

Planting Ceremony 2005



Revive Time • Kaki Tree Project

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City Museum of Ljubljana



Slovenia



Ljubljana



19 Apr 2005

Mrs. Nada Kirn Spolar, head of SEZAM, the Association of Parents and Children, is enthusiastic about the project and has carried out tree plantings at the Debeli Rtic, Redcross Ljubljana and Anton Ukmar Elementary School in 2000. The City Museum of Ljubljana exhibits the history of the city. Mrs. Spolar thought that the courtyard of the museum would be the ideal place and repeatedly contacted the person in charge of the museum, however, the courtyard was gone after the renovation. Therefore, though the ceremony and workshop were held at the museum, the seedling was planted in a pot for the time being and will be planted in the ground of the Tivoli Park two or three years later. The park is the largest one in the city and the favorite recreational area of the citizen.

Thanks to Mrs. Spolar's call for cooperation, many people conducted workshops for children. Mr. Primoz Seliskar, an artist, and the local elementary school children together created a large persimmon tree drawing, It

was exhibited in the museum hall. The second graders of Bozidar Jakac Ljubljana Elementary School wrote poems on strips of paper and handed them to the visitors of the museum. 40 pupils of Anton Ukmar Elementary School, where the tree planting took place five years earlier, came from Koper by bus and sang "Sakura Sakura" in Japanese. Ms. Marjeta Godler, a faculty member of University of Science and industry, conducted Kaki Origami workshop and the finished origami works were displayed at the museum lobby. Ms. Taeko Fujita who runs a sushi restaurant there also conducted the workshop on how to use chopsticks.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Milos, the deputy mayor, and Taja Vovk Cepic, the director of the museum. In the presence of Mr. Ebinuma and Miyajima, the tree was planted in a pot. The ceremony filled with a variety of workshops was covered by a number of local media and produced a lot of reaction and inspired people.



Sarcedo Primary School



Italy



Sarcedo, VI



21 Apr 2005

As Mrs. Mari Sakaguchi and her husband Mr. Denis Pesavento who live in Villaverla in the province of Vicenza, Italy, participated in the tree planting ceremony held at the Villa Venier Park in Sommacampagna in 2004 and were inspired by it, they wanted to organize the project in the province of Vicenza as well. They consulted with Mr. Rosario Manisera who led the project in Brescia and contacted the person in charge of cultural programs at the Villaverla city hall in order to proceed with the project. Although their original plan was to plant the tree at one site in the city, the plan was even discussed at the provincial assembly and at the end a simple plan had tuned into a big project with 10 tree planting sites in the province.



One of these sites, Scuola Elementare Sarcedo is a private school with an adjacent middle school. The tree planting ceremony was held at 8:45 in the morning of the 21st of April as part of their classes. The sky was clear and we could view the mountains in the distance. The ceremony was attended by the mayor, the principal of the school and about 80 students from the school. After speeches were given by the mayor and Mr. Ebinuma, children put up their drawings of the atomic bomb and persimmon tree and sang a song and read poems. A very beautiful ceremony that was held at a place rich in nature.



Zugliano Primary School



Italy



Zugliano, VI



21 Apr 2005



Following the ceremony at Scuola Elementare Sarcedo, the tree planting ceremony took place at 10:15 am at Zugliano Elementary School.

Here, children participated in the ceremony wearing black smocks. It started with the speech by the principal of the school and then the children read their poems. As boys put up their persimmon tree drawing, the representative of the city and the children planted the tree. It was the ceremony that projected sincerity of people under the blue sky.



Montecchio Precalcino Library

 Italy

 Montecchio Precalcino, VI

 22 Apr 2005

As Mrs. Mari Sakaguchi and her husband Mr. Denis Pesavento who live in Villaverla in the province of Vicenza, Italy participated in the tree plating ceremony at the Villa Venier Park in Sommacampagna, held in 2004, they wanted to organize the project in the province of Vicenza. They consulted with Mr. Rosario Manisera who led the project in Brescia and contacted the person in charge of cultural programs at the Villaverla city hall in order to proceed with the project. Their original plan was to plant the tree at one site in the city, however, the matter was even discussed at the provincial assembly and at the end it became a big project with 10 tree planting sites in the province of Vicenza.

