



# WHITMAN COLLEGE

## Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivor, First Ever to Visit Hanford, Where Bomb Was Built**

Available for interviews on Peace Mission with Washington Media (March 5-10, 2018)

On August 9, 1945, a 21 kiloton plutonium bomb called “Fat Man” was dropped on the city of Nagasaki, killing over 70,000 people, injuring many more, and leaving behind radiation-related sicknesses that continue to haunt future generations. The plutonium for that bomb was produced at the Hanford Nuclear Weapons Facility near Richland, Washington. Hanford’s radiation releases, the byproducts of plutonium production at the facility, have created their own legacy of diseases in the population downwind and downriver of the site. Despite being on opposite ends of a brutal war, Nagasaki and Hanford remain connected through this toxic history and shared victimization from nuclear production and deployment. And yet, to date, no atomic bomb survivor from Nagasaki has ever visited the site that produced the plutonium that destroyed their city to meet with those who lived in the radioactive shadow of Hanford’s plutonium production.

Beginning March 5, 2018 a Japanese “hibakusha” (atomic bomb survivor), **Mr. Mitsugi Moriguchi**, a child at the time of the Nagasaki bombing, will visit the Hanford region as a first messenger to Hanford from Nagasaki, on a mission of peace. It is a mission funded, in part, by the City of Nagasaki. In addition to participating in a series of public events, Mr. Moriguchi will meet with Hanford Downwinders exposed in childhood to ionizing radiation from Hanford. Mr. Moriguchi will be accompanied by an undergraduate student from Nagasaki University who will meet and connect with local students in Washington state.

The focus of the Nagasaki-Hanford Bridge Project is upon cancer and other radiogenic disease seen in the young exposed to radioactive fallout, whether from nuclear weapons production, testing, or from detonation of nuclear weapons in warfare. It is well documented that children and adolescents are far more vulnerable to the effects of ionizing radiation than adults.

Previous peace missions by hibakusha, typically from Hiroshima, were inspired by the desire to inform the American public of the devastating impact of nuclear weapons. This project is not only the first to bring a Nagasaki hibakusha to Hanford, but to aim for understanding and mutual support on the part of those injured through the entire nuclear weapons cycle from production and testing to use.

The “Doomsday Clock” currently stands at two minutes to midnight, reflecting the rising tensions between nuclear-armed states. At this perilous time, it is the shared goal of participants in this mission to instill in the public an awareness of the devastating health consequences of producing, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons.

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**The events of the Nagasaki-Hanford Bridge Project are sponsored by Consequences of Radiation Exposure (CORE),\* a Washington State non-profit, and Global Studies at Whitman College. The program opens in Walla Walla, Washington and moves to Richland, Washington.**

### **Tuesday, March 6 (Whitman College)**

- “Hanford Reach”: Multimedia installation project by **Glenna Cole Allee** (Michael Paulus, videography, and Bruce Bennet, sound arrangements)

Meet the artist at a Reception at *Maxey Museum, Whitman College; 4:00-5:00 p.m*

(The installation will be open for viewing from Thursday, February 22)

- Presentation by Glenna Cole Allee about her installation

*Maxey Auditorium, Whitman College; 6:30 p.m*

- Screening of *Hibakusha at the End of the World* (2003, by **Hitomi Kamanaka**). This film travels from post-Gulf War Iraq to Hanford to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

*Maxey Auditorium, Whitman College; 7:00 p.m., followed by discussion at 9:00 p.m.*

### **Wednesday, March 7 (Whitman College)**

- Introduction of program by **Trisha Pritikin**, Downwinder and President, Board of Directors, CORE

- Introduction of the Nagasaki-Hanford Bridge Project by **Yuki Miyamoto**, Second-generation Hiroshima hibakusha and associate professor, Religious Studies Department, DePaul University
- Presentation by **Norma Field**, professor emerita, University of Chicago: “From Walla Walla to Nagasaki/Hanford via Chernobyl, Fukushima, and the University of Chicago”
- Testimonial by **Mr. Mitsugi Moriguchi**, hibakusha of Nagasaki (in Japanese with English translation)
- Panel discussion of health impacts of plutonium production/bomb detonation (**Mitsugi Moriguchi, Trisha Pritikin, and Tom Bailie**)
- Q&A

*Maxey Auditorium, Whitman College 7:00 p.m.*

#### **Thursday, March 8 (Tri-Cities)**

- Field trip for Nagasaki delegation and students from Whitman to Pasco/Eltopia  
Death Mile tour with **Tom Bailie**  
Tour of Richland with **Trisha Pritikin**
- Lunch at Atomic Ale Brewpub and Eatery
- Visit Richland Public Library to see model of Nagasaki “Bell of Peace” and letter from Nagasaki mayor Hitoshi Motoshima

#### **Friday, March 9 (Hanford Reach Interpretive Center and WSU Tri-Cities)**

- Press conference at the Hanford Reach Interpretive Center Multipurpose Room; tour of Manhattan Project Gallery

*1943 Colulmbia Park Trail, 3:30 p.m.*

- Introduction of program by **Jim Stoffels**, Chair, World Citizens for Peace
- Screening of *Hibakusha at the End of the World*
- Address by **Mr. Moriguchi** with English translation
- Q&A

*6:30-9:30 p.m., WSU Auditorium*

**Additional Contacts:**

**Trisha Pritikin**, Hanford Downwinder and President, Board of Directors, CORE  
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**Yuki Miyamoto**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, DePaul University  
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**Jim Stoffels**, Co-founder and chair, World Citizens for Peace  
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**\*CORE is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the human toll of exposure to ionizing radiation. <http://corehanford.nationbuilder.com/>**