



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



Nami (Tsukasa) Namekata  
 President, 2020-2022  
 Seattle Hiroshima Club

## President's Message

**Season's Greetings!** Time flies so fast that it will soon be the new year, 2022. Our club's activities have been very limited since Governor Jay Inslee issued a statewide stay-at-home order on March 23, 2020. Although all meetings and gathering of events have been cancelled, we have been communicating with our club members through newsletters, honoring high school and college graduates with monetary gifts, and awarding scholarships to high school seniors. Also, our club participated in virtual events by showing our video introducing our club's history and major activities at Cherry Blossom Festival in April, Japan Fair in June, and during Japan Week in September.

We are honored to hear from Japanese Consul General Hisao Inagaki, a veteran diplomat and a Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate, highlighting the significance of Japan hosting the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games despite the challenges posed by coronavirus pandemic. Our club and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple cohosted the 76th Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service via YouTube video as was done in 2020. I thank Ms. Andrea Mano for introducing the three high school and college graduates who received our honorariums and making the announcement for the 2022 scholarship application for high school seniors. It is our pleasure to include life stories in this issue of our former members, the late Mr. Kats Tanino, the late Mr. Teruo Yorita and Mrs. Takako Yorita. Our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Jennifer Otake for her excellent translation of Takako's story into English.

A friendly reminder: Please remember to pay your membership dues. We also welcome and appreciate any donations. Your membership fees and generous donations allow the Club to continue to offer various events and activities.

Once again, I'd like to share songs and music with you to lift our spirits and put a smile on our faces. Please click the link: [bit.ly/SeaHiroMusic](https://bit.ly/SeaHiroMusic) (case sensitive).

As soon as this pandemic is over, I would like to resume our club's activities. Until then, let us do everything possible to stay safe and healthy.



Greetings from SHC Board-Directors, photo taken at 2020 New Year Party

## Season's Greetings from Consulate General of Japan in Seattle

By Mr. Hisao Inagaki, Consul General of Japan

Happy New Year! Since my arrival at the end of



August 2020, I have spent about one and half a year, and I have been very impressed by various deep Japanese histories in addition to the beauty of Seattle with green trees. Regarding my personal relation to Hiroshima, as I wrote in last year's newsletter, I

learned history, culture of Hiroshima and tragedy of the first atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima City during my high school field trip. Hiroshima reminds us of the importance in achieving and maintaining the world peace for survival of mankind. The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were not only the largest sport events but also a peaceful opportunity for unifying the world through sports. I am so glad that Japan was able to host such a huge event despite the coronavirus pandemic.

After the games, on September 24, Prime Minister Suga had a speech at the United Nations General Assembly. The following is an excerpt from the Prime Minister's speech. *"The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games were held with the aim of building a peaceful and better world through sport, under the Olympic Truce Resolution adopted in this very venue of the General Assembly. While there were various views about holding the Games this summer, we, as the host country of the Games, fulfilled our responsibilities and achieved what we set out to do. Many people were deeply moved by the outstanding performances of the athletes which gave hopes and dreams to everyone across the globe. The Games also demonstrated the "barrier-free mindset" to the world, with aspirations for an inclusive society where all people with or without disabilities support each other to live in harmony. Above all, while humanity has been faced with immeasurable hardships, the Tokyo 2020 Games proved to be a symbol of global unity among people around the world. I would like to commend all the athletes who inspired us with their performances*

*and express my gratitude to all who made this event possible."*

As one of the initiatives by the host town for the Tokyo 2020, Hiroshima City welcomed and hosted Mexico's soccer team who held a training camp in Hiroshima City. Children in Hiroshima Prefecture presented necklaces and letters made from folded paper cranes to Mexican players. Everyone on the team wore a necklace and took a commemorative photo. Midfielder, Diego Lainez, sent a thank-you letter and messages from the athletes: "I received a letter with lots of love and familiarity. It will be a motivation for the Olympics. Please enjoy the Olympics."