Following the tree plantings at Scuola Elementare Sarcedo and Zugliano Elementary School on 21st of April, the tree planting



ceremony at the Montecchio Precalcino Library took place from 9 am on the 22nd.



About 250 children from 4 elementary and middle schools near the library participated in the ceremony.



After the speeches given by the principal of the school, the mayor and Mr. Ebinuma, children of Montecchio Elementary School sang a song as they waved colorful scarves accompanied by their teacher on guitar.

The “child mayor” introduced the lyrics of the peace song of Israel and the middle school students performed the song with instruments such as guitar, recorder and drums. The tree planting took place in the courtyard and children held the shovel in turns to cover the seedling with soil. The ceremony was attended by a lot of children and was full of energy.

Dueville Primary School



Italy



Dueville, VI



22 Apr 2005



As Mrs. Mari Sakaguchi and her husband Mr. Denis Pesavento who live in Villaverla in the province of Vicenza, Italy participated in the tree plating ceremony at the Villa Venier Park in Sommacampagna, held in 2004, they wanted to organize the project in the province of Vicenza. They consulted with Mr. Rosario Manisera who led the project in Brescia and contacted the person in charge of cultural programs at the Villaverla city hall in order to proceed with the project. Their original plan was to plant the tree at one site in the city, however, the matter was even discussed at the provincial assembly and at the end it became a big project with 10 tree planting sites in the province of Vicenza.

Following the tree plantings at Scuola Elementare Sarcedo and Zugliano Elementary School on 21st of April, and at the Montecchio Precalcino Library at 9am on


the 22nd, the tree planting ceremony at Dueville Elementary School was carried out at 10:30am on the same day.

The students at Dueville Elementary School spend 3 weeks prior to the ceremony to create various works of art and drawings, and those were displayed in the auditorium. These works on display were very large and one of them was a persimmon tree almost 2 meters high. The ceremony held in the auditorium was attended by 100 students and the representatives of the students did some performances with a theme of peace and read their poems. Tree planting was carried out outside as the children surrounded the tree in a circle. Following the principal of the school, each student held a big shovel and took turns covering the tree with soil. A very cheerful ceremony as the teachers and students were united and joined together.

Arnaldo Fusinato Primary, Junior High School

 Italy

 Breganze, VI

 23 Apr 2005

At the elementary school, 150 children attended the ceremony held in the gym. Following the speeches made by the principal, cultural councilor and Mr. Ebinuma, there were songs and performances by the children. Above all, the song "We are the world" sung by the fifth graders was so beautiful that some of the participants were moved to tears.

After the ceremony at the elementary school, they all moved to the middle school. The students made a presentation of their study on the atomic bombs in Nagasaki and Hiroshima which was followed by a Q&A session. There were very serious and deep questions such as "Is radioactivity still

detected in Nagasaki?", "Does Japan possess atomic bombs?", "Are those people with the

atomic bomb disease still alive?", "What are the effects on children of the atomic bomb victims?". In the corridor that leads outside, art works with a theme of persimmon tree were displayed. Tree planting took place with 80 students from the middle school. Each student took turns covering the tree with soil. The ceremony's atmosphere was a little bit more mature compared to the one at the elementary school.



C. Collodi Primary School



Italy



Thiene, VI



23 Apr 2005



Following the tree plantings at Scuola Elementare Sarcedo and Zugliano Elementary School on 21st of April, at the Montecchio Precalcino Library and Dueville Middle School on 22nd, and at Arnaldo Fusinato Elementary School at 9am and Arnaldo Fusinato Middle School at 10am on 23rd, the tree planting at Collodi Elementary School took place at 11am on the same day.

The school is located in the city of Tiene and its name is taken from the author of Pinocchio, Carlo Collodi.

