

In the summer of my sophomore year, around the 65th anniversary of the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, my middle school friend, Nick, my eighth grade teacher, Kim Allen, and I traveled throughout Japan and participated in peace conventions and student workshops, entitling this venture our “Education for Peace Project.” At these venues, musicians, politicians, students from all grades, and survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bomb droppings promoted peace, calling for the urgent abolition of nuclear weapons and asking for help from the audience to support their case. We contributed to these presentations by demonstrating our experiences as student activists and how we take action in our community after learning about emotionally difficult topics in history. But what connected us to the work of our counterpart Japanese activists were our self-made petitions supporting the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) that would reduce the nuclear armaments of Russia and America. Along with the other international and Japanese students who had their own petitions, we stood outside the conventions to rally support for ours. These petitions were later hand-delivered by Nick and me to Senator Schumer’s Defense Legislative Fellow in Washington D.C. Ultimately our “Education for Peace Project” exceeded our initial expectation of a simple trip of student activism, becoming a profound emotional experience when we were privileged enough to speak with some of the survivors and attend the official commemorative ceremonies at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We had helped create a cross-cultural dialog between the younger, post-WWII generations of formerly warring nations, and this bond derived its strength from the united effort of both Japanese and American students to explore the past and its pain to impact and change the future.

Two years later, during my senior year, I was invited to recount my summer adventure at two fundraisers hosted by the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation that was promoting student activism in the classroom. As I reflected on my travels, I realized that this Japan trip forever instilled in me a hope for and idealism of changing the world that could be truly accomplished by creating strong connections to raise multiple voices for a cause.

The other materials included in this portfolio serve to illustrate our travels around Tokyo, Nagasaki, and Hiroshima. The newspaper scans and their corresponding translations, courtesy of my Japanese mother and a translator who had accompanied us to Japan, covered some of the adventures Nick and I had, from the time we sought signatures for petitions or the time where we participated in certain peace ceremonies. There is also a picture that documents when Nick and I presented our petitions in Washington D.C. as well as a copy of one of our many petitions that we gave Schumer’s legislative fellow. Lastly, this account of the “Education for Peace” project concludes with a letter from the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation that refers to my work for them, and with my blog post that reflects on the successful ratification of the New START. Our blog, which can be found at <http://educationforpeaceinjapan.blogspot.com/>, also chronicles our travels, lending a different perspective than this portfolio.

国境 言葉の壁越え



原爆の日「1万人署名」参加

国の中高校生 核廃絶の決意新た



「アンゼラスの学校で上映」
秋月さん妻に励まし

長崎原爆で被爆しなが
れ救護に尽力した医師が秋月一郎さん(81)。元海軍病院に勤めた2人は、小学校に通う頃から「原爆の歴史を振り返りながら、互いに未来を語り合った。

100年の日にもあたる。長崎原爆の日(8月9日)を迎えた被爆地・長崎だけではなく、米国・韓国の若者たちが国境言葉の壁を越え、日本も若者たちと交流した。それぞの国若者たちは、「加害者の歴史を振り返りながら、互いに未来を語り合った。

（原題：Nagasaki students meet to push for nuclear weapons ban）

The Mainichi Newspaper is a nationwide paper, analogous to America's New York Times

Translation:

On August 10, 2010, at Nagasaki, Japanese students and American students met and collected the petition papers together for the New START. The two students from American are Mr. Nick Wilson (16 years) and Ms. Pauline Ceraulo (16 years). Both of them graduated from St. Luke's School where they saw "Nagasaki 1945" by Mr. Arihara. Ms. Allen, a history teacher at St. Luke's school decided to show the film to teach the students about the tragedies of wars and the danger of nuclear weapons in 2007, when they were both in 8th grade at St. Luke's. After the movie, students sent letters to Ms. Hillary Clinton (at that time, she was a senator of New York), who responded to the students. Nick and Pauline both participated in May when Ms. Allen did a workshop using this film. Since then, they both are activists, collecting petitions to push congress to a bill supporting the New START treaty. On August 8th, they visited St. Francis Hospital to see Mrs. Akizuki (wife of Dr. Akizuki). Mrs. Akizuki (91 years old) said to them "Thank you so much for your effort. I would like you to keep working for the abolishment of nuclear weapons" over tea. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Ceraulo attended the Peace Ceremony on August 9th and joined the "10,000 Signatures" campaign by students that promoted the end of nuclear weapons. They collected the signatures along with the Japanese high school students. They both said, "A signed New START Treaty is meaningless unless we implement its terms. Therefore, we have to push the congress to make it a law. We shall continue our work in a very effective and practical way." In September, they are planning to visit Mr. Schumer's office (Mr. Schumer is the senator of New York) to hand out the petitions they collected in Japan. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Ceraulo also added, "Once Americans stand the impact of nuclear weapons, they will change their opinions towards the nuclear weapons. We shall make sure we use all these petitions we collected at Nagasaki to help achieve this realization."



A local Nagasaki newspaper from August 17, 2010.