By the way, the Olympic game reminded me of the Olympic National Park. So, my wife, Yuki and I visited the park at the beginning of September 2021 for three days. Finally, while vaccinations are underway in the U.S. and worldwide, let's all maintain the hard work needed to end this pandemic as soon as possible.

Again, it is my sincere hope that I could be an instrument to further cultivate the close relationship between Seattle and Japan that has been developed and nourished by our forefathers, including the members of Hiroshima Club. Please stay safe and healthy. I wish you all a very happy, wonderful and fruitful year in 2022.

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### Hiroshima Club and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple on August 8, 2021

Reported by Tsukasa Namekata

The 76<sup>th</sup> Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service was held via pre-recorded video presentation hosted on the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple website on August 8, 2021 due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions. I thank Temple's President Ms. Leanne Nishi-Wong for presiding over the program, Dr. Kemi Nakabayashi for music accompaniment and Mr. Conner McKinny for coordination and set-up up the special memorial service video.

Please feel free to watch this memorial service by visiting its link: <https://seattlebetsuin.com/page/3/>. The program included slides of the names of 28 victims of our club members' relatives; scenes from Hiroshima City

***Atomic Bomb Memorial Service continued on page 3***

## *Atomic Bomb Memorial Service continued*

and Nagasaki City right after the A-bomb explosions; a peace message from Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki; and A-bomb survivor Ms. Teruko Nakamichi's interview.

Our club was honored to receive a special peace message from Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki and Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui. We can see their message from the following links:

Governor Yuzaki

<https://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/soshiki/52/03heiwakinensikitentijiaisatu.html>

Mayor Matsui

<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/uploaded/attachment/154507.pdf>

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue's Peace Message in Japanese

[https://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3070000/307100/p036984\\_d/fil/sengen.pdf](https://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3070000/307100/p036984_d/fil/sengen.pdf)

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue's Peace message in English

[https://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3070000/307100/p036998\\_d/fil/2021english.pdf](https://www.city.nagasaki.lg.jp/heiwa/3070000/307100/p036998_d/fil/2021english.pdf)

Hiroshima City's Atomic Dome was registered as UNESCO World Heritage site in December 1996. It was directly over the atomic bomb explosion and has been accurately preserved since the aftermath of its explosion on August 6, 1945. This photo was taken on December 7, 2019.




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## **High School Graduating Seniors Scholarships for 2021-22**

By Andrea Mano

The SHC is taking applications for up to three Scholarships of \$3,000 per student for seniors who are graduating from high school during the 2021-22 school year. What started as a \$75 Scholarship in 1964, the Scholarship has been awarded to 170 students, descendants of Seattle Hiroshima Club members.

The current applications for the scholarship are here on the SHC Website Scholarship page ([www.seahiro.org/scholarships](http://www.seahiro.org/scholarships)). Similarly to last year, the deadline for the scholarship has been extended (to **March 11, 2022**).

Eligibility Requirements:

- One of the student's parent(s), grandparent(s), great-grandparent(s) or relative must be from Hiroshima Prefecture.
- Applicant's parent or guardian must be a Seattle Hiroshima Club member with dues paid in 2021 before December 31, 2021 and paid in 2022 before March 1, 2022.
- Membership applications are available from PO Box 94083, Seattle, WA 98124, from the SHC website, or through the email at the bottom of this page.
- The applicant is graduating from high school and the latest high school transcript reflects a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- Scholarship recipients must be present at the Club's annual general membership meeting. Typically this is an in-person event held in January; however due to the pandemic, the in-person meeting will be delayed until spring or summer 2022.

Please contact Andrea at [amano4good@gmail.com](mailto:amano4good@gmail.com) with questions or to request an application and cover letter.



## Hiroshima Club Honorarium

By Andrea Mano

The Board approved a monetary honorarium to those graduating in 2021 from high school or college. Similarly to 2020, the honorarium was \$500. We have received several emails of acknowledgement and appreciation of this honorarium. We include the messages from the three recipients along with their photos.