On the day of the tree planting ceremony, many art works created beforehand were on display inside the school, which were inspired by the persimmon tree. During the ceremony there were speeches given by the mayor, the principal of the school and Mr. Ebinuma as well as a Q&A session where a question such as "Is the bomb survived parent tree still alive?" was raised. As the local TV station was covering the event, it was an exciting and lively ceremony.

Pro Loco of Villaverla



Italy



Villaverla, VI



24 Apr 2005

Following the tree plantings at Scuola Elementare Sarcedo and Zugliano Elementary School on 21st of April, at the Montecchio Precalcino Library and Dueville Middle School on 22nd, and at Arnaldo Fusinato Elementary School, Middle School, and at Collodi Elementary School on 23rd, the tree planting at Villaverla Park took place on 24th. The Villaverla Park was the last planting site of the 10 planned for the project. The place has become a symbolic planting site of the province of Vicenza where Mrs. Mari and Mr. Denis' determination towards peace culminated.

There is an old building inside the park which is used as the children's community center. There, the displays and workshops that occupied the entire space were impressively powerful but at the same time created a warm atmosphere. As many residents of the city, both adults and children, flocked to the site, the access was limited at one point. The ceremony held inside the building was attended by about 200 local people. After the speeches given by the mayor, Mr. Nishiyama of the Japanese Consulate and Mr. Ebinuma, they all went outside and planted

the tree in the park. After the tree planting, people enjoyed the exhibitions held inside the building and various workshops conducted by the Associazione Culturale Fuji, which also cooperated with us last year.

The local fresco artists Mr. Hideo Sakata and his wife Yumiko exhibited their banner and as other artworks and drawings by the school children where the seedlings had been planted until the previous day were displayed again, so the place seemed to turn into a museum of Kaki. There were also an exhibition of photos of Hiroshima and Nagasaki after the atomic bombings as well as a large scale exhibition of the local artists including some installations with a theme of "Peace"

There were a great number of events and workshops to introduce Japanese culture and to promote international exchange including the workshops by the members of the Associazione Culturale Fuji of Yukata-wearing, Japanese calligraphy, Origami and tea ceremony. There were also demonstrations of the Japanese archery and Japanese art of drawing one's sword.



San Pietro Mussolino Middle School



Italy



San Pietro Mussolino, VI



26 Apr 2005



San Pietro Mussolino Middle School is located in a small town far from the station and close to the mountains. During the Second World War, this town was also attacked and some anecdotes of the bishop and people who barricaded themselves in the church at that time are still passed down. On the wall of the government office right behind the school, there is a mosaic that depicts the destruction during the war and at the church, there is a monument to preserve the memory of it.. This middle school is a branch school of Scuola Media Statale "G. Ungaretti" where the tree planting took place in 2000. The person who led the project, Mr. Livio Fedrigo, is an art teacher and also participated in the tree planting ceremony held at F.P. Cordenons Middle School in Santa Maria di Sala, Venezia in 2000.

About 200 children from the local elementary and middle schools and Japanese kindergarten participated in the tree planting ceremony. Following the opening speech and a speech of welcome given by the child mayor (a girl), there was a performance. It was a story about the seedling revived from the ground that was covered with the ashes of the atomic bomb and black rain. The elder

children performed the part from the atomic bombing until reviving of the seedling, and they put children's drawings together at the end so a huge tree emerged on the black cloth. Also, as the younger kindergarten children wave pompoms in rhythm, the children who dressed up as trees read poems and sang songs. They succeeded in making a wonderful large scale performance by letting children of different ages from kindergarten to middle school do whatever they can do to make it together. After the concert and a speech made by the local member of Parliament in the gym, the tree was planted in the schoolyard.



There is a voluntary self-defense group in the city called Alpini which consisted of former soldiers. These Alpini members and children's Kaki Tree Committee members will take care

of the tree. Since the mayor assigned the Alpini members the task of protecting and taking care of the persimmon tree, they were marching while protecting the tree during the ceremony. One of the Alpini members told us in Italian "I read the news of the atomic bomb in the newspaper during the war. I was very much concerned."