Translation:

On August 7, Mr. Hirose, a survivor of the nuclear bomb, asked Mr. Wilson and Ms. Ceraulo, "Do you think it was necessary to drop a nuclear weapon on Nagasaki?". Even now, many Americans believe that the dropping of nuclear weapons made WWII end earlier. In 1955, the exhibition on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Smithsonian Museum was cancelled due to the strong opposition of WWII veterans. Two young students from America, Mr. Wilson and Ms. Ceraulo, answered to Mr. Hirose's question simply as "No." Mr. Wilson said, "the history textbooks that I read noted that the purpose of dropping nuclear weapons were more like a threat to Russia." Ms. Allen, who attended these students added that, "however these textbooks are very few. And most of the textbooks only write about what happened without any detail." She also said, "Should I teach the way the textbook did, very simply describing what happened, or should we teach them in more detail? If we teach the fact in more detail, some of the parents will complain or argue. We also have to cover so much, so many teachers are struggling how we approach this issue." Mr. Wilson also said "the opinion that dropping nuclear weapons made WWII end earlier is now changing. Many young generations do not agree with these former opinions. The most important thing is the awareness of teachers." Parent of Ms. Ceraulo, Mutsuko Okuda added, "Many Americans do not know what really happened to regular people. I think that once they understand the sorrow and tragedies nuclear weapons create, they will change their opinions. So I truly feel we have a big hope to abolish nuclear weapons from our planet." On the date of August 9, the 65th Anniversary of the dropping of the nuclear bomb, Nagasaki Newspapers did a survey. 40% of the survivors answered, "we don't think we can abolish nuclear weapons" and more than 30% "we do believe we can abolish nuclear weapons." Being asked by the journalist about this survey's result, Ms. Ceraulo said, "I believe we, Americans became aware of nuclear weapons' danger, so I think we are heading towards abolishing nuclear weapons. It may take a long time, but I do think we can do it one day." She added, "I would like to start a small group which we can discuss about the peace, this will be a small step, but if many people get together, we can change the world." Two American students, Mr. Wilson and Ms. Ceraulo, encouraged Japanese high school students to act as the bridge which is the close to the Center of Nagasaki. In the rain, they collected petitions supporting the New START treaty, collecting nearly 1,500 that they planned to take Senator Schumer's office in Washington D.C.



A photo that documents when Nick and I present our petitions that we had written ourselves to Defense Legislative Fellow to Senator Schumer, Gretchen Gardner,

2010年7月31日～8月

*U.S. Senators:
A Message from Japan!*

Sign the Petition

"WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, believe that to protect our children, our grandchildren and our civilization from the threat of nuclear catastrophe, we must eliminate all nuclear weapons globally. We therefore commit to working for a legally binding verifiable agreement, including all nations, to eliminate nuclear weapons by a date certain.

私たち署名者は、核の脅威から私たちの子どもや孫、文明を守るために、核兵器を廃絶しなければならないと信じています。私たちは核兵器を必ずなくすために結束して、あらゆる人々の署名を集めるために活動を行っています。
すべての国々が、期日をきめ核兵器をなくすことができる条約を締結させるためにわれわれは全力を尽します。

Message (in English only)

Sign/署名: 組田野 真理
City/住所: 町田市 鶴間 1-19-21

Email: beat.com.cher@hotmail.co.jp

Sign/署名: 組田野 勝
City/住所: 町田市 鶴間 1-19-21

Email: _____

Sign/署名: 組田野 龍子
City/住所: 東京都 町田市
鶴間 1-19-21
Email: _____

Sign/署名: 高橋 信雄
City/住所: 東京都 町田市 鶴間
1-19-21
Email: _____

Sign/署名: 高橋 千力
City/住所: 東京都 町田市 鶴間
1-19-21
Email: _____

Sign/署名: 沖村 真知子
City/住所: 文京区 游食
1-2-12-708
Email: _____

One of our many petitions with the signatures from our Japanese audience

RFK ROBERT F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS

RFK PARTNERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS | RFK SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER | RFK COMPASS | RFK EUROPE
RFK JUVENILE JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE | RFK HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD | RFK BOOK AWARD
RFK JOURNALISM AWARD | RFK RIPPLE OF HOPE AWARD

2/21/12

Pauline Ceralo
10 Liberty Street, Apt 256
New York, NY 10005

Dear Pauline,

Thank you for your attendance at recent RFK Leadership Council and Young Leaders events. Your incredible speaking abilities and inspirational story helped us reach a number of potential new supporters. I am thrilled to learn that Speak Truth to Power had such an impact on your education and I hope that you continue to pursue social justice and human rights work as you enter college.

On behalf of all of our staff, constituents, and human rights defenders on five continents, thank you for your enthusiasm and support.

