

FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Japan Yearly Meeting was held at Tsuchiura on November 21 and 22, 2009. The theme was "Living as Friends" We were welcomed by the fine Japanese calligraphy sign, "Welcome to Tsuchiura," and the Peace panels "Women creating Peace" prepared by the Peace Museum of Bradford in England were displayed on the wall of Tsuchiura meeting-house. Valerie Joy, executive secretary of AWPS sent us a message, "As you meet together for your annual gathering, our prayers are with you that you will be guided and sustained in your worship and business."

As we began the session, we discussed the administrative concern of our Yearly Meeting. We came to an agreement to continue with the steering committee, which was set up two years ago, with members consisting of clerks from five Monthly Meetings. It was suggested that revisions would be made when we felt it necessary.

In our meeting for business in worship, new Yearly Meeting committee members were nominated and approved. One of our deep thoughts was the upkeep of Shimotsuma Monthly Meetinghouse which is comparatively close to Tsuchiura. It was built by the Binfords, Friends missionary in 1922. We all agreed to set up a special committee by Yearly Meeting to support not only for the old building but also to nurture Shimotsuma Friends.

In the evening, three Friends shared their experience in terms of their faith and practice, "Living as Friends," and we felt it is our eternal subject to reflect on how we live as Friends.

Nitobe Memorial Lecture was held following the business meeting in worship. Takao Yamagata, ex-President of Miyagi Gakuin Women's University, gave a lecture on "Living as Friends: A Few Observations on 'Gate of Sadness' by Inazo Nitobe." He shared with us his interpretations on Nitobe's "Sorrow", which gave us suggestions and encouragement on how we live as Friends.

Nov.22, 2009

Kazuko Kagami,
Clerk to Japan Yearly Meeting