

Voices of the Attendants

Article by Ai Omae

"You should know more."

Mr. Michio Araki 80 years old

"I saw many displayed pictures including one showing remaining balustrade shadows caused by thermal radiation, and another of a human's nuclear shadow on the stone steps of a Sumitomo Bank. I personally experienced the air raid in Okayama; thinking that I may have died if I took one wrong step is horrific. This event is a great opportunity to listen to opinions of not only the Japanese but also the foreigners. I would like more Americans and local Japanese people to know more about the bombings."



"Disarm all weapons."

Mr. Guillermo Silveira 60 years old

"The use of nuclear weapons in any fight is very cowardly, and it should not exist. All countries should disarm not only nuclear weapons but any weapons that could do great harm. From time to time, I dream of an event where all the leaders and religions around the world, along with their grandchildren, releasing biodegradable balloons at once to celebrate peace. As a musical composer and an ambassador of peace, I would like to keep promoting world peace."



"Peace with origami."

Ms. Toshiko Kobayashi

"I folded paper cranes for the attendees of this event, hoping that it would give them peace. The atomic bombings should not, and cannot be forgotten."



THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Hiroshi Takeshita recalls his boyhood at the photo exhibit.

NO MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS



Tetsuya Sato



Takeshi Furumoto



Tomiko West Morimoto

Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York Ltd., President and Founder Kenjitsu Nakagaki, held the event 26th Annual Interfaith Peace Ceremony to Commemorate the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings at Japan Society in the evening of 5th. (see article on page 1) At 7:15 PM, the exact moment of the Hiroshima bombing, 8:15 AM Aug. 6th Japan time, a bell for peace was rung. This event was for Americans

and Japanese who wish a world peace no matter their religion. Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki started this event since he



retired from the New York Buddhist Church.

H.E. Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, made a speech.

Hiroshima survivor Tomiko Morimoto West shared her story and the keynote address was presented by Jonathan Granoff, President of the Global Security Institute. The event featured New York based Japanese and American musicians and artists: Toshiko Akiyoshi, jazz pianist, and Lew Tabackin, saxophonist, Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir; Tenri Gagaku Music Society of New York; Circle of Wind Boys & Girls Choir; Eita, calligrapher/poet and Dai, singer/guitarist; Fumiko Yamato and Shizuno Nasu, Yamatombi Japanese dancers and Yasunobu Matsuo, pianist and composer.

And The Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb Photo Exhibition was on display in the Japan Society foyer. In the event, messages from the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were read by representative from association of local NYC Japanese residents who originally hail from Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

(Article and Photograph by Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Chikako Iwasaki)



"Memory of melted beer bottles." Mr. Hiroshi Takeshita 72 years old

"My mother experienced the atomic bombing in Nagasaki, and I was born two years later. In third grade, I remember digging the flower garden of the Nagasaki City Nishizaka Elementary School and finding deformed beer bottles that had melted like chocolate. One of the displayed pictures shows a little boy standing in front of the cremation site. Looking at his skinny body reminds me of how I grew up like that too."



"Tell the tragedy to the future." Ms. Deborah Garcia

"Being a 9/11 widow, I share feelings with the people with many losses caused by the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is important not only to remember the tragedy but also to educate future generations about this topic. We must also learn how to set our egos aside, and to think about others."

"The speech was so powerful." Ms. Marsha Silvestri

"The stories that the Hibakusha share are disturbing, yet very powerful and moving. Since not a lot of the population knows the whole story of the atomic bombings, I hope that more would become aware through these kinds of opportunities."



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