# Take stock of your life

**By Chaplain Michael Chaney**

"The world is a mess." So say the newspapers and news reports from the states, which are full of gloom and doom. Each passing day brings new details of the global recession, environmental degradation, food shortages (especially rice), poverty, wild weather shifts and homelessness. Yet, while the mood has seemingly grown more grim (grimmer) here recently, we can admit that bad news has always been the staple food stuff that the media has prepared for us to consume. We rarely question what is put in front of us when we zone out to watch television.

How can we begin to counteract the messages we receive daily, messages of hopelessness that increase our stress and anxiety and that do nothing to resolve the world's problems? Just this past Sunday I was reminded by a former attendee that the reason that he did not attend chapel service lately was simply because he had not gotten his life together just yet. The fact was that I should look for him only after he had ironed out the creases in his life. He was sure that it was a matter of time before he lived a wrinkle-free existence. The question that was left unanswered was why was God, even just a couple of weeks after Easter, even needed.

I remember fondly the great sense of joy that I experienced in Negishi on that Saturday before Easter that was shared at the All-Chapel Easter Picnic sponsored by the Catholic congregation. Kids were running all over the place, kicking balls to their fathers, while mothers tended to the other siblings. Neighbors were entranced by stories that were being shared by folks who found nourishment during this weekly visitation to share the good news of being alive during this season of cherry blossoms. It was an overwhelming feeling to be outside in the sunlight with friends in a place where denominational affiliation made no difference. It was a smiling and happy community that gathered in the name of our soon-to-be risen lord as we broke bread together.

Providing a place of peace and sanctuary for worshippers has always been for the chapel programs a paramount responsibility. Maybe now it is needed like never before as people all around the world are feeling the pinch of this recession. We are called to seek to sustain the strength found through corporate worship. This truth in which we believe is that, by the grace of God, our few hours together each week may enable us to be hopeful in the face of our fears, as we engage the world around us, no matter where you are from or what rank you may hold. God is with us even if our transfer orders are delayed until October.

The challenge for each of us in these fearful days is to encourage the faithful to remain calm and strong in their convictions. We are to assist each other daily to find God's peace deep within us. There we shall live off the joy that God is always present. In the face of the darkness of our time, we must encourage one another to step into every day knowing that God steps alongside us or runs with us as we kick that next ball.

In the face of our fears for the future, you and I are called to reach out to our neighbors. We are to seek ways to work side by side, so Christ's light may shine brightly through the darkness. May you be encouraged this week to kneel before the lord and give thanks for the beauty of this earth and the good people that share it with us each and every day as you see the sun rise and set over Mount Fuji. We are indeed blessed.

# Head's Up Yokosuka!

## Community Announcements

**Formation Running Through CFAY Housing Areas –** Rules regarding formation running through Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) housing areas pertains to all commands, organizations and all military and civilian personnel at all times while on board CFAY and all satellite locations under the cognizance of CFAY and is in accordance with COMFLEACTINST 5800.2F. Formation runners shall run with the flow of traffic and in the correct traffic lane. Road guards shall be posted at least ten meters ahead and behind of the formation to alert vehicular traffic to slow down. Road guards shall wear reflective vests and during hours of darkness shall carry cone lights. Formations shall not call cadence and will endeavor to remain as quiet as possible when passing through housing areas, especially during housing quiet hours of 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight to 8 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Excessive disturbances and noise will not be tolerated at any time. All running cadences must be in good taste and not contain insulting and/or offensive language. No formation running is allowed in the housing areas located in Ikego and Negishi.

**Compass Program Class –** The next available class will be held May 27 through 29 at the Chapel of Hope in classrooms 2 and 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Free lunch provided and childcare reimbursed. Compass is a peer-to-peer mentorship program designed to help Navy spouses adapt to military life. Contact Shelle at 264-7270, Marina at 246-7766 or visit the Compass Web site at www.gocompass.org for more information or to register for the class.

