kaku and Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata. Four visitors requested our club's information, so we need to contact them. Some of the members made significant contributions to the festival.

Kimie Kuramoto volunteered as a chef and supervisor at the ethnic food sale section. The special event 'The Longest Sushi Guinness Re-enactment' was held and over 80 people made one 101 feet of Sushi Roll at once! Kimie-san also performed a cooking demonstration and made Salmon Nanbanzuke (special vinegar sauce over the deep fried Salmon and topping with fresh vegetable). The 30 sample dishes were gone in no time. She thanked the Nichiren Church Fujinkai and her husband Tom Kuramoto who helped her during the entire festival.



Kira and Michaela Kusumi performed Japanese traditional dance (Fujima Dance School) on the stage. Michaela also played "shamisen" as well. Our club is proud of such talented young members!

Emily Ko performed as a member of Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple's Matsuri Tai-ko Group. She is another talented young member of our club. It was a wonderful performance!



SEATTLE HIROSHIMA CLUB 34th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

DATE: Monday, July 17, 2017
9:30 AM - First Starting Time

PLACE: Foster Golf Course
13500 Interurban Avenue S.
Tukwila, WA 98168
206-242-4221

AWARDS: Foster Golf Course immediately following completion of the tournament.
Players are encouraged to order off the menu as they wait in the designated area for the entire group to complete the round.

ENTRY FEE: \$35.00 per person includes greens fee (\$45.00 for non-members)

DEADLINE: Completed entry below must be received by June 30, 2017

If you have any questions please feel free to call:

Russell Akiyama
425.761.1776
akiyamarj@aol.com

Dale Kaku
206.232.8164
dandskaku@comcast.net

Beth Kawahara
206.232.3894
beth@kawaharas.com

The tournament will be limited to the first 32 Hiroshima Club members (men and women). Club members may invite guests if there are openings available. If there is a need for additional times, we may be able to obtain them if we know early enough.

Each player is requested to provide his or her GHIN number. For those without a GHIN handicap, scores will be posted using the Callaway system. All prizes will be awarded at net medal play and KP's. There will be prizes for everyone. Please arrive at the golf course by 8:45 AM for sign in, and to pick up the rules.

If your spouse or significant other is not playing, please have her/him join us for the awards portion of the outing - all are welcome. Hope to see you at the golf course.

34th ANNUAL SEATTLE HIROSHIMA CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

Foster Golf Course

Monday, July 17, 2017 – 9:30 AM

ENTRY FEE: \$35.00 (includes greens fee and prize fund) or
\$45.00 for non-members

Enclosed: _____

NAME: #1 _____ **GHIN Number** _____ **GHIN Index** _____

#2 _____ **GHIN Number** _____ **GHIN Index** _____

ADDRESS: _____

Carts are available @ \$14.50 per rider. If interested,

PHONE: _____

please contact golf course directly and reserve.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please make checks payable to
and mail by June 30, 2017 to:

Russell Akiyama
16912 NE 19th Pl.
Bellevue, WA 98008

Seattle Hiroshima Club Annual Picnic

August 13, 2017

Perrigo Park,
9011 196 Avenue NE, Redmond, WA

Please save the date of Saturday, August 13, 2017 at 9 AM. The annual Seattle Hiroshima Club picnic will be held at the Perrigo Park in Redmond. Our shelter will have cover, water, electricity, restrooms and parking in this beautiful city park.

We had excellent participation last summer at Perrigo Park and everyone enjoyed the food and games. The event will be potluck, but the Hiroshima Club will provide hotdogs and hamburgers plus soft drinks and water.

We are planning to have games and fun for adults and children. We especially encourage everyone to invite members and friends to attend and make this a memorable event. If you plan to attend, please contact Dale Kaku (206-232-8164 or dandskaku@comcast.net by August 5, 2017.



DIRECTIONS: Take 520 East into Redmond. As 520 turns into Avondale Road take a right at the stop light on Union Hill Road. Go East approximately 1.5 miles on Union Hill Road then turn left on 196th AVE NE. Follow for 1/2 mile and Perrigo Park is on the left.

Seattle Hiroshima Newsletter Notice

SHC Members, we look forward to articles about activities that you are involved in. Articles and PHOTOS should be sent unformatted to 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.

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