Faetano Park



Repubblica di San Marino



Faetano



27 Apr 2005



When Ms. Daniela Tonelli visited the Kaki Tree Project exhibit at the Venice Biennale in 1999, she found out that they were recruiting foster parents for the seedlings. She wanted to participate in the project and already started to exchange letters with the project's secretariat, however, it was not realized at that time due to her work commitments. Then in 2004, an official application from Ms. Daniela for the project at the State Museum of the Republic of San Marino arrived and the project was finally going to take place after 5 years.

Prior to the tree planting ceremony, Ms. Daniela Tonelli, Ms. Silvia Merli and Ms. Milena Zanotti conducted the workshop, in which they created art works from natural materials with children. They used materials such as chocolate, strawberries, coffee, etc. instead of ordinary paints and drew a tree by making prints of their hands and bodies on the paper, and pasted out-of-focus photos of children's faces that looked like shouting over the surface. Mr. Antonio Felici and Ms. Daniela also made a poster and then the commencement of

the ceremony was announced.

About 100 children including pupils from Scuola Elementare Il Mulino and about 250 adults attended the ceremony. Various authorities such as the cultural attache of the embassy of the republic of San Marino, the mayor of Faetano, Secretary of State, Minister of Education, the representative of the San Marino-Japan Friendship Association, the Honorary Consul-General of Japan in San Marino and a minister from the Embassy of Japan in Italy attended the ceremony. After the speeches given by the guests, Mr. Augusto Michelotti recited his poems. Medical therapist Ms. Marina Zavoli told the story that the republic of San Marino accepted many refugees during the Second World War since the republic is a neutral country. The tree was planted by children and each of them used a small shovel to cover the tree



with soil. It is temporarily planted in the Faetano Park and it will be later moved to Il Mulino Elementary School which will be open in September.



Collection Lambert en Avignon

 France

 Avignon

 29 Apr 2005

The Kaki Tree Project took part in the “Donaiyanen” exhibition in Paris in 1998 and “Akimahen” exhibition in Lille in 2004. Mr. Eric Mezil was the person who organized these exhibitions. He is now the director of the Collection Lambert and the museum took a lead in finding another foster parent within the city for the seedling, and they decided Ecole Primaire Saint-Gabriel to be the planting site as well.

Originally, the tree planting at the museum was scheduled during the coming “Eejanaika” exhibition, however, it was postponed in accordance with the planned tree planting ceremony at the primary school so that the tree would be planted in the premises of the museum at the same as the primary school.

Under the clear blue sky, the ceremony was held. Inside the museum building, artworks created during the workshop prior to the ceremony were displayed and they decorated the museum gate, trees and other places with notes with peace messages written on them. Children wore persimmon leaves made of cloth and the plates inscribed with letters in regard to peace and persimmon tree were displayed on the walls of the museum. About 150 people including children attended the ceremony and in the presence of Mr. Ebinuma the participants held orange and yellow-green balloons with which peace messages were tied and paraded around the museum together with the seedling. When they reached the planting site, children planted and covered the seedling with soil. After the tree planting, they released orange and yellow-green balloons into the sky and everybody put their persimmon origami and flowers around the seedling and placed flags in the surroundings. The site looked like a piece of installation work after all.



Saint-Gabriel Primary School



France



Avignon



30 Apr 2005



The school has been active in peace movement for 7 years and continues to be engaged in the movement together with local NPOs.

Prior to tree planting, children sent us at the secretariat their messages and the recordings of the workshops. Artworks created during the workshops that had been conducted since a few months ago are displayed inside the school. All over the school, artworks on persimmon tree, conflict and communication are displayed, and photos of children's performance that they did in pairs are pasted on the persimmon tree drawing on the wall. These photos are also displayed outside and they decorated with many cloths with words on peace and the bomb survived persimmon tree written on them just like the museum of the Collection Lambert.

