



July 23, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE :

8-Year-Old Santa Barbara Girl
To Speak At Sadako Peace Day—August 9

Contact: Steven Crandell, 805 965-3443, scrandell@napf.org



A third-grader from McKinley School in Santa Barbara plans to follow the example of a Japanese girl who inspired the world to work for peace.

Eight-year-old Abigail Pacheco will be the featured speaker at the 13th Annual Sadako Peace Day ceremony, August 9, at the Sadako Peace Garden at La Casa de Maria 800 El Bosque Road, between 5 and 6 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public..

Already the winner of a local peace award for her presentation on Cesar Chavez, Abigail Pacheco will speak about Sadako Sasaki and leadership. Abigail believes that Sadako's lesson is that everyone can be a leader.

“By sharing your voice,” Abigail says, “you can make a difference.”

Having such a young speaker at the event is a first for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, says Steven Crandell, Director of Public Affairs.

“We are working to create a world free of nuclear weapons. We believe one of the keys to achieving this goal is to motivate the next generation -- developing peace leadership in our young people. The fact that Abigail wants to work for peace at her young age is more than exceptional. We find it inspiring. I think Sadako would be smiling to think that her wish more than 50 years ago has touched Abigail's heart and spirit.”

The August 9th Sadako Peace Day ceremony will also feature a chorus of children singers (aged 8-11) called the Skylarks, under the direction of Brett Mutinelli, as well as poetry from several local poets, including Santa Barbara's poet laureate Perie Longo.

Background: Many people know the story of the brave, athletic Japanese girl named Sadako. She was only 12 years old when she was diagnosed with leukemia. She had been exposed to radiation from the Hiroshima atomic bomb at the age of two.

She started folding origami paper cranes after a friend reminded her of a legend: if a person folds a thousand cranes, he or she will live to be very old. As Sadako folded the cranes, she would say the words written above.

“I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world.”

Sadako had intimate knowledge of the costs of war and nuclear attack. Her health was waning, yet her wish was to spread peace.

She folded 644 cranes before she succumbed to the disease. Her friends finished folding the remaining 356 cranes. Since then, the paper crane has become an international symbol of peace, and a statue of Sadako now stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and La Casa de Maria dedicated the Sadako Peace Garden in Santa Barbara, California.

New Feature this Year: The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation wants people to be part of our ceremony for peace -- no matter where they live. So we are asking people everywhere to email us messages and prayers for peace. We will the messages on our website and choose a selection to read at our Peace Day ceremony. Afterwards, we will compile all the messages of peace and send them to the White House.

See more information below:

[SPREAD PEACE – IN 60 SECONDS](#)

(If you have difficulty reading this email, please [see our web page version](#).)

Most people around the world want peace. We want our governments to work together to reduce and ultimately eliminate weapons of mass destruction – especially nuclear weapons. But many people don't know what they can do to make a difference. Some even despair of making any progress towards peace.

Yet history is full of seemingly impossible goals which became achievable because people made their voices heard. The Vietnam War ended after public pressure. Global warming is now very much on the political agenda in Washington because of public pressure. Peace can rise to the top of the priority scale, too.

You can make a difference. And we can change the course of the world.

Here's an easy way to start.:

Send a Message or Prayer of Peace. It will take you about 60 seconds, maybe a little longer. All you have to do is follow this link to our website:

www.wagingpeace.org/sadako_message.htm

Next month, we will hold our [13th Annual Sadako Peace Day](#). Your message of peace will become part of our annual recognition of the Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki who inspired efforts toward peace around the world – even as she was dying from the effects of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

This is what the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will do with your message:

- **List it on our website. [Read some of the messages we've already received.](#)**
- **Choose a selection of messages to read at our Sadako Peace Day Ceremony on August 9th.**
- **Send all the messages of peace we receive to the President of the United States of America.**

In this way, you can follow Sadako's inspiration, and write out your hopes for peace so they may fly all over the world (via the Internet). [See Sadako's story.](#)

People often ask us how they can increase the peace. Sadako showed us one way. She never relinquished her hope for a better world. All we need to do is follow her lead.

One voice can become a powerful force for change when it joins millions of others all seeking the same thing.

Thank you for your time,

Steven Crandell
Director of Development & Public Affairs
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
[Contact us](#)

P.S. Go ahead. Try sending a message of peace. You'll find it a refreshing feeling to affirm what you feel in your heart. Just follow [this link](#).

For more information about the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, see www.wagingpeace.org/menu/about.

#

For More Information please call Director of Public Affairs, Steven Crandell at 805-965-3443 or email scrandell@napf.org