



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, 2018-2020
Seattle Hiroshima Club

President's Message

The New Year Party is one of our largest events. It requires a lot of preparations and man power from volunteers. Thanks to efforts by the planning committee and cabinet members, we had another successful New Year Party at Joyale Seafood Restaurant on January 27, 2018. It was wonderful to see so many attendees, total of 95, including our Club members, guests from the Japanese Consul General Office, other Kenjin-kai clubs and Nikkei community organizations. Particularly, we are pleased to see Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki, his wife Ayano-san and son Yuiya-chan from Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Beth Kawahara, Chair of the Scholarship Committee presented the Club's scholarship to two outstanding high school seniors: Miss Emily Ko and Miss Emi Olson. Then, we enjoyed watching Japanese traditional dance by Kira and Michaela Kusumi and singing along "What a wonderful world" and "Uye wo muite arukou".

As we made an announcement during the annual general meeting (the beginning part of the New Year Party), the elected board-directors for 2018 – 2019 are: Karen Akira, Russell Akiyama, Aiko Fujii, Linda Ishii, Dale Kaku, Shizu Kaku, Beth Kawahara, Ritsuko Kawahara, Sharon Kosai, Kimie Kuramoto, Shogo Kusumi, Kinue Kuwahara, Irene Mano, Patty Hiroo Mastrude, Terry Nakano, Curtis Nakayama, Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata, Francis Palmer, Gloria Shigeno, George Shimizu, Naomi Takemura, Elsie Taniguchi, Katsumi Tanino, and Midori Kono Thiel. Honorary Board-Directors are Mickey Hiroo, Jack Matsui and Roy Shimizu. Congratulations!

At the 2-22-2018 Board Meeting, new cabinet members were elected as follows: Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata, President; Curtis Nakayama, 1st Vice President; Beth Kawahara, 2nd Vice President; Russ Akiyama, Secretary; Shizu Kaku, Corresponding Secretary; Kimie Kuramoto, Japanese Secretary; Dale Kaku, Treasurer; George Shimizu, 1st Auditor; and Shogo Kusumi, 2nd Auditor. I greatly appreciate their support to carry out the club's mission. Without their help I cannot operate our club's activities.

In March, Mr. Koso Inaba of Hiroshima Prefecture Government requested that 2 youth delegates and 1 adult delegate be sent to Hiroshima City to participate in the 2018 Kenjinkai International Youth Exchange Program. Our selection committee chose Miss Ana Tanaka and Miss Drew Deguchi as youth delegates and Ms. Lori (Lorraine) Tanaka as an adult leader. They will have an honor to meet Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki and to attend Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6, 2018.

I asked members to write their family history tracing back to Hiroshima, Japan. Three members responded and they wrote stories of their ancestors. We are planning to include those in the club's website in the near future. I believe that it is important to have documentations of the members' ancestors or family stories and leave those for our future generations.

Our newsletter has been produced with much help from Ms. Sharon Kosai and Ms. Frances Palmer. I really appreciate their excellent job.

Please have a wonderful summer!

Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata
President, Seattle Hiroshima Club

New Year Party Held at Joyale Seafood Restaurant

By Tsukasa Namekata

First, our club’s annual general meeting was held at the beginning of the party. President Namekata introduced the cabinet members, Vice President Nakayama introduced the new board - directors serving for 2018 – 2019, Secretary Akiyama read the minutes of the last general meeting, and Treasurer Kaku presented the financial report. Beth Kawahara, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented our scholarship awards to two outstanding high school seniors.

The new year party was chaired by Terry Nakano. He introduced guests: Senior Consul Mr. Takeshi Murazawa representing Consul General of Japan; Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki, his wife Ayaka-san and son Yuiya-chan, and Ms. Irene Goto, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple; Mr. Frank and Mrs. Penny Fukui, Keiro Northwest; Ms. Misa Murohashi Cartier, North American Post; Mr. Roy and Mrs. Lillian Hayashi, Seattle Shizuoka Kenjinkai; Ms. Ritsuko Kawahara Japanese Community Service; Ms. Christina Swadener, Seattle-Tacoma Fukuoka Kenjin Kai; and Mr. Tomo Uyehara, Okinawa Kenjin Kai. Rimban Kusunoki told me that his father was an atomic bomb survivor in Nagasaki, so he shares the same concern about A-bomb issues and the world peace with our club. We greatly appreciated their attendance sharing the new year’s celebration with us.

