

Yobosayo!
This is your semi-annual news update from Friends of Korea.
Kathleen Barco and Sherrill Davis are your editors.
If you have news items to share, email: news@friendsofkorea.net.

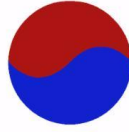
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Friends of Korea

Dedicated to fostering cultural awareness and
friendship between Americans and Koreans

여보세요

a quarterly newsletter of Friends of Korea

April 2017



A Busy Time in the Pacific Northwest

By Greg Caldwell

We have been busy busy when it comes to Korea-related events in the Pacific Northwest. In early October 2016, Portland, Oregon hosted its first ever Korea National Foundation Day celebration, sponsored by the Korean Consulate in Seattle. Approximately 200 guests, including elected officials, business leaders, educators, Korean War veterans, former Peace Corps Korea volunteers, Korean adoptees, and Korean community friends, celebrated the day with a luncheon reception at the Portland Hilton. Consul General Duk-Ho Moon (☐☐) spoke about Korea's continuing development and thanked all of those who were involved with Korea-related projects this past year.

In late October, the World Affairs Council of Oregon teamed up with the Korean Economic Institute of America (KEI) to offer a panel discussion for the Portland community titled "The Future of Korea." Speakers included Economic Minister Jin-Won Choi from the Korean Embassy, Foreign Affairs Officer Joshua Pierce from the U.S. Department of State, and KEI Vice President Mark Tokola. The event was popular and well attended. Earlier in the day the speakers met local business leaders for breakfast and a roundtable discussion focused on commerce and trade between Oregon and Korea.

Also in October Consul General Moon addressed a crowd of 120 guests at Portland State University on the topic of "North-South Korea and U.S. Relations." Consul General Moon was the second prominent guest to speak as part of a newly created "Asian Diplomat Series" sponsored jointly by the Oregon Consular Corps, the World Affairs Council of Oregon, and Portland State University.

In December the Portland Art Museum hosted a symposium and gala dinner celebrating the repatriation of a painting titled "The Five Buddhas" to Songgwangsa Temple in Jeollanamdo. The painting had been given to the museum by the Mattielli family whose patriarch rescued it from a trash bin in Insa-dong back in the 70s. Approximately 175 guests, including government officials, civic leaders, Asian Art Council members, and Korean community members participated in the event. Consul General Moon graciously invited all former Peace Corps Korea volunteers to attend as his guests.

In early January two Oregon middle schools, Athey Creek Middle School of West Linn and Baker Prairie Middle School of Canby, each welcomed more than 30 students and teachers from their Korean sister schools for a one-week stay. This exchange program, which sends U.S. students to Korea for two weeks as well, has been operating very successfully for approximately ten years. Greg Caldwell, honorary consul for Korea in Northern Oregon, accompanied the Athey Creek Middle School students to Korea in March of this year and served as a host for one of the teachers from Korea this fall.

Greg Caldwell (K-17) is the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Korea in Northern Oregon. He taught English at Jeongeub Boys Middle School in Jeongeub, Jeollabuk-do.

Friends of Korea 50 for 50 Campaign a Success!

As part of the celebration of 50th anniversary of the arrival of Peace Corps in Korea, the Friends of Korea Board launched the 50 for 50 Campaign in early October to support the "Giving Back Initiative," FOK's philanthropy and service project. The campaign has concluded and was very successful. Our original goal was to raise \$5,000. In fact, we raised over \$8,000 thanks to the generous donations of more than 70 donors from around the U.S., Korea, and a few other countries as well! Visit the [FOK website](#) for updates on how the funds are distributed. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Be a Part of the Digital Archive of USC's Korean Heritage Library

The [Korean Heritage Library](#) of the University of Southern California has invited former Peace Corps Korea volunteers to donate to a digital archive that will document, in perpetuity, our volunteer experience in Korea. The library welcomes photos, documents (e.g., letters, diaries), and audio and video recordings that, when digitized, will add to the body of knowledge about Korea and Peace Corps in Korea from 1966-1981. The digital archive format will also allow this collection to be a permanent resource for a global audience of researchers, scholars, writers, and the general public via the internet. Each contributor will work directly with the Korean Heritage Library; individual agreements will detail if items are to be returned or donated, copyright specifics, and so on.

