

Hiroshima tree project sprouts in Hanson

For the A-bombed trees of Hiroshima, 2016 was a blessed year. Awareness of the deep, multiple messages of these gentle survivors is rising worldwide, thanks to your collective work. It is now almost difficult for UNITAR, ANT, Hiroshima Botanical Garden and all the volunteer members of our Working Group, to keep up with requests for seeds and saplings! Rotary, thanks to its various chapters, has become a close and special ally. Hiroshima City, alongside the Mayors for Peace movement, is sending seeds to many member cities worldwide, to highlight the threats of nuclear weapons. In October, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon planted a small Ginkgo biloba on the grounds of the U.N. Headquarters in Geneva, and we can hope for a similar planting at the U.N. in New York. Nagasaki City is increasingly engaged in inventorying its own survivor trees and we hope to see the dream of a 'Green Legacy Nagasaki' campaign, too, realized at last.

But 2016 has been a painful year otherwise, for too many. Too much violence, inhumanity and suffering, too many wars and terrorist attacks, too many arms and instances of buckling in to arms vendors and the military-industrial complex. To pretend that on a global scale things are getting better could appear naive.

Still, we have an obligation to be hopeful, and to persevere. This, I believe, is the very essence of GLH. For next year, therefore, renewed resolutions: We hope to explore methods to translate into training curricula, concepts such as the safeguard of greenery and its role, in the reconstruction of post-war memory/cit-



Indian Head School in Hanson has successfully germinated a Hiroshima ginko tree. 'I spritz it every day! Thanks for your help,' teacher Dianne Zuzevich announced to Hanson Town Administrator Michael McCue, who spearheaded the project. McCue, in turn, reported the project update to Green Legacy Hiroshima officials in Japan. 'This is truly a happy new year ...With admiration for Hanson citizenry (and leadership!),' said Nassrine Azimi of GLH on receiving the news.

Courtesy photo

ies (and the role of botanical gardens therein). We will continue work with our partners, to enhance the protection and care of the mother trees, and also help Hiroshima Botanical Garden expand its own capacities for seed storage and dissemination, in response to growing demand. Thanks to our master gardener Chikara Horiguchi, architect/historian in residence Akio Nishikiori and the indefatigable Nobuaki Nishikawa, we hope to explore further the history and narrative of each mother tree, as quite a few of you — most recently Tiziana Volta from Italy, Mike McCue and Alan Branham from the U.S., Adam Harrower from South Africa, among others — have asked about this. We promise that we shall do our best in 2017, to fill the knowledge

gaps, even if ultimately every survivor tree — I am tempted to say every tree — maybe an unexplainable mystery.

Increasingly you are each taking a leadership role, in sharing in your own communities and nations not just the message of Hiroshima's A-bombed trees, but also the seeds of the descendants of their descendants.... We shall do our best to continue helping you in these efforts. Our Green Legacy Hiroshima family worldwide has grown much, and we may not have met each of you individually yet, but we feel the deep, green and life-nurturing connection we have with you, through the trees. May it continue, for a 1000 years to come (and Happy 2017!).

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