President Namekata presented the Certificate of Commendation from Hiroshima’s Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki to Mr. Roy Shimizu, Mr. George Shimizu and Ms. Miyeko Kano who are over 80 years of age as shown in the photos.

During the entertainment Kira and Michaela Kusumi played Japanese traditional dance beautifully and everybody enjoyed singing along “What a wonderful world” and “Uye wo muite arukou (or Sukiyaki)”. All members and guests enjoyed good foods and prizes from bingo games.



Reception at the party: Dale, Curt, Russ, Kimie & Karen



New Year message by Japanese Consul Mr. Takeshi Murazawa



Rimban Kusunoki, Yuiya-chan, Ayano-san, and Ms. Irene Goto from Seattle Betsuin

New Year Party at Joyale Seafood Restaurant



Japanese Traditional Dance by Miss Michaela Kusumi & Miss Kira Kusumi



Namekata expressed his appreciation for Mrs. Terrie Tanino's long-time service as Board-Director. Husband Katsumi Tanino at left.



Tsukasa Namekata & Dale Kaku presented Governor Yuzaki's Certificates of Commendation to Mr. Roy Shimizu, Mr. George Shimizu & Ms. Mieko Kano.



2018 SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Beth Kawahara

In January, 2018, we had two exceptional recipients of the Seattle Hiroshima Club Scholarship presented to the membership at the annual New Years' luncheon.



Emily Ko, Beth Kawahara & Emi Olson

Emily Kikumi Ko is the daughter of Jeff and Tina Zumoto Ko, and granddaughter of Jim and Tomi Tsujihara Zumoto. Emily is a senior at Issaquah High School and has maintained a 3.83 cumulative grade point average despite her many, many non-academic commitments. Music has played a huge part of Emily's school and community life. For the past ten years Emily has been devoted to the Matsuri Taiko Japanese Drumming group, not only performing in a variety of community programs, but also assisting in workshops to help teach the basics of taiko drumming. Emily has been a leader in her high school's music program, not only performing in four different groups, but also organizing jazz combos, playing with professional musicians, and acting as a mentor to middle school students.

Other athletic activities that Emily is a part of includes being a member of the Issaquah Girls Swim and Dive Team, elected as captain of the team this year, a life guard and swim instructor at her community pool, and playing select soccer since grade nine.

Since the age of five, Emily has been an active member of the Camp Fire Program, earning the Wo-HeLo Award, the highest in the Camp Fire Program, as well as the Karuna award, after devoting over seventy-two hours of study of Buddhism and the

Japanese culture.

At this time Emily is considering a possible major in civil engineering.

Emily's Essay "What Hiroshima Means to Me"

Walking through the Hiroshima Peace Park towards the Atomic Bomb Memorial Ceremony, I felt the August humidity dripping sweat down my forehead and back. The sun rose high in the sky, and as I shaded the bright beams of light from my eyes, I looked around at the faces around me. Our group of Hiroshima Peace Ambassadors was one of many different types of people attending, as we were high schoolers from Washington, California, Hawaii and Guatemala given the opportunity to learn about our Hiroshima heritage. Most of the people around us were Japanese, young children clutching onto their parent's hands, and older Japanese reminiscing the atrocity that struck Hiroshima 73 years ago, but there were also non-Japanese as well. Despite our various backgrounds, we all came together to remember and mourn for the victims of August 6, 1945. My stomach flipped. I didn't feel nervous – I felt conflicted. I am a fourth generation Japanese-American, whose country dropped a bomb on my family's native home. Seventy-five years ago, thousands of innocent lives were affected, including my grandmother's as she watched the flash of the bomb from her cousin's window. Hiroshima serves as a reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear warfare, to prevent nuclear warfare from ever being used again.