**Erik Aramaki** is grandson to member, Jean Deguchi.



Erik writes: “I am very appreciative of the Seattle Hiroshima Club and their generous graduation gift. It has been a difficult past year and a half and it is very rewarding to be acknowledged for my accomplishments during that time. I graduated with a Bachelor

of Science degree in Information Technology from the University of Washington Tacoma. It is encouraging to have your support as I continue to look for a job in my field. I am proud to be connected to the Seattle Hiroshima Club through my grandmother and great-grandparents. Thank you again for your gift and support...it means a lot.”

**Aaron Ramos** is grandson to members, Irene and George Mano, and son to Andrea Mano.

Aaron writes: “I graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington. I am currently working with a team at the UW to expand on our senior project and complete a published paper. I am



*Aaron Ramos continued*

also seeking employment and am likely taking an offer soon to begin my professional career. I am temporarily living with my grandparents; my grandmother is an ancestor of Hiroshima and I have enjoyed hearing personal accounts and stories of my grandparents’ past. Recommended by my grandmother, I am reading the novel *Midnight in Broad Daylight* by Pamela Sakamoto, a culturally enriching story following descendants of Hiroshima. In the future, I hope to give back to the many Japanese and Japanese-American organizations that have aided and supported me throughout my scholastic life, like the Hiroshima club. I hope that my unique and informed upbringing will help me share accurate and personal narratives of our history.”

**Paige Deguchi** is granddaughter to member, Jean Deguchi.

Paige writes: “While attending the University of Portland I majored in Accounting and minored in Global Business. At UP I joined two accounting clubs—Beta Alpha Psi and The Institute of Management Accountants Club. My senior year, I had the opportunity to volunteer for CASH Oregon, where I helped prepare low income tax returns. My experiences at The University of Portland have been deeply enriching, and prepared me for my new job as an associate accountant. Thank you so much for the honorarium, I am so grateful to have received it.”



## Scholarship Recipient Update

By Andrea Mano

In the June 2021 newsletter, we announced the three high school seniors who were recipients of the Scholarship. Here is an update from each of them, as they have just started college in September.

**Lea Hidaka's** parents are Mark Hidaka and Dina Jeppesen, and grandmother is Janet Inahara.

Lea writes: "This fall, I am currently enjoying attending the University of Washington in Seattle where I am planning on majoring in design. At UW, I have joined clubs such as a magazine club and I am a part of the PR team for the Japanese Student Association. So far, I have learned a lot and I am excited for the rest of the year. Additionally, I am thankful for being able to continue my education and all the support I have had along the way."

**Miki Kusunose's** parents are Taro and Nami Kusunose, and grandmother is Rieko Kuroda.

Miki writes: "Thank you to those at the Seattle Hiroshima Club for the generous support. I have enrolled at the University of Washington in Seattle as I pursue my bachelors degree. My days are filled with homework, hanging out with friends, studying for my calculus and statistics midterms, and working for the UW newspaper--The Daily--as a copy editor! I hope to continue engaging with more campus clubs and organizations as I navigate this exciting freshman year."

**Kaylee Yokoyama's** parents are Jeff and Shelley Yokoyama, grandparents are Fusae Yokoyama and Takeo Yoshihara.

Kaylee writes: "I hope that everyone is staying safe! I am grateful to have been chosen as a recipient of the 2021 Hiroshima Club Scholarship. I am currently a freshman attending the University of Washington. I am a pre-sciences major interested in pursuing biology. Aside from school, I was honored by accepting the role as a youth group leader for the Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church. On campus, I recently joined the Asian American Interservice Club (AAIV) which is a Christian faith club. Besides these activities I am continuing my participation with the Benaroya Research Institute, which is a research foundation for food allergies. Also, I am volunteering at food drives and the Rainier Valley food Bank. Thank you again for your support!"

