



Dear friends

I am writing to offer a free visit to your school, congregation, church, home school or organization to talk about Japan and promote international friendship.

My name is Yukiko Shimono from Hiroshima city, Japan and a volunteer member of the Never Again Campaign (NAC). NAC is a volunteer grassroots people-to-people program of Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, MA. So far, since 1985, NAC has had 52 volunteers and has done 11,565 presentations for 363,480 people in 38 U.S. states and 11 countries.

For details see: <http://www.berkshirecc.edu/neveragaincampaign>

It is my mission to share some Japanese culture and the experience of Hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings. I firmly believe that it is very important for all human beings in this nuclear age, especially the younger generation, to have a chance to think positively about the meaning of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I have excellent short movies about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, plus a well-organized slide show about present-day Japanese life and culture. I can also perform some Japanese culture activities, such as Origami (paper folding), Japanese tea ceremony, and Japanese calligraphy and so on. I can gear the presentation for any age level and any length of time.

All presentations are free. I am available to go anywhere to make a presentation as long as my transportation and accommodation cost is provided.

I am sending information about myself and my presentation for your consideration. If you are interested in my presentation, please contact me at one of the addresses below at your earliest convenience. I will live in Cedar Bluffs, from January 25 until February 10, 2012. I hope that I will be able to speak at your school, church, or group. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours.

Yukiko Shimono
(Host Family) Nancy Meyer

Email: yukkos2324@hotmail.com
Email: nmeyer@istarter.com
2043 County Road Y, Cedar Bluffs, NE 68015
home : 402.628.2034 / Nancy cell : 402.720.1058

MY INTRODUCTION

It is great to meet you. My name is Yuki ,from Hiroshima city, JAPAN.

I was born and grew up in Hiroshima. I love my hometown, Hiroshima!

I work for Real Estate association over 10 years.

I have many licenses as teachers! In calligraphy (for 25 years), tea ceremony (for 13 years), kimono-dressing, Japanese language, and I can even teach at kindergarten!

Not only those, my hobbies are tennis, scuba diving, Yoga, singing, tour-guiding, and traveling.



tea ceremony



My Japanese calligraphy

THE PROGRAM

LENGTH OF PRESENTATION: Approximately 45-90 minutes

The program can be varied depending on the length of time provided and the size of audience for the presentation. Not all of the items below will be able to be covered at one time, so teachers or leaders may request which ones they would like me to demonstrate.

PSSIBLE PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to Japanese Culture

1. Slide show of traditional and contemporary Japanese life and culture -- 20-30 min.
2. Origami demonstration (paper folding) -- 20-30 minutes
3. Japanese calligraphy – 20-30 minutes
4. Tea ceremony demonstration – 20-30 minutes

Media presentations about the effects of the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors

1. Claw Marks of the Atomic Bombing (DVD) for Sr. High and adults -- 20 minutes
2. THE LOST GENERATION (DVD) for Sr. High and adults -- 20 minutes
3. PIKA DON (animated DVD) for older children -- 10 minutes
4. ON A PAPER CRANE (animated DVD) for younger children -- 27 minutes
5. Storytelling of Sadako and a Thousand Paper Cranes for kids---Storytelling 15 minutes

---- The following program is for adults and serious audiences-----

1. WHITE LIGHT BLACK RAIN (DVD) -- 80 minutes
2. HIROSHIMA: A MOTHER'S PRAYER (DVD) -- 30 minutes
3. SURVIVORS: FIFTY YEARS AFTER HIROSHIMA (DVD) about Japanese American survivors -- 35 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

PC projector, a screen, a room that can be darkened

- Origami papers or right square papers when organizer chose Origami.
- White blank sheet of papers (A4 size, a few sheets for each child), brush, Newspapers, paper cups, Black paint, water when organizer chose calligraphy
- Pot with hot water (a carafe with hot water is better) when organizer chose Tea ceremony.

Please note: equipment needed may change depending upon the program desired.

SIZE OF AUDIENCE

I prefer small to medium size groups rather than larger assemblies, so that I can have more personal contact with the audience. (it is about 10-30 students)

OTHERS

All presentations are free of charge. I am available to travel anywhere. I am available to go anywhere to make a presentation as long as my transportation and accommodation cost is provided.



Peace message



My mission is to give us a chance to think together about 'what is peace to us?'

I want you to learn peace through Hiroshima and Nagasaki's atomic bomb.

I would like to share with you the message of peace from Atomic-Bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The A-bomb survivors are called Hibakushas in Japanese (literally meaning "those who were bombed", however, "bombed" here means "A-bombed".)

I personally met many Hibakushas. My uncle is a Hibakusha too.

Their stories gave me strong impressions.

War deprived them of everything they had.

They lost families, friends, home, foods...

Many Hibakushas could not get married because of discrimination and had no children because of fear of radiation aftereffects.

Moreover they were subject to discrimination because of overall ignorance about radiation.

They were suffering from cancer, serious scars due to the enormous heat of the bombing, various symptoms unique to acute irradiation, cancers, and other serious traumas and diseases.

Even now Hibakushas are suffering from them after 66 years ...

Also they appeal to the international community. Let me cite a part of their message.

"Many people today do not yet know what effect wars and nuclear weapons cause us.

We want the world to know what happened on August 6th in Hiroshima and 9th in Nagasaki in 1945.

War eat away at our soul, Radiation eat at our body forever.

We never blame American people.

It is important to "reconcile" with each other for peace.

We have different culture, religion, personalitybut we are all human being.

Each of us has the right to happy life.

We have to think seriously about what really is war, why do we need nuclear weapon?

It is especially important for young generation, because they are the one who will build the future. "

The end of quote.

Hibakushas want to talk to you, people in the United States, very much but they are getting older and can not come all the way across the Pacific to visit your city, that is why young people like me are conveying messages from them.

We don't want Hibakusha's stories to become a mere history, we want to keep them (their experiences) alive in our heart so that their messages keep being listened to over generations.

How can we resolve conflicts? How can we bring smiles to everyone's faces?

It is our mission to learn from past tragedies of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and of the World War II and tell the world what we know. We cannot change what happened in the past, but we can learn from it, and if each of us acts with a strong desire for change, we can build a peaceful world.

It is our turn now.

To fill the world with smiling people, let us convey the peaceful wish from Hiroshima and Nagasaki to the world and future generations.

Let us realize our dream of the world free of nuclear weapons so that our children and all succeeding generations can live in freedom, security and peace.

Thank you for listening.