As the next generation of leaders, I feel the responsibility to stay aware of current events and issues, stand up for my beliefs. With increasing tension building between the United States and other countries, such as North Korea, the possibility of a nuclear war has unfortunately arisen under new Administration. When attending the Peace Ceremony last August, we listened to the mayor of Hiroshima express his gratitude towards President Obama, his visit and his promise of nuclear war prevention. Right then, I felt proud to be an American. However, with recent news, that promise may not be held. Having Hiroshima heritage, knowing the suffering it brought my grandmother and her family, I am driven to advocate to keep peaceful

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alternatives by communicating with my peers about issues, despite having a president that does not share the same views.

Coming from a Hiroshima heritage and knowing many Nisei that come from Hiroshima at the Seattle Buddhist Temple, I am exposed to their personal experiences on August 6th. My grandmother rarely talks about what happened, but when she does, I can see the pain in her eyes as she recounts setting out the morning after the bombing, searching for her cousins who were in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped. I cannot imagine the suffering she, or anyone living in Japan, endured seeing their city flattened. At the Peace Museum, we saw how mercilessly the bomb's radiation burned everything and everyone, regardless of their age or background. No one was spared in the ten-mile radius, only leaving behind small remnants: the boy's shadow on the front steps of the bank, the girl's bento lunch, the child's bike. Weapons, such as the nuclear bomb, should not be used in warfare, or in any situation, because of the devastating effects it has on lives.

Hiroshima means to never forget the horror enacted on innocent civilians less than a century ago. Though some stories of Hiroshima are disappearing as the memories of those who lived through it are weakening, some stories that are being told must be shared to continue reminding others of the decision that ended thousands of lives. Never forget that even in darkest of times when our Hiroshima ancestors had no money or property, they were able to persevere through hardships to rebuild and create a new life for us. The sacrifices they made must not be wasted, but used to inspire the future of fighting against adversity and preventing another life-changing mistake.

Emi Grace Olson is the daughter of John and Tamae Moriyasu Olson, and granddaughter of Hirokuni Moriyasu. Emi attends Mercer Island High School, and athletics and a strong sense of compassion have played a major role in shaping her life. She has been able to maintain a 3.85 cumulative grade point average, and this year has challenged herself by enrolling in five Honors/AP courses. In addition to playing on a select soccer team, of which she has served as a captain, Emi

also has played on the women's tennis and basketball teams. Since grade nine Emi has been a soccer coach to youngsters.

Out of school Emi has devoted herself to a number of projects through her church's Youth leadership Program. As a result of her 240+ hours of community service Emi was recognized with the MIHS Community Service Silver Level Award.

Next fall Emi will attend Lewis and Clark University, with a possible major in psychology, with an eventual goal of helping those who are less fortunate.

Emi's Essay "What Hiroshima Means to Me"

Hiroshima is not only an international symbol of peace, or an example of graceful and loving recovery; it is my Grandpa Hiro's hometown. As I learn more about my ancestors, and my late grandpa, I feel a deeper connection to my roots. I look back with great admiration on the peace and love that all of them brought to my family and their communities. Looking deeper, I notice that their upbringing in Hiroshima impacted their lives immensely. Growing up during the World War II, my grandpa was forced to move schools as bombs destroyed city after city. He was taken care of by monks, exemplified compassion and forgiveness. As a wealthier family and employer in town, my great-grandparents gave back to the community, sheltering and caring for people they brought in from the destruction of the atomic bomb. I notice my personal values of peace, forgiveness, and charity connect me to my lineage. Hiroshima holds my family's history and will always be a place I can turn to to learn more about myself and a piece of my grandparents that I can access and revisit.

Hiroshima has an incredible history, that anyone can appreciate or meditate on. The powerful Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Park pay homage to the devastation, and serves as an important warning for current conflicts. Knowing that my relatives were part of the community that came together to recover as one is why I am proud to be a descendent of Hiroshima. Hiroshima's impact on my family has molded my values.

