



## NEWSLETTER NO.19

### International Y's Men's Club of Takarazuka

October, 2021

## The Senior Camp in YOSHIMA (September 17~19, 2021)

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of Camp Yoshima, and 100 years of YMCA Camp, District Rokko Y's Men's Clubs, Kobe YMCA and Camp Yoshima leaders committee planned Senior camp in Yoshima. Because of the typhoon our departure was a little late but we could fully enjoy programs. The purposes of this camp are to communicate with people and God, to mingle with youth to foster their leadership. The first night, we had BBQ and campfire with young leaders.



At South Shore

On Sunday, the morning worship was given by Rev. Motoo Nakamichi, the Chairman of Board of Kobe YMCA on a beautiful beach. The programs were well planned. Yoshima Camp Director Mr. Sakata gave us the lecture on the importance of keeping Camp Yoshima spirits even in the difficult time when values change.

The second day, a lecture on climate change, which was very stimulating subject, was given by Yasushi Hibi, CI Japan representative. He has been acting very important role to prevent climate change internationally. Then a special program was Canoe trip around the island.



Hello, Yoshima !

The last day, before the departure we planted an olive tree as the memorial of Senior Camp. The more detailed program reports follow in the next pages.

(Toshiko Takeda)



## Campfire in YOSHIMA

It was my great pleasure to attend “Yoshima YYY Senior Camp”: the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Up to joining to the camp, I had two things to make sure by myself. One was to see how badly the cabins and the trees were dilapidated and another was the lithograph of “Jesus Christ” that was donated as a memory of scatter of my husband’s ashes in the sea 25 years ago. He was also one of the staff in his youth. Luckily both doubts disappeared instantly!

They say that “Camping” has many significant meanings. Such as: to try to contrive, to cooperate each other, to challenge without fears, etc., including a lot of fun, excitements, surprises, new discoveries, etc. We can say that one of the most attractive events in camping is “Campfire”. There are many kinds of Campfires and two types, Bon-fire and Council-fire, are popular: The former is for ice-breaking, playing, dancing, games, singing loudly, etc. and the latter is for meditating, praying, etc.

After the gorgeous and well-prepared BBQ at the south shore viewing the ranging of mountains of Shikoku in the distance, the harvest moon flashed over the sea! It is no exaggeration to say that we enjoyed ourselves by singing old camp songs around the fire. I realized that “Campfire” had a wonderful, amazing power that brought us back to our young days with plenty of hopes and dreams.



**Campfire , the climax**

(Hiroko Fukuda)

## My canoe experience at YOSHIMA

I have hesitated to try canoe rowing on my family vacation because of fear although I had a chance to do rowing. But I dared to challenge it this time. I was glad that my group members helped me get rid of my fear. It was so enjoyable that I rowed a canoe 7 km which was more than expected. We even passed through the narrowest channel as well. I had so enjoyable time rowing a canoe for the first time.



**Made it !**

When we returned and landed, I had a sense of accomplishment with joy of the first experience. The words carved on the cornerstone says “Yoshima island is a place for people to meet and to communicate with God and for fire of love to burn”. It made such a big impression on me and cross-age interaction with young leaders and socializing with Y’s men from different clubs and different district was a great experience at the camp.

The question given by Mr. Takashi Morimoto, Director of Sanda Outdoor Center and a canoe program leader came to my mind. That was “how many more years can we live?” There is no answer to that but I determined to cherish day by day and encounters with people.

When I left Yoshima Camp, I found different myself looking forward to be back there for another chance to meet new friends.

(Keiko Sabajiri)

## 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary planting for YOSHIMA Camp

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yoshima Camp for children since 1950 was celebrated last year. Memorial tree-planting at Yoshima Camp was one of the purposes of Y’s men’s seniors’ camping. The groundbreaking ceremony was held, followed by an olive tree planting at the high ground by a dining room. The tree was donated by all Y’s men’s clubs of Rokko district, including its ceremony expenses.

Planting an olive tree as a symbol of peace and wisdom had a significant meaning of our wishes for Yoshima Camp to be a long- lasting camp site for children in the future.

(Yoko Tago)



**Memorial olive planting by senior members**

**CP Fukuda and club members**



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