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HISTORY, POETRY, MUSIC  
& MESSAGES FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
AT SADAKO PEACE DAY—AUGUST 6

Contact: Steven Crandell, 805 965-3443, [scrandell@napf.org](mailto:scrandell@napf.org)

A noted historian will be the featured speaker at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sadako Peace Day ceremony, Wednesday August 6, at the Sadako Peace Garden at La Casa de Maria, 800 El Bosque Road, between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Professor Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, from UCSB, will give insight into one of the defining events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in his talk: “**The US Decision to Drop the Bomb: Paths not Taken.**” Prof. Hasegawa is an expert on the Cold War and foreign relations involving Russia, Japan and the United States. He wrote the book: *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005)

The August 6<sup>th</sup> Sadako Peace Day ceremony will also feature poetry from several local poets, including Santa Barbara’s poet laureate Perie Longo, Carol DeCanio and Christine Kravetz.

Bob Sedivy will provide beautiful, evocative music on the shakuhachi or traditional bamboo flute.

And in honor of Sadako Sasaki, the Japanese girl who inspired the world, children will also take part in the program. Emily and Nicole Janée, both aged 11, as well 10-year-old Ciara Giordani, will sing songs of compassion.

**Send a Peace Message --** 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 visit our website -- [www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org) -- and post their messages and prayers for peace. We will display 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.

**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.

Sadako set out to fold 1,000 cranes. There are differing accounts of how successful she was. One Book says that she folded 644 before dying. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum says she folded 1,000 and began work on another set of 1,000. However many cranes Sadako folded, students in Japan were moved by her story and began to fold cranes, too.

The paper crane has become a global symbol of peace, and a statue of Sadako now stands in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

In 1995, on the 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

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