About 200 people including children, their parents and neighbors attended the ceremony. A large gray curtain that represented the

mushroom cloud of the atomic bomb was dropped and they did the performance on "death," which was brought by the mushroom cloud, and "revival." During the performance, children handed out the persimmon origami pieces containing soil to visitors. Afterward, all the children put a large white cloth over their heads and marched to the planting site. Children carried out the tree planting and then a picture-card show of "Sadako's Story" was performed. It was a wonderful ceremony for these children were preparing for this occasion for many months and they have learned well from this opportunity.



Japanese Garden Hasselt



Belgium



Hasselt



8 May 2005

Mr. Simon Saelens and Ms. Rika Colpaert of de kunstbank wanted to apply for the project after seeing the display of the Kaki Tree Project at the “Akimahen” Exhibition in Lille. They also came to Japan before the actual tree planting for a meeting. De Kunstbank is a Belgian group which organizes art exhibitions at museums as well as projects such as traveling exhibitions and workshops as educational program nationwide.

Six workshops were held over three days prior to the tree planting ceremony. Ms. Lie, an intern at de Kunstbank, who performed a picture-card show “Persimmon parent and child” in a powerful voice saying “Bomb! Bomb!” attracted children. In the workshop “Let’s make your own persimmon fruit” by Ritsue Mishima, they made origami persimmons. They wrote their names on the origami and made a hole and hung these with a green thread on a movable board in the shape of a tree. At the workshop “Colourful wishes” by Mr. Simon, he asked children “What is peace?” and the children wrote their answers in Flemish on a strip of paper in persimmon color and the executive committee member of the project translated them into Japanese and wrote them on the second strip of paper. Afterward, these strips were also hung on the board. On these strips of paper, messages such as “Not to hate people, always love people”, “Peace, no war and a lot of friends” and “Friendship, no war!!!” are written.

Every year in Belgium, the 8th of May is the day to “commemorate the end of the war.” The

tree planting ceremony of the seedling from the bombed tree was held in conjunction with this special day.

The planting site is a sunny green space in the Japanese garden located in the city.

The installation work by artist Ms. Sinikka Kolehmainen was set out in the surroundings and big ribbons that were tied to the trees welcomed the seedling. About 60 people including the mayor of Hasselt, staff members of de Kunstbank, artists and children attended the ceremony. An origami workshop was held in a tent and they marched to the planting site in the garden holding the seedling in one hand as they rang bells. The planting site was adorned with the triangular flags that are always used for festive occasions. The executive committee member read the message from Mr. Ebinuma and presented Kaki-no-ki Furoshiki (Persimmon tree wrapping cloth). Children planted the seedling and cutout pictures of the children that were taken during the workshop holding their messages stood on the ground surrounding the tree. Although it rains often in Belgium, the weather was fine during the ceremony.



Yumenomori Kindergarten



Japan



Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa



13 May 2005

Kakinomi Kindergarten is a very large scale kindergarten with about 1,400 children. Within its broad premises that stretch in the mountain (almost the whole mountain), there are children's workshop "Atelier Kaki-no-mi (persimmon)," play-area with underfloor maze and a large slide next to the slope which they can go all the way down the hill. A new kindergarten called "Yumenomori" Kindergarten, which is run by the same organization, will be open 5 minutes away from Kakinomi Kindergarten. Mr. Shinichi Yano, the representative of the "Atelier Kaki-no-mi", applied for the project and two seedlings from the bombed tree were going to be planted in the premises of the new kindergarten.

About 25 newly enrolled children who were looking forward to the new kindergarten, their parents and staff members attended the tree planting ceremony held in the woods. After speeches given by the director of the kindergarten, Mr. Ebinuma and Tatsuo Miyajima, the picture-card show "Persimmon parent and child" was performed. It was performed outside without any proper

platform stage by a teacher who was once a director of a kindergarten and the kids were all absorbed by it. Being watched over by a lot of participants, 6 boys on behalf of the children cover the seedling with soil. The planting site was on the steep slope and those boys did a very good job though at times almost slide down the slope.