For more information or to contribute to the collection, contact Dr. Kenneth Klein, Head of USC's East Asian Library: kklein@usc.edu, or Joy Kim, Curator, Korean Heritage Library: joykim@usc.edu.

Kimchi Blues

A poem by John (Jake) Aller

I got them Kimchi Blues

Every morning I wake up
And am confronted with Korean food

Rice, soup, fish and sometimes an egg
And of course Kimchi

Yes, I have the Kimchi blues

And I stare at my food
Prepared for me

And long for an American breakfast
Bacon, eggs, pancakes, real coffee

I have the Kimchi blues

Every other weekend
I meet up with other volunteers
And we go to the nearest base

And overdose
On a good old fashioned
American-style breakfast

And I go back to my town
Gapyeong

Where I am the only American
For miles away

And eat my Korean food
And have the Kimchi blues

Then one day
It happened
I woke up hungry

Not for an American breakfast
But for the full-blown Korean experience

And I ate my Korean breakfast
With gusto

And the Kimchi blues
Went away for good

Jake Aller (K-49) was a tuberculosis control worker in Gapyeong, Gyeongido, South Korea.

RPCV Social News

A Mini-Reunion in Albany
By Barbara Casey



(L to R) Jim Corbett, Anne Ichihana, Barbara Casey, Mary Hamilton, Linda Gidlund, Gordy Gidlund, Rob Ichihana.

I doubted my eyes one afternoon in the fall of 2015 when I saw Jim Corbett walk into the library of the Albany (New York) Institute of History and Art, where I volunteer. I hadn't seen Jim for more than 30 years and the last I heard he was living in Seattle. So I sneaked a look at the library sign-in sheet and discovered that it really was Jim! He was back east for his job and to visit friends and had stopped by at the AIHA to look up some research he had done when he went to library school in Albany after leaving the Peace Corps.

Jim and I had a lot of fun talking about old times and that evening I contacted Mary Hamilton and Linda and Gordy Gidlund, other K-43s with whom I'd been in contact since we left the Peace Corps in the late 70s. Mary, who lives in Pasadena, California, told me she was planning to travel to Boston in May 2016 and would stop off in Albany for a visit. I asked Jim if he'd be able to return, and when he agreed, I told the Gidlunds, who live in San Diego, as well as Rob (K-39) and Anne (K-41) Ichihana, who live near Albany.

During May, Linda and Gordy spent several days with me in Albany, and most of that time we yakked about old times, Korea, and the people we had known in the Peace Corps. The highlight of our reunion was lunch at a local Korean restaurant where we met up with Jim, Ann, and Rob to savor some favorite Korean dishes. After lunch all of the K-43s went back to my house and continued the party *until 11 pm*. Our last topic of conversation was when we would all get together again!

Barbara Casey (K-43) taught middle school English in Pusan.



Another Mini-Reunion...in Sacramento

By Kathleen Barco

Grace Massey Holt (K-20), Dan Holt (K-12), and Kathleen (aka Kathy) Barco (K-26) connected on February 17 at the Sacramento Valley Returned Peace Corps Volunteers event, "Adventures in Dining." The event was held at a "fusion" Korean restaurant. The food was good but nothing like what any of us had in Korea! The three of us were TESOL volunteers in Korea and attended different workshops and worked on projects together during our time there. It was great to get caught up over a beer and "Korean" food.

Kathleen Barco (K-26) was a university TESOL volunteer in ChunCheon, Gangwando.

Book Reviews

A new cookbook: "Cook Korean!"

By Robin Ha

Robin Ha has written and illustrated her first cookbook, titled "Cook Korean! A Comic Book with Recipes" (Penguin Random House, 2016). It is a delightful collection of Korean comfort foods, trusted favorites, and fusion recipes.

"Cook Korean!" is illustrated in a colorful comic book format, making it enjoyable and easy to read. Dispersed within the recipes are factual tidbits and anecdotes about South Korea, its culture, and customs. There's also a map that shows the provinces of both North and South Korea that identifies some of each region's most popular dishes. Most of the recipes for these dishes can be found among the sixty-four easy-to-follow recipes.

The cookbook begins with an introduction to key ingredients used in Korean cooking: refrigerator items, dry goods, and types of rice and how to cook them. The following ten chapters include Kimchi and Pickles, Vegetable Side Dishes, Meat and Poultry, Seafood, Soups and Stews, Porridges, Noodles and Rice Cakes, Snacks and Street Food, Cocktails and Anju, and Korean Fusion.