## Seattle Hiroshima Club Social Activity Report

By Curtis Nakayama

As you are all aware, Covid-19 has restricted our social events for the last two years, we are working to determine the feasibility of reinstating the events in 2022. Our ability to do so will depend on the safety of those events in the coming months.

The New Year's Party and Annual General Meeting of the Seattle Hiroshima Club is being considered for later in 2022 than has been traditional, perhaps as late as April or May.

The annual Golf Tournament should be held this summer but it also depends on the circumstances.

The Club picnic should be held in late summer but there will be several problems before a picnic can be scheduled. Please let me know if you are interested in working on planning any of the activities.

Seattle Hiroshima Club

## 2022 Hiroshima Golf Tournament

By Russ Akiyama

The issue with COVID-19 caused the cancellation of our annual golf tournament the past two years. COVID-19 is still an issue but with vaccinations there is a chance that by summer, we could have a tournament. The committee will continue to monitor the situation and make a decision by the end of March. At that time, we will let everyone know if we will hold the 2022 Hiroshima Club golf tournament. Thank you for your patience during the past two years.



## Life of Mr. Katsumi "Kats" Tanino

By Tanino's family and Seattle Hiroshima Club

Mr. Kats Tanino was born on October 5, 1928, in Seattle, Washington to Mitumasa and Shizue Tanino. Kats spent his formative years growing up in Bellevue, Washington working and playing on the family farm with his two brothers Ryomi (Ry) and Matami (Tom) and two sisters Takae (Tak) and Tsukiyo (Tsuk).



With the signing of Executive Order 9066, the Tanino family (except Ry who was at WSU and later joined the 442nd army unit) was evacuated to Pinedale Assembly Center near Fresno, California, and was later sent to Tule Lake Relocation Camp in 1942. After WWII, Kats moved to Spokane and completed his high school education and attended Gonzaga University, earning a Mechanical engineering degree in 1951. He worked for Metcalf & Harstad Associates, an engineering firm, from 1951-1980. Known as a talented and reputable engineer, Kats and Jon Stack opened their own firm, S T Engineering, Inc. in 1980, where Kats was president until he retired in 1993.

Kats met Teruyo "Terrie" Arakawa, from Fresno, California, while in the Tule Lake Relocation camp, and married her in 1953. They moved to Seattle and shared 66 very full and loving years until Terrie's passing in 2020. Together they enjoyed traveling all around the world and playing bridge, as members of the Magnolia Senior Bridge Group.

As a life-long avid fisherman, Kats fished all over the state of Washington. He especially enjoyed his salmon fishing trips to the Washington Coast where he caught many trophy size King salmon. Both Kats and Terrie were very active in the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Kats held many positions within the church, including President (1986-1987). He also held positions with the Northwest District Buddhist Churches of America, the Buddhist Churches of America, Wisteria View Housing Corporation, and the Kawabe Memorial Committee. Also, Kats and Terrie were log-time members of

Seattle Hiroshima Club and served as Board-Directors for many years. They enjoyed their friendship with members in new year party, picnics, and bus tours.

In 2017 Kats and Terrie moved to The Lakeshore retirement community. Even then, Kats still enjoyed playing cards and started a weekly poker game with other residents. He also amused himself by playing blackjack at nearby casinos, winning more than he lost.

After Terrie's passing, Kats' remaining sibling, sister Tak, moved from California to The Lakeshore, and Kats was able to spend his final days with her. Kats passed away peacefully on July 6, 2021 at 92 years of age. We, Seattle Hiroshima Club members, greatly miss Kats and Terrie.



Kats and Terrie (Kats 2nd from right, Terrie 3<sup>rd</sup> from right) enjoyed in traveling with friends

## Life of Teruo Yorita

By Dale Kaku

Teruo Yorita born on March 6, 1945, the fourth son of Toshiteru and Misayo Yorita, in the Tule Lake Relocation Center. When he was 10 months old, the Yorita Family relocated to the post war Japan.