Our delegates to Hiroshima International Youth Exchange Program

By Frances Palmer

Students Drew Deguchi and Ana Tanaka and adult leader Lori Tanaka will represent Seattle for this summer program from July 29 to August 7, 2018. The



Drew Deguchi



Ana Tanaka

Hiroshima Government pays for the students' expenses and partially for their adult leader. What an opportunity to learn about life in the Hiroshima area during this trip and to make new friends there. We hope to have them share their experiences in a future newsletter. Congratulations to them all on their selection by the Seattle Hiroshima Club. Seattle Hiroshima Club President Namekata received the official invitation from Yidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefectural Government on May 9, which explained the purpose of this Exchange is to "strengthen the ties between our Kenjinkai and Hiroshima Prefecture." That's quite a mission for our three representatives!

SHC members Show Artistic Talents at Seattle Cherry Blossom Festival

By Frances Palmer

Tamiko Thiel's "Augmented Reality" Exhibit at the Cherry Blossom Festival Combines Seattle Iconic Photographs With Gold Calligraphy Poems.

Midori Thiel is a Hiroshima Club Board Member and sumi-e and calligraphy artist and teacher. Her works were on display at the Festival, as well as that of her European trained daughter, Tamiko. A technique

that she calls "augmented reality, Tamiko's color photographs of Seattle's most famous scenes were backgrounds on which she overlaid gold calligraphy poems. This melds photographic reality with the free form of classic calligraphy poetry together.



Augmented Reality Exhibit

Japanese dancers Kira and Mikaela Kusumi, Emily Ko (Matsuri Taiko) Aiko Fujii (tea ceremony), Kimie Kumamoto (cooking) and others shared their talents with the many visitors to this weekend celebration of Japanese culture and arts.



Emily Ko plays taiko with Matsuri Taiko

Jack Matsui Passes Away

Jack Matsui passed away on May 12, 2018 at age of 95. He served as a Board-Director of our club for many years. He was raised in Hanford, California and worked at Boeing for 33 years starting his career in applied mathematics and statistics and retiring as a software engineer. He had been working as a volunteer in Pacific Science Center, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple and Seattle Hiroshima Club. We all thank Jack for his great contribution to our club and community.



Remembering Fumiko Uyeda Groves

By Frances Palmer and Janet Baba



Past Hiroshima Club President Fumiko Uyeda Groves died April 1, 2018, at age 84. Born in Seattle, Fumiko attended Garfield High School and the University of Washington, eventually earning

a Master's degree in Library and Information Science. She was active in Seattle Betsuin organizations, including Gojikai, Archives, Choir, and was the past president of Seattle Betsuin BWA. She was also very active in the Japanese community, taking leadership roles in many local organizations and working tirelessly to educate others on Japanese American history and provide her support for peace in the world.

Fumi was congenial and sought to bring Seattle's many kenjin-kai groups together for common purposes, such as participating in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival of Japanese culture and arts at the Seattle Center.

Fumi was an early learner of technology and helped teach computer classes through Nikkei Horizon. She also taught students in the Kids Summer Program by being the "Kamishibai Lady," telling stories to children using a rolling art form. She was always willing to help with classroom activities.

Fumi had an enthusiastic attitude and always said "yes" to activities and participated with a positive outlook.

Seattle Hiroshima Club Members Share Their Family Stories

By Frances Palmer

How strong and creative were ancestors of current Hiroshima Club members, who have written their family stories for us to share. **Masaye Okano Nakagawa's** grandfather (born 1850's), **Frank**

Tokio Komoto's (1916-2018), and **Bunshiro Tazuma's** life stories will be online at the Seattle Hiroshima Club's website, www.seahiro.org in the near future.