Born in South Korea, Robin Ha came to the United States at age fourteen. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in illustration. NPR included "Cook Korean!" on its list of Best Books of 2016. The book is widely available for sale in bookstores and online.

Literary Works by RPCVs

Two poems by Virginia Gilbert (K-19) will be published in the May/June issue of the Women's Review of Books. WRB is published by the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, in collaboration with Old City Publishing in Philadelphia, PA.

"The Seed of Joy," a novel by Bill Amos (K-48) has been released in a Kindle edition. It's available on Amazon, and for a limited time is priced at \$1.99.

Peace Corps Korea All Group Volunteers, Staff, and Friends Reunion 2018: The Los Angeles Love-in

The planning has begun for our 2018 Peace Korea reunion/gathering in Los Angeles. Please complete the [Doodle poll](#) to tell us your preferences for dates. The months we are looking at are February, April, and June.

We are considering a hotel, the JJ Grand Hotel, in Korea Town as our base, although this is not firm. It is Korean-owned and located in Korea Town with public transit nearby.

Many events are being looked at and planned, including a visit to the USC Doheny Library where the Peace

"The Road to SamPo" by Hwang SokYong

By George Klaes

"The Road to SamPo" by Hwang SokYong (황석영) was first published in Korean in 1973 and is now available in a bilingual English-Korean edition. It is a very short novel about two itinerant workers who, having been laid off from a construction site for the winter, must travel on.

Chong is going back to his hometown located on a small island called SamPo. YongDal is looking for another job just to get by as best he can. YongDal has no particular destination in mind and decides to follow along with Chong.

They have an all-day walk to get to a train station and stop for breakfast in a small "restaurant/wine house" (주막) where the barmaid (주막장) has just run away. The two men are offered 10,000 won to bring the barmaid back. Needless to say, as the two men continue on their trek they find the barmaid, PaekHwa, and...no sense in giving away the story!

I think that you will like this story. For many of us, this is a look back to a time when you could go into a small place to warm up and get something quick and simple to eat or drink. It was a time when Korea was experiencing the social turmoil of industrialization. It was a time of rickety scaffolding and tea rooms. (Try to find a 주막 these days!)

In addition to the book, you can find two movies on YouTube, one from 1975 and the other from 1981, each having an ending different from the book. Since the book is bilingual, you can bone up on your language skills. You may find that you don't always agree with the translation; some expressions just don't translate.

I read the book in English very quickly and then I started reading the Korean and spent a long time with the dictionary. It was worth every minute. Although my Korean isn't great, the dialogue is not too hard to follow and I've been picking up on vocabulary and grammar while reading the Korean version. As for the ending, read the book and watch both movies—you can draw your own conclusions.

"The Road to SamPo" is available as part of a collection of Korean short stories and as a freestanding book (English and Korean). George bought his copy at Koryo Books in New York, NY, 212-564-1844. The collection is available online through Hanbooks: Korean Books, CDs & DVDs.

George Klaes (K-18) was a tuberculosis control worker in YeongWol, Gangwondo.

Corps Korea digital archive is maintained (see article about that elsewhere in this newsletter) and dinner at the residence of the Korean Consul-General with performances by local Korean groups.

For more questions, write to Dan Strickland at: danstrickland2001@yahoo.com.

Calendar: Events of Note

Through April 2017

- "The Movement of Herstory: Korean Embroidery, the Life and Artworks of Young Yang Chung (양양)," the Korean Cultural Center New York

April 8

- U.S. premiere of Baraji Beasohn, folkloric Korean music and dance, BAM Café, Brooklyn, NY

April 10

- Opening for "23rd Annual Juried Exhibition," works by five selected contemporary artists, the Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles

April 27

- Korean Movie Night: "The Chronides of Evil," Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles (Movie Night is held the fourth Thursday of the month)

April 28

- "The Friendship Concert: Unity in Diversity," promoted by The Artists' Platform in remembrance of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots, Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles

Check out the [Friends of Korea Annual Report for 2015](#) and our [website](#) for information about our many activities. FOK is a membership organization and relies on revenues from dues and donations. All board members are volunteers and they donate their time and expertise to the organization. To learn more about the board, [click here](#). We encourage you to join FOK, if you are not currently a member. If you are not sure about your membership status, [email us](#). To join, renew or give a donation, [click here](#).

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