Mother Misayo, brother Toshio and Teruo returned to the U.S. when Teruo was 11 years old. They settled in Watsonville, California, and worked in farming as a share cropper, harvesting strawberry with the oldest brother Koji, who had returned to the U.S. earlier. Teruo attended and graduated from both primary and high school in Watsonville. He attended Cabrillo

*Life of Teruo Yorita continued on page 7*



### *Life of Teruo Yorita continued*

Junior College, prior to joining the U.S. Marine Corps.

Teruo joined the Marine Corps in 1964 and was trained as a radio telegraph operator (Teruo received his Marine Corps nickname “Skosh” due to his “sukoshi” physical height). His last assignment was with “I” company battalion radio operator during the Sept. 1967 fighting in the Con Thien area. In Viet Nam, Teruo served mostly in Quang Tri province, which is the northern most province of South Viet Nam.

Teruo graduated from University of Oregon in 1971 with B.A degree. He then enrolled in the University of Washington Graduate School. In Seattle, he found employment with SEASIA, a part of Uwajimaya. In 1975, he embarked in the career of Financial Industry with Sumitomo Bank of California. Ultimately, he attained the position of the Branch Manager.

The biggest change in his life occurred when he met and married Takako Sakaigawa of Sapporo, Japan in 1996. They settled in Oxnard, California, where Teruo was the Branch Manager of the Oxnard Branch of the Sumitomo Bank of California.



From right, Teruo, MIS veteran Roy Matsumoto, and Teruo's wife Takako at the 2010 SHC new year party.

In May 2004, he moved to the Pacific Northwest. Here, they purchased a home in Kent. The next year and a half were spent taking various mini-travel around the state, fishing both at the lakes and coastal area as well, and golfing. Teruo was able to secure a part time work with the Seattle Buddhist Temple office. As a lifelong Buddhist, though not devout, he really enjoyed the opportunity to

reacquaint himself with the Buddhist teaching.

More than anything else, he enjoyed the interaction with the Ministers, many kind and friendly members, as well as those organizations and individual who visit the temple.

He was a life member of the Nisei Veterans Committee (Sergeant at Arms, Archivist and Honor Guard Chairman), USMC Support Group (Board of Director) and a member of Seattle Hiroshima Club. He and Takako enjoyed their life together until his unexpected sudden death on May 20, 2011. We, Seattle Hiroshima Club members, miss friendly and helpful Teruo.

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### **Life Story of Ms. Takako Yorita**

English translation by Mrs. Jennifer Otake

I arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport in the summer of 1994. The man I was intending to marry, Mr. Teruo Yorita, was there to meet me with a bouquet of roses and a stuffed bear. We immediately took off in a car towards our new home in Oxnard, southern California. We traveled north through Santa Monica and Malibu on the Pacific Coast Highway. The endless blue sea and sky of California welcomed me.

Oxnard is the home of a U.S. Naval base, and there were also lots of Japanese Americans, many of whom were farmers who immigrated from Japan. The area is famous for the California Strawberry Festival, taking place every May.

My husband was the branch manager of a Japanese bank in Oxnard. We soon bought an elegant home. On sunny days, we worked on our vegetable garden, and went fishing and digging for clams at the beach. On rainy days, we read books (although it rarely rained). It was exactly the lifestyle that I wanted to have. The year-round warmth and blue sky of California, with hardly a rainy day, was like a dream. One day, after living in Oxnard for around seven years, my husband said that he wanted to go to Seattle, where he had lived as a student. Seattle is a large city in the northwestern United States. Even Japanese people are familiar with Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, Starbucks, etc. Despite that, it was probably the baseball player, Ichiro, who made Seattle known to Japanese people

***Continued on page 8***

### *Life Story of Ms. Takako Yorita continued*

the most. Although I don't have much interest in baseball, even I frequently took customers to Safeco Field. In no time at all, I grew accustomed to life in Seattle and we bought a house. With lots of Japanese and Japanese Americans also in Seattle, my husband was hired as a secretary at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, and began to make appearances at Japanese and Japanese American association gatherings, such as the Nisei Veterans Committee and the Hiroshima Club.