**American Red Cross Community Courses and Training –** If you'd like to become a volunteer, register to attend one of our volunteer orientations held the first and third Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. Call 243-7490 for more information or come and register in our office located on the 2nd floor of the Community Center.

**Navy Family Housing Yokosuka Bulk Trash Collection Service** – Bulk trash collection service for Yokosuka townhouse residents is available by calling 243-6558. The items can be left by the garbage containers located in the front enclosure. Please do not place your valuable personal items by garbage containers as they may be mistaken for trash. Contact the Housing Facilities Office at 243-9067 for more information.

**Seahawk Community Announcements and Article/Photo Submissions -** Deadline for community announcements and article/photo submissions for the Seahawk is the Friday before the next Seahawk edition. E-mail your submissions to Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil. Include your telephone contact information in the body of the e-mail. Contact the Seahawk editor at Seahawk-Umitaka@fe.navy.mil or call 243-2567/3003 for specific submission requirements or for more information.

# Local Sailor in role of Swift's "Gulliver" meets Yokosuka mayor

**Story and photo by Fumiyo Sato, CFAY Public Affairs**

Local Sailors, Yokosuka community leaders and children came together to meet with Yokosuka Mayor Ryoichi Kabaya at Yokosuka City Hall April 20 in recognition of the 300th anniversary of Gulliver's arrival to Kannonzaki, Yokosuka.

Every year, a Sailor from Yokosuka plays the role of the famous character, Gulliver, in a local festival marking the arrival. Afloat Training Group Western Pacific (ATGWP) Sonar Technician 1st Class Anthony Demangone greeted Kabaya dressed in full Gulliver garb consisting of an 18th century style European red jacket and a long-haired wig. ATGWP Commanding Officer Capt. Carl Carpenter and Senior Chief Culinary Specialist William Caraballo also attended the meeting. The attendees included four Kenko Kindergarten students, who perform with Gulliver at the festival, and members of the Yokosuka Mirai-Juku, a consortium of local commerce, industry and municipal leaders in the Yokosuka area.

Gulliver is the main character of "Gulliver's Travels," a story written in 1726 by Irish author Jonathan Swift. In the story, Gulliver travels various places, including imaginary lands, and interacts with people in the community. The first part is the most popular and famous among Japanese children in which Gulliver visits an island where little people live. Therefore, the Japanese consider Gulliver a giant man.

Despite the popularity of the story, many people may not realize Gulliver visited Japan in the book. His journey included a trip to Xamoschi, a small port-town in Japan. The way the town is described, "the town lies on the western point, where there is a narrow strait, leading northward into a long arm of the sea, upon the north-west part of which, Yedo (old name for Tokyo) the metropolis stands," has led many Japanese readers to believe Swift was referring to the Miura Peninsula area. In 1988 the hypothesis of Gulliver landing in Kannonzaki was introduced in a magazine.

**(Left) STG1 Anthony Demangone of ATGWP along with children from Yokosuka Kenko Kindergarten meet Yokosuka City Mayor Ryoichi Kabaya April 20. Demangone plays the role of Gulliver at various host nation events, including the upcoming Kannonzaki Festival.**

The Yokosuka Mirai-Juku planned to include Gulliver in the local festival to help generate excitement for the event. They requested Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) find a tall person who could play the role of Gulliver for the Kannonzaki Festival. Other than being tall, the Sailor who plays the role of the Irish character also needs to fit into the Gulliver costume.

As the third Gulliver, Demangone has participated in six events in the past two years. "It is a thrill to have this type of opportunity to walk down the street," said Demangone who is 6 feet 4 inches tall. "All the time people asked me before about going to Japan. I would have never seen it like this, acting like a Disney [character] and to touch that many people's lives and to bring that type of happiness to people."

Acting out the part of Gulliver has also helped Demangone interact with more people in the host nation. "The opportunity has just opened so many more avenues to my experience in Japan. What amazes me the most is it's not just children, it's their parents and their grandparents, everybody knows Gulliver."