



MEDIA RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the
Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

Santa Barbara, CA (August 3, 2005) – The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and La Casa de Maria Retreat Center will host the 11th Annual Sadako Peace Day ceremony on Tuesday, August 9th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The ceremony will be held at Sadako Peace Garden, located at La Casa de Maria at 800 El Bosque Road in Montecito. The event is free and open to the public.

This year's Sadako Peace Day ceremony commemorates the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in WWII. The event includes music, poetry and reflection. Sadako Peace Day is being held in conjunction with a larger international effort entitled Days of Remembrance and Action. This worldwide effort commemorates the 60th anniversaries of the bombings in an effort to underscore the message of the *hibakusha* (bomb survivors) that human beings and nuclear weapons cannot co-exist.

Dr. James Yamazaki will be the featured speaker this year. Dr. Yamazaki is a renowned pediatrician who headed up the U.S. Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission's lab in Nagasaki following the bombing. He has continued to carry out research on the effects of radiation and is one of the world's preeminent authorities on this subject, having worked with many of the survivors and their children.

Musicians will include a student chamber quartet from the Music Academy of the West, and will additionally include locally renowned musicians Sudama Mark Kennedy

on Shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute), Chris Judge on guitar and Rebecca Kleinmann on flute.

Poets will include Santa Barbara's Poet Laureate Barry Spacks, Perie Longo, Enid Osborn, John McAndrew and Toni Flynn. Poems will be available for viewing on the Foundation's website at www.wagingpeace.org.

Sadako Peace Garden was inaugurated in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the bombings. It is named for Sadako Sasaki, a two-year-old girl when the 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's wish was to be well and to spread peace. She wrote of her cranes, "I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world." Sadako folded 646 cranes before her dying. Her friends finished folding the cranes in her memory. Today, a statue of Sadako stands in Hiroshima Peace Park and the paper crane has become a global symbol of peace.

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. It is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization with consultative status to the United Nations.

For more information on the 11th Annual Sadako Peace Day, please contact Chris Pizzinat, Deputy Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or by e-mail at cpizzinat@napf.org.

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