Born in a Japanese internment camp (Tule Lake), my husband moved to Hiroshima after Japan's defeat. It was the first atomic bombing in human history. After finishing elementary school in Hiroshima, he returned to the United States. Later, as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps, he participated in the Vietnam War, making his life continually connected to wartime. When referring to my husband, I can't talk about him without mentioning the Vietnam War.

In August of this year, it was decided that the U.S. military would withdraw from Afghanistan after twenty years. When the last U.S. military plane took off from Kabul Airport and I saw the Afghan people who clung to the plane and lost their lives, I was reminded of the "Fall of Saigon" during the Vietnam War 50 years ago. Do you remember when the helicopter carrying the last remaining Americans took off from the rooftop of the Da Nang Hotel and a Vietnamese father forced his child onto the helicopter just as it was taking off? At the very least, he probably wanted to let his child go to America, a country of freedom.

The price was too great and my husband was also a victim. The peaceful days didn't last long. One day, after living in Seattle for a while, he was attacked by an illness and a fierce battle began. I never thought that his experiences in Vietnam would take his life. Despite the hard work of a group of 25 doctors, he never recovered. Being left alone in a foreign country after he passed, I had a lot of work to do and I didn't have time to cry. I am very grateful to the local Japanese and Japanese American people. Seattle Betsuin's Reverend Castro said, "You've done enough for him, so it's time to think about yourself now." So I decided to go back to

Japan. I was proud in the knowledge that we had done everything that my husband had wanted to, so I decided that I wouldn't regret returning to Japan.

My 20-year stay in America gave me strength, courage, independence and kindness, and made me an adult. I met him (my husband), a Japanese American, and we always discussed the differences between Japan and America, in terms of right and wrong, customs and thoughts. My greatest treasure was traveling all over the U.S. together. I can only remember the fun we had. I am now glad that I came to America after all. In March 2014, I left the Seattle airport, putting an end to my time in America.

I am now spending the rest of my life in my hometown of Sapporo. Whenever I hear the name "Seattle", my heart fills with nostalgia. Last September, I was suddenly struck by an illness. The treatment is painful and the future is still unknown, but every day, I continue to battle this difficult foe.

I dream of the day when I will be able to see that famous Mount Rainier again!

October 2021 Sapporo, Hokkaido Takako Yorita



Oct. 2009 Practicing kayaking



Aug. 2008 Reunion of Oregon Univ. Graduates. Front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> right, is Takako and back row, 4<sup>th</sup> from right is Teruo.



## Life of Mrs. Takako Yorita (寄田隆子)

1994年夏、私はロスアンゼルス国際空港に降りたった。そこには私の夫となるべき人が「バラの花束」と「熊のぬいぐるみ」を持って私を迎えてくれた。彼の名は寄田輝雄です。直ちに私達は新居となるべき南カリフォルニアのオクスナード(Oxnard)を目指して車を走らせた。サンタモニカ、マリブを通りPacific Coast Highwayを北上。何処までも続くカリフォルニアの青い海と空は私を歓迎してくれた。オクスナードにはアメリカ海軍の基地があり、日系人も多くほとんどは農業に従事する日本からの移民であった。毎年五月に開かれるカリフォルニア・ストロベリー・フェスティバルは有名である。

彼はオクスナードの日系銀行の支店長でした。程なくして私達は瀟洒な家を手に入れた。晴れた日には庭で野菜作り、近郊の海では釣りや貝堀り、雨の日は読書(雨はほとんど降らないが)まさに私が憧れていた“晴耕雨読”の日々でした。一年中温暖で降雨量が少ないカリフォルニアの青い空は北国育ちの私には夢のような所でした。オクスナードでの生活が七年程続いたある日彼は学生時代を過ごしたシアトルへ行きたいと言い出した。

