



# 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 year 2019 was a special year in Japan since Emperor Akihito (明仁) retired and New Emperor Norihito (徳仁) became a symbol of Japan on May 1, 2019. The name of New Emperor's era has been changed from Heisei (平成) to Reiwa (令和). Thus, this year is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Reiwa (令和1年). According to Japanese history, the 1<sup>st</sup> Emperor was Emperor Jinmu (神武天皇) from Year 660 BC to 581 BC. After World War II Japan's new constitution dictated that the emperor act as a symbolic figure without political power. One of the Emperor's mission is to pursue peace in the world. Seattle Hiroshima Club also shares this as one of its mission. On September 29<sup>th</sup> at People's Town Hall Event on Abolishing Nuclear Weapons, I represented our club by showing our interview video of the Late Mr. Gene Fujita describing his horrific experience right after the 1<sup>st</sup> atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima, as summarized in this issue. We continue

to educate the public about the horrendous destructive power of atomic weapons and to never repeat the same tragedy which occurred in Hiroshima and Nagasaki 74 years ago.

The 2020 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 Sat., Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please mark your calendar! This restaurant has a large event area separated from the common eating area by a solid wall giving us privacy and allowing us to exchange conversations without disruption. Please invite your family and friends and let's all celebrate the new year and renew our fellowship together.

Lastly, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all cabinet members and others who have been helping me and the Hiroshima Club with various activities throughout the year. Without your commitment and support, our organization would not have been able to achieve what we have accomplished this year. Warmest regards,

Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata  
President, Seattle Hiroshima Club



## Seattle Hiroshima Club

### 2020 New Year Party

Saturday, January 25, 2020

11:30am - 2:30pm

The 2020 New Year is fast approaching, so please remember to save the date for our annual Hiroshima Club New Year's party. The New Year's Party will be held at **Terry's Kitchen** in Bellevue (5625 – 119<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE). We look forward to seeing all of you, and please bring your friends.

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> Health Consultation and Examination Services for Atomic Bomb Survivors in North America

By Kimie Kuramoto

On October 30, 2019, Dr. Masahiro Yamasaki and Dr. Satoko Kunita from the Hiroshima Prefectural Medical Association met with Atomic Bomb Survivors (Hibakusha) at Pacific Medical Center's Beacon Hill location to review each survivor's medical test results with them. This year, survivors made individual exam appointments with the Pac Med clinic of their choice to undergo the medical tests before meeting with the doctors. Survivors also met with Mr. Hironori Fukae, a staff member of Atomic Bomb Survivor's Affairs Department, Nagasaki City. The team was led by Mr. Nobuaki Nishikawa of the Atomic Bomb Survivor's Support Division, Hiroshima Prefectural Government.

Ten survivors participated in the medical exams this year. Ms. Kimie Kuramoto coordinated between Hibakusha and the staff of the health consultation and examination service. Namekata was invited to lunch to exchange information on health issues of Hibakusha.

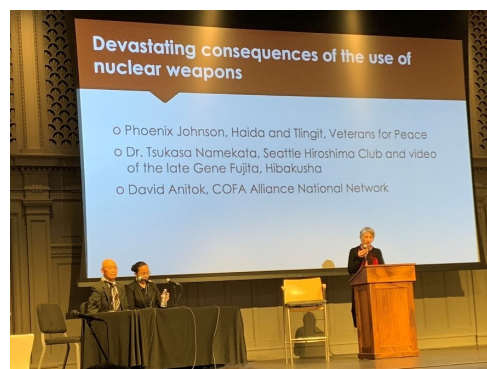


From left at back, Mr. Fukae (2<sup>nd</sup>), Mr. Nishikawa (4<sup>th</sup>), Dr. Kunita (6<sup>th</sup>), Dr. Yamasaki (7<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Webb (8<sup>th</sup>, Hibakusha) and at front, Ms. Kuramoto (1<sup>st</sup>), Namekata (2<sup>nd</sup>), Mrs. & Dr. Hasegawa (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>) and medical staff of Pacific Medical Center.

