

Japanese Culture Peace Festival in Clifton NJ

Yoko Burns
August 8, 2013



The Japanese Culture Peace Festival is part of 40-day summer witnessing condition initiated by True Mother, members of the church brought 30 guests to the event.

The Clifton Family Church in New Jersey held its annual “Japanese Culture Peace Festival,” on July 20, 2013. This event has been held annually for the past several years. Since Unificationists were in a special outreach campaign, the Clifton Family Church members invited friends and guests. Of the 120 participants, 30 were guests.



At the annual “Japanese Culture Peace Festival,” hosted by the Clifton Family Church, there were 120 participants, 30 of whom were new guests, in attendance on July 20, 2013. .

I felt that this event became the fruit of everyone’s devotion toward the witnessing effort. Many members went out witnessing under the direction of our District Pastor, Dr. Ann Iparraguirre, who had a strong determination, and also, the Clifton church held Divine Principle lectures every day at 7:00 p.m.”

At the same time, the leaders of Kodan, a Japanese-Unificationist association, held discussions to plan and organize the event. One of their main concerns was how Unificationists can introduce and easily bring people to the Japanese cultural event. The Clifton church created a flyer that members passed to friends and new acquaintances. The flyers mentioned that if people brought the flyer with them, they would get a free food ticket.

At the festival we had various demonstrations, including Origami, Calligraphy, Face Painting, Sushi-Roll Making, a Tea Ceremony with Japanese *Koto* Harp Performance, Foot Massage and Palm Reading. Palm



A traditional kimonos were displayed.

Reading was a new addition this year. Some guests came just because we had Palm Reading. It was a private reading, so that guests could ask about their lives and future, making it easy to explain to them why they needed to hear Divine Principle lectures. A guest, who was a massage specialist from Peru, oversaw the Foot Massage demonstration,



Guests listen to a 25-minute Divine Principle lecture.

For food we served rolls of Sushi, Chicken Teriyaki, Yakitori Chicken, Corn, Soba Noodle Soup, Green Tea Ice Cream and Coffee Jelly prepared with lots of love by many members.



Japanese and non-Japanese Unificationists, wearing summer yukata kimono, perform a traditional Japanese bon odori dance.

At the end of the festival, some Japanese and non-Japanese Unificationists wore beautiful *Yukata* summer kimonos and performed a traditional Japanese *Bon Odori* dance. They then taught the participants how to dance *Bon Odori*, and everyone enjoyed dancing together. The weather forecast that day was forecast to rain, but we did not have any. We believe this was a blessing from Heavenly Parents. It seemed that even the hanging decorated Japanese lanterns were watching us, enjoying the atmosphere and dancing with wind.

After the event, we had a lecture on the Introduction to the Divine Principle. Five guests from our event attended the lecture. Bruce Burns, my husband, gave the lecture, which was his first ever. . It was the 25-minute PowerPoint of the Introduction lecture from the Discovering the Divine Principle lecture series that Dr. Balcomb created to help anyone learn how to give lectures and talks about the Divine Principle. In this lecture, there is a part that states, “Your life may be changed by the Divine Principle that you learn. Actually, the Divine Principle changed my life a lot.” Because Bruce felt this point was true for him, he

seriously emphasized this part. As a result of the short lecture, two guests wanted to hear and study more. Bruce gained confidence through having this experience of being able to move people by his true and honest voice even though it was his first time to give the lecture.



Young Unificationists proudly showcase their summer yukata kimonos.

I am especially grateful to all the members, both young and young at heart, who worked hard together and cooperated harmoniously to make this event successful. This event was a truly unique and joyful international event that can be experienced because we live in the USA.

As one of the largest Unificationist communities in the United States, we here in the Clifton Family Church and District 3 would like to try our best to inspire brothers and sisters in other districts across the country through creating many different events to bring them the victory of witnessing.



View more photos of the Japanese Culture Peace Festival on the Unification Photo Facebook page: on.fb.me/14plSrt.