シアトルはアメリカ北西部に位置する大都市。ボーイング、マイクロソフト、アマゾン、スターバックス等日本人にも馴染みが深い。なかでもシアトルの名を日本人に知らしめたのはあの野球プレイヤー“イチロー選手”であろう。野球にはあまり興味のなかった私も日本からの客を連れ“セーフフィールド”には足しげく通った。あっという間にシアトルに馴染み家も手に入れた。シアトルも又、日本人、日系人が多く西本願寺シアトル別院に事務職として採用され日系軍人の会、広島クラブ等日本人、日系人の会に顔を出すようになった。

キャンプ( Tule Lake)で生まれ日本の敗戦と共に広島へ。そこは人類史上初めての原爆投下地だった。広島で小学校を終え、再びアメリカへ。戦後はアメリカ海兵隊員(MarineCorp)としてベトナム戦争に参戦した彼の生涯はまさに戦争と共にあった。主人を語るときベトナム戦争なしでは語れない。

今年八月米軍の20年に及ぶアフガニスタン撤退が決まった。最後の米軍機がカブール空港を飛び立つ時、機にしがみつき命を落としたアフガン人を見たとき思わず50年前のベトナム戦争の「サイゴン陥落」を想起させた。ダナンのホテルの屋上から最後の米国人を乗せたヘリコプターが飛び上がる瞬間、自分の子供を無理矢理ヘリに乗せたベトナム人の父親の姿を覚えているだろうか？せめて子供だけでも自由の国アメリカへ行かせたかったのだろう。

アメリカは自由の国か。その代償はあまりにも大きく主人も又犠牲者でした。平穏な日はそんなに長くは続きませんでした。シアトルでの生活も暫く続いたある日病魔が彼を襲い壮絶な戦いが始まった。ベトナムでの体験が命取りになるとは思いもよりませんでした。 25人の医師団の懸命の努力にも拘わらず帰らぬ人となった。一人異国に取り残された私はこれから始まるやらなければならないことが山積し泣いている暇はなかった。現地の日本人、日系人の方々には大変お世話になりました。シアトル別院のカストロ輪番に「貴方は彼のために充分尽くしたのだからこれからは自分のことを考えなさい」と云って頂きました。その時日本へ帰ろうと決めました。主人の欲していた全てのことを成就したという自負があったからこれで日本へ帰っても後悔はないと判断

**Continued on Page 10**

### *Life of Mrs. Takako Yorita (寄田隆子) continued*

した。20年に及ぶアメリカ滞在は私に強さ、勇気、独立心そして優しさを与えてくれ、大人にしてくれた。彼(主人)という日系アメリカ人とめぐり逢い日米の善悪、習慣、思考の違いについていつも議論していた。二人で全米各地を旅行したことはこの上ない私の宝物。楽しかったことばかりが思い出されます。やはりアメリカへ来て良かったと今は思っています。

2014年3月アメリカ生活に終止符をうちシアトル空港を後にした。

私は今、余生を生まれ故郷の札幌で過ごしています。折に触れシアトルの名を耳にすると懐かしさで胸がいっぱいになります。昨年9月突然病いが私を襲いました。治療は辛くまだ先が見えませんが日々困難な敵と闘っています。再びあの名峰“レニア山”を見れる日を夢見て！

2021年10月 北海道札幌にて

寄田隆子



Takako & Teruo at Oxnard, California, 1998



Takako & Teruo at Tule Lake, California, 2010

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On behalf of Seattle Hiroshima Club members, the cabinet members greatly appreciate all the persons who contributed their articles and Mrs. Sharon Kosai for her wonderful job formatting and laying out articles and photos in this newsletter issue. Thank you very much.

## 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. Please remit membership dues for 2022. We appreciate any additional donations to help cover our club's activities. Thank you!

Check your amount:

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☐ Donation

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Seattle Hiroshima Club Treasurer

PO Box 94083

Seattle, WA 98124-9483



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