## Seattle Hiroshima Club Represented at People's Town Hall Event on Abolishing Nuclear Weapons

By Tsukasa Namekata

Namekata was invited by "Physicians for Social Responsibility" to represent our Club at People's Town Hall Event on abolishing nuclear weapons on September 29th. The letter was sent to Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell after the event to ask for taking an action in the US Congress in order to set a policy toward elimination of nuclear weapons in the world.



In the letter it was stated that "Namekata from the Seattle Hiroshima Club shared the recorded testimony of Gene Fujita, a hibakusha (survivor) of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, who describes the horrors of the destruction and loss of life after that attack including bodies with skin hanging off them, burned people, and bodies floating in the river. He lifts up the memory of the bombing of Hiroshima with the hope that there will never be another nuclear strike again."

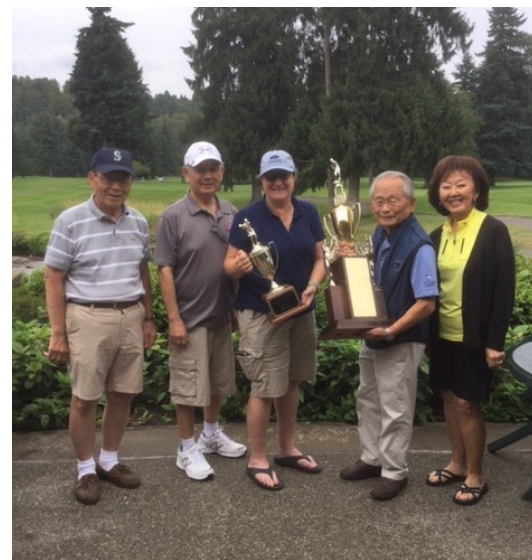
### Seattle Hiroshima Club extends our deepest sympathy to the families of the following members who passed away in 2019.

Morie Furukawa  
Dorothy Nishimura  
Bob Yoshihara  
Mitsuko Fukuhara  
Fumiye Hanada  
Helen Gota  
Amy Nikaitani  
Hiroshi Kajimura



## SHC Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, July 15, 2019, the Seattle Hiroshima Club held its 35th Annual Golf Tournament at Foster Golf Links in Tukwila. Thirty-five golfers enjoyed a very pleasant day - not too hot and not too cold. Just as we finished, it began to sprinkle. Awards were given to those women and men who had closest to pin, low gross scores, and low net scores. A nice sack lunch was provided to each participant. Golfers noted that they had a lot of fun and would be back next year. We are always looking for more golfers so please be looking for the 2020 announcement in future newsletters.



Tournament Winners: Dale Kaku, Russell Akiyama, Men's Champion Jim Takanobuchi, Women's Champion Sue Lawless, and Beth Kawahara.

## The 74th Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service Held on August 11, 2019

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 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 the Late Mr. Haruso Taketa describing his experience as a survivor were shown. Our club received a special message from Mr. Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture and some of his message was translated and read during the service. 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 club continues to exchange information with them and promote peace.



## Japan Trip

By Curtis Nakayama

On April 4, 2019 Charlene and I along with our daughter Karen Nakayama and son-in-law Saul Cornwall boarded a Delta Airlines flight in Seattle bound for Osaka, Japan. We were joined a couple of days later by two cousins from Los Angeles, Nancy Yoshihara and Kathy Yoshihara then friends Nels and Marilyn Siverson. Our intent was to see the cherry blossoms and see some new sights.

We were able to go to a museum honoring the founder of the formal tea ceremony, a samurai sword maker and the dried ramen noodle museum. We stayed in Osaka, then took a train to Kyoto where we went to the Gekkeikan Sake distillery, and several temples. We then boarded the Bullet Train to Okayama and transferred to a local train to Takamatsu on Shikoku Island. While in Takamatsu, we visited the whirlpool under the bridge that goes back to Okayama, Ritsurin Park and learned how to make udon. We then went to a ryokan in the Iya Valley and got to spend some time in their onsen. Next, we went to Tokushima and spent an evening learning about the Awa Odori. During our stay on Shikoku, we were able to visit 11 of the 88 temples that make up the Shikoku Pilgrimage.