Sincerely,

Kerry Kennedy
President
Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

515 MADISON AVENUE | SUITE 718 | NEW YORK, NY 10022 | TELEPHONE 917.284.6355 | FAX 347.426.2201
WASHINGTON, D.C. | FLORENCE, ITALY | WWW.RFKCENTER.ORG | WWW.RFKKENNEDYEUROPE.ORG

A letter from the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation referencing my speeches that I made where I reflected on my experience as a student activist during the “Education for Peace Project” It reads:

“Thank you for your attendance at recent RFK Leadership Council and Young Leaders events. Your incredible speaking abilities and inspirational story helped us reach a number of potential new supporters. I am thrilled to learn that Speak Truth to Power had such an impact on your education and I hope that you pursue social justice and human rights work as you enter college.

On behalf of all our staff, constituents, and human rights defenders on five continents, thank you for your enthusiasm and support.

Sincerely,

Kerry Kennedy

President

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights”

Education for Peace in Japan 平和教育の意味

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TAKE ACTION FOR A BETTER WORLD より良い世界のために、教師と生徒が行動を起こす

Workshops and Cross-Cultural Dialog in Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, with a Special Emphasis on Building Bridges with our Friends in the Survivor Community in Nagasaki
東京、京都、広島、長崎にて被爆者たちとの架け橋となるワークショップと文化交流

Click through older posts to see pictures of our work in various cities, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Tomorrow could possibly be the best the Christmas present

Officially yesterday, December 21, the Senate voted to move the New START Treaty to a final vote. Moving on with the 67 to 28 vote, the New START Treaty could be a great triumph for the Obama administration. However, more personally, this momentous occasion would be the culmination of all the international effort made during the summer.

About four months have past, and the New START Treaty hovered in the background as everyone started a fresh school year. But now, during my winter break, there's not only an opportunity for me to invigorate my hope for the New START Treaty but a chance to reflect. After my summer vacation ended and after delivering the petitions, I missed Japan terribly and wanted desperately to return to my glorious summer memories - but I didn't really understand how much this trip was slowly changing my perspective. Only now, do I realize the subtle changes.

During the vacation, my perspective was changed:

-Concerning nuclear weapons: I was massively concerned about nuclear proliferation as a vocal member of the group of international activists united in their cause.

I was more surprised in opposing scenarios:

1. By the big number of students who really supported nuclear non-proliferation.
2. Disappointed by the students who rarely joked and possessed the characteristics of "cool apathy" and disrespect to those who were passionate.

However another concern that I kept tucked in the corners of my brain was a charging yet omnipresent fear:

-It was first a complicated mixed fear: stage-fright combined with the fear of being an unprepared incompetent who wasn't passionate enough or deserving enough for the summer's opportunities.

But afterwards, it changed to the fear of:

-What if the treaty isn't passed and is a complete failure and disappointment to all the Japanese students who worked so hard into opposing another Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

And the only thing that will subdue the fear aside from the good news is the faintest hope that even if it fails, the fight will continue - constantly empowered by others around the entire world (not just the Japanese). Although it sounds terrible to me right now, our summer crusade was a drop in the bucket. Even this blog aside from being a recorded document of our events, could possibly (though very doubtfully) stir someone's concern to action - and that's all I can hope for.

And as my late night tunes flow through my earbuds, it's surprising how perfectly a lyric fits with this blog post:
"Isn't it nice to know that the lining is silver?" - Reelin' K

Posted by Pauline at 2:20 AM | [comment](#) | [trackback](#) | [Recommend this on Google](#)

Reactions: funny (0) interesting (1) cool (0)

Bloggers Kim Allen (St. Luke's), Pauline Ceralo (Trinity), and Nick Wilson (Saint Ann's)



Teacher and Former Students in New York City (not pictured, journalist Takayuki Shimizu from Japan)

WANNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS?
請願書に向けて、今、行動を取ろう！

take action NOW!
Demand a World Without Nuclear Weapons, START now!

signatures: 45,888
author: Participant Media
[sign petition](#)
[care2](#)
grab this widget | start a petition | by Care2

COUNTDOWN TO ZERO. WATCH THE TRAILER!

My post from our “Education for Peace in Japan” blog online that I’ve screen-captured to preserve the layout of the blog. The actual text reads:

Officially yesterday, December 21, the Senate voted to move the New START Treaty to a final vote! Moving on with the 67 to 28 vote, the New START Treaty could be a great triumph for the Obama administration. However, more personally, this momentous occasion would be the culmination of all the international effort made during the summer About four months have past, and the New START Treaty hovered in the background as everyone started a fresh school year. But now, during my winter break, there's not only an opportunity for me to invigorate my hope

for the New START Treaty but a chance to reflect. After my summer vacation ended and after delivering the petitions, I missed Japan terribly and wanted desperately to return to my glorious summer memories - but I didn't really understand how much this trip was slowly changing my perspective. Only now, do I realize the subtle changes.

During the vacation, my perspective was changed:

--Changed from just another student who is passively concerned about nuclear proliferation to a vocal member of the group of international activists united in their cause.

I was more surprised in opposing scenarios:

1. By the big number of students who really supported nuclear non-proliferation.

2. Disappointedly by the students who rudely joked and possessed the characteristics of "cool apathy" and disrespect to those who were passionate.

However another concern that I kept tucked in the corners of my brain was a changing yet omnipresent fear.

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"Isn't it nice to know that the lining is silver?" - Relient K