



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Peace Foundation to Hold 10th Annual Sadako Peace Day
Commemorating the 59th Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima
and Nagasaki**

Santa Barbara, CA (July 21, 2004) – The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and La Casa De Maria Retreat Center are pleased to announce the 10th Annual Sadako Peace Day Ceremony. The event will take place on Friday, 6 August 2004 from 5:00 pm until 6:00 pm at the Sadako Peace Garden at the La Casa de Maria Retreat Center, located at 800 El Bosque Road in Montecito. The event is free and open to the public.

Sadako Peace Day commemorates the 59th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with music, poetry and reflections. Mayor of Santa Paula, Dr. Gabino Aguirre and Santa Barbara-resident Ron Dexter will offer reflections. Mayor Aguirre is a member of the Mayors for Peace and active in their Emergency Campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Ron Dexter is a member of Veterans for Peace, who served in the Korean War, and has been active in the project Arlington West in Santa Barbara, which portrays the loss of American lives in the Iraq war.

Sudama (Mark Kennedy) will play the Shakuhachi. Bill Aikele will play his original composition entitled, "Peace Invocation," on the Koto. Original poetry will be read by Bettina Barrett, "Toward Peace;" Barbara Bates, "The Cradle;" Chella Courington, "All Things are Born in Darkness;" Mary Rose Betten, "Yielding Earth;" Paul Willis, "Apocalypse;" and Perie Longo will read "One Piece" by young poet Connie Phung.

Sadako was a two-year-old girl when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Ten years later she developed leukemia. Japanese legend holds that one's wish will be granted upon folding 1,000 paper (origami) cranes. Sadako folded 646

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before dying. She wrote, “I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world.” Her friends finished folding the cranes in her memory. The paper crane has become a global symbol of peace, and a statue of Sadako now stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

For more than 20 years, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has been committed to advancing initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, to fostering the global rule of law, and to building an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization on the Roster in consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

For more information on the 10th Annual Sadako Peace Day, please call Carah Ong, Director of Communications and Development at Cell: (805) 896-1909 or email cong@napf.org.

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