Osaka and Kyoto were very crowded and busy and there was a lot to do there. Shikoku was much more scenic and seemed to us to be more like the rest of Japan was like many years ago.

We then boarded a train and went back to Osaka to get back on a plane home.



## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARING!

By Beth Kawahara

The applications for the Seattle Hiroshima Club Scholarships have been in the high schools since September, 2019. 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 2020. 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. Any high school senior, whose parent is a current member for the 2019 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, 2019. Any questions? Please feel free to contact Beth Kawahara for more

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## Summer Picnic

By Curtis Nakayama

On August 11, 2019 the Seattle Hiroshima Club held its annual picnic at Redmond's Perrigo Park. The Club provided hamburgers, hot dogs, Tea and Sodas and the attendees in the best pot luck tradition filled in the rest of the menu. After lunch the group were divided into two teams and competed in a bean bag toss efficiently managed by Josh Otake. Prizes were awarded to the winning team. We then went to a rousing game of bingo where Josh was the caller and impressed us all by calling the squares in both Japanese and English.

I would like to thank the Otake family for help in cooking and distributing the hamburgers and hot dogs. Also Dale and Shiz Kaku for helping set up and organizing.



## Trip to Japan

By Dale Kaku

For the past few years, our immediate family has spent the Presidents' weekend on the Oregon coast. The weather would be very stormy and cold, but it was fun to be together as a family in the warm, rented home.

In 2019, we decided it was time for the grandsons, ages 11 and 8 years, to visit and become acquainted with Japan. So with the help of a travel agent, Google, and Expedia, we planned a family trip to Japan during school spring break, 2019.

For the sake of your grandsons, we decided to forgo visiting the many temples in Kyoto and spend 10 days in Tokyo. We spent the first 4 days in the Ueno district and were able to visit Ueno Park during their Sakura Festival. We stayed in a nice, quiet neighborhood near a small train station. We easily traveled to many interesting areas around Tokyo via the trains and subways.

During the first Sunday, we met my cousin, his wife and grandchildren in the Ginza district. My cousin treated us to lunch and then we walked along the Ginza, which is closed to traffic on Sundays so people can shop at the many expensive stores. The property along the Ginza are the most valuable in Japan. My cousin's grandchildren were fluent in English and they interacted very well with our grandsons. We spent the next few days visiting the Imperial Palace grounds to see the sakura blossoms and the Akihabara district to play video games.

We next moved northeast of Tokyo to the Ryogoku district near the Sumida River and Sumo stadium. Located in the area were Asakusa temple, Tokyo-Edo National Museum, and the Tokyo Sky Tree. One of the highlights was ride up the Tokyo Sky Tree, which is newer and taller than the Tokyo Tower. From the Tower, Tokyo stretches to the horizon in all directions.

Everyone had a great time during our trip to Tokyo. What stands out immediately was how clean and organized everyone thing was in Tokyo. All the cars, taxis, busses, and subways were clean and no graffiti. It is very easy to travel around the city as the street and subway signs are also in English. People were very considerate and many of the people in Tokyo speak English. The cost of food and hotel rooms are generally less than Seattle, and the subways are amazingly easy to use. We used Google on our smartphones to guide us around the city and informed us of the various attractions.



## Seattle Hiroshima Club Donation Form

(シアトル広島県人会献金依頼フォーム)

Seattle Hiroshima Club is a non-profit organization and operates based on annual membership fees and donations by elected officers as volunteer basis. Please remit membership dues for 2020. We appreciate any additional donations to help cover our club's activities. Thank you!

Check your amount:

☐ Membership Dues \$10

☐ Donation

\_\_\_\$5    \_\_\_\$10    \_\_\_\$20    \_\_\_\$30    \_\_\_\$50    \$\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check to:

Seattle Hiroshima Club Treasurer

PO Box 94083

Seattle, WA 98124-9483



### 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

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