After the tree planting, the workshop "Let's draw a line in the air. Let's play with wind" for 25 kindergarten children was conducted by "Atelier Kaki-no-mi." Children tied on end of (suzuran?) tapes in various colors round the trees and held the other end and walked around the woods. Children who went far or went up the mountain slope tied their tapes around the trees they found on the way. As time went by, there were a number of colorful lines of tapes running in the woods and they made an interesting sound as they flapped in the wind. It was a very nice installation. It was a bit pity that the work did not remain there, however, it was a memorable workshop as children seemed to be enjoying very much.



Hara Museum ARC



Japan



Shibukawa, Gunma



13 May 2005



The exhibition “Revive Time” Kaki Tree Project in Hara Museum Arc, which was held prior to tree planting from November 2004 through January 2005, was over and on 14th of May, 4 months after the exhibition, the seedling from the bombed tree was planted in the premises of the museum.

On the day of the tree planting ceremony, a few workshops were held with the keywords such as “Life”, “Revival” and “Future.” During the early morning workshop conducted by Makiko Matsuoka from Matusoka Art Studio, children drew the morning landscape of the ranch with the persimmon tree and the workshop was broadcast live on NHK. Tree doctor Mr. Masayuki Ebinuma and Mr. Nobuo Koike gave a talk on the persimmon tree and life during “Let’s talk with

‘Tree Doctor’” workshop. At the workshop “Let’s try to ‘revive’ – from tree to tree,” the participants used scrap wood that they found in the premises and together with origami pieces and paper balloons they made 3 collage works of persimmon trees. On the leaves of the trees, messages for “peace” by the children are written.

At the ceremony, the trees that were “revived” during the workshop were set out around the seedling from the bombed tree. Tree planting was carried out by the children who took part in the ceremony and they took turns in covering the root with soil. A workshop was held after the ceremony too and a picture-card show “Persimmon parent and child” by artist Anken Kidani was performed at the garden of the museum. A large persimmon tree picture on the wall inside the museum which was created during the workshop in November last year was displayed for this occasion and the three “revived” trees were also exhibited.



Collingwood School

 Canada
 Vancouver
 3 Jun 2005

Collingwood School is a large private school with 1,100 students ages from 5 to 18 and 160 teaching staff. This is a sister school of Mulgrave School, where tree planting took place in 2003. Ms. Meghan McAlister, then a student at Collingwood School, heard about the tree planting at Mulgrave School from her friend and applied for the project on behalf of the school. She applied while she was still at the school, however, since she expected to graduate from the school in 2004, Head of Senior School Ms. Lisa Evans took over the project.



As Collingwood School has exchange programs so students from various countries come learn together at the school. Meanwhile, the vice principal has chosen "Sadako's Story (a story of a girl who was an atomic bomb victim)" as a reading material in his/her class and learned about the atomic bomb together with the students. The school also emphasizes on art education and displayed artworks by children that expressed how they perceive "What is peace?" with pictures and words. As the tree planting day coincided with the school's "Art Day," even more works than usual were on display.

At Collingwood School, there is an "Alumni Homecoming Day" once every year. The tree planting



was planned as a gift from the alumni to current students to celebrate the day. The tree planting ceremony took place with attendees such as alumni, students representing current students, Vice-Consul of the Japanese Consulate, vice principal of the school and local media. It started off with an opening address by Ms. Evans and then a message (on history of the persimmon tree and the meaning of presenting the trees from alumni to current students) addressed to current students was read by Ms. McAlister. A speech was given by the Vice-Consul of the Japanese Consulate and the message from Mr. Ebinuma was read by the executive committee member of the project. The students representing current students read the texts written on the panels that were to be set up near the trees. Two trees were planted on the day. One is planted at the Upper school (where children ages from 12 to 16 attend) and the other one is planted at the Preparatory school (where children ages from 8 to 11 attend). A Friend/Friends of Ms. McAlister who participated in the tree planting at Mulgrave School in 2003 also attended the ceremony. A Japanese student's mother came over to the school and helped her child and Ms. Evans dress in Yukata so that those two could attend the ceremony in Yukata.