Masaye Okano Nakagawa's paternal grandfather was born the second son to the Okano house in Hiroshima and intended to be the heir, but he did not want to be samurai, but a scholar and priest. Disowned by his family, he and his wife left for Hawaii in the late 1870's or 1880's, where they had 12 children, of which eight survived infancy. Because her husband continued to study and refused to toil in the Hawaiian fields, his wife had to provide income by growing and selling flowers (To be continued on our website).

Contrast that to **Frank Komoto**, born in Kent, Washington in 1916, who was nicknamed the "Baseball King" in high school. Fast forward to 2016, when he had his 100th birthday. A family story told then was that while in hospice care, he was shown a picture of a large fish on a cell phone and told it was a "steelhead" caught by a family member. Frank looked at the photo and said, "No, that's a salmon. He was right, but few people know the difference because the steelhead is a rainbow trout that looks like a salmon (To be continued on our website).

The late **Mr. Elmer Tazuma** was a long time board director and his brother Mr. Yukio Tazuma kindly sent us their father Bunshiro Tazuma's life story. "After Admiral Matthew Perry's arrival in 1853, Japan ended isolationism, and U.S. association began. In 1902, my father, Bunshiro at age 18, sailed to America. As an Issei, or first generation Japanese in the U.S. he was unskilled, illiterate of American language or customs. Japan's Emperor Meiji modernized his 3rd world nation by compulsory education. This then elevated Issei to be more literate than many other immigrants to the U.S. at that time. This helped them adopt English as a second language. Speaking was hard for them, but learning some elementary reading/writing on-the-job was adequate to survive. After one year my father left his 10¢ per hour, 10 hours a day job on the Great Northern Railroad in Montana (To be continued on our website).

Also, Ms. Miyoko Tazuma, a long-time board director of our club, is a daughter-in-law of Mr. Bunshiro Tazuma.

SEATTLE HIROSHIMA CLUB 35th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

- DATE:** Monday, July 16, 2018
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 or \$45.00 for non-members.
- DEADLINE:** Completed entry below must be received by June 30, 2018

If you have any questions please feel free to call:

Russell Akiyama	Dale Kaku	Beth Kawahara
425.761.1776	206.232.8164	206.232.3894
akiyamari@aol.com	dandskaku@comcast.net	beth@kawaharas.com

The tournament will be limited to the first 40 Hiroshima Club members (men and women). Club members may invite guests if there are openings available. If you wish to golf with specific people, please list them on this form so I can pair you correctly.

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, lowest men and women's gross, and KP's. Please arrive at the golf course by 8:45 AM for sign in, to pick up the rules, and for the group picture.

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.

35th ANNUAL SEATTLE HIROSHIMA CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT
Foster Golf Course
Monday, July 16, 2018 – 9:30 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5, 2018, 10:00 am: The 73rd Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service at Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple

This service is open to the public. Please join us with family and friends to wish for peace in the world. Seattle Betsuin is located at 1427 S. Main St., Seattle, WA 98144.

August 12, 2018, 11:30 am: Hiroshima Club Picnic at Perrigo Park, Redmond

By Russ Akiyama

The past several picnics have been very enjoyable for those who attended. The club provides hamburgers, hot dogs and all the "fixins". All the participants bring their favorite picnic dishes for a delicious potluck that includes main dishes, salads, and delicious desserts. We also provide cold, sweet watermelon which is great for a hot August Day.

In July, we will be sending out an E-vite to our members so please be looking for that in your e-mail. More details about the picnic will be available at that time. Also, please feel free to invite your friends to the picnic.

2018 Seattle Hiroshima Club Golf Tournament

By Russ Akiyama

Tournament is scheduled for 9:00 AM on Monday, July 16th at Foster Golf Links in Tukwilla. The tournament is open to all Hiroshima Club members and their guests. The entry fee is \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. A copy of the entry form is included in the newsletter. If there are specific people who you wish to golf with, please add their names to the entry form and the tournament committee will put you together. There will be prizes for low net scores for men and women, closest to pin contest, and a nice sack lunch. Last year's tournament was a fun event. We hope that you can join us this year. A registration form is included in this newsletter.



Seattle Hiroshima Club 2018 - 2020 Officers

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