

Press Release



San Diegans Prepare to Celebrate International Peace and Humanity Day

City joins 7,392 municipalities worldwide; local events Aug. 5 and 11 commemorate 72 years of freedom from nuclear conflict

SAN DIEGO – July 31, 2017 – [San Diego-WISH](#), a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting global peace and freedom from nuclear weapons, will celebrate its 2017 International Peace and Humanity Day on Sat., Aug. 5, 2017. In observing the 72nd anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks that ended World War II, organizers hope to turn public attention toward a future free from the specter of nuclear conflict.

This year's events occur in two parts, all supported by San Diego-WISH, an acronym for "Worldwide Initiative to Safeguard Humanity." Simultaneous events are taking place globally as part of the "[Mayors for Peace](#)" initiative involving more than 7,392 cities worldwide.

The first event, The World Peace Ceremony, is open to the public with free admission at 4:00pm PDT, Sat., Aug. 5, at the Yokohama Friendship Bell on Shelter Island (1402 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego, CA 92106). It will include a ceremonial presentation of 1,000 origami cranes in a symbolic wish for governments worldwide to move toward abandoning nuclear weapons and eliminating the threat of nuclear war. Messages of peace will be read from Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki; Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui; Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue and Los Angeles Consul General for Japan Akira Chiba. Additionally, the audience will hear from San Diego resident [Mike Kawamura](#), a Hiroshima survivor who was two years old when the bomb detonated, and who ultimately became a U.S. resident and contributor to the U.S. semiconductor packaging and electronics industries.

The second event, Floating of Paper Lanterns & Cultural Exchange, will be held on Friday, Aug. 11, from 6:30-9:00pm PDT at the Coronado City Council Chambers and Community Pool (1825 Strand Way, Coronado, CA 92118), where participants will float illuminated paper lanterns in a silent prayer for world peace. A 2017 World ParaAthletics Championships Bronze Medalist, Maya Nakanishi, will give an inspirational talk. Arts, crafts, entertainment and refreshments will be available. Donation of \$5 covers refreshments and a paper lantern kit. See more information at: <http://sdwish.org/peace-humanity-day-2017/>

"The last world war started and ended with horrific destruction," said SD-WISH Committee Chair Akiko Mikamo, whose parents, just one-half mile from the epicenter, survived the Hiroshima blast. "Today, we celebrate the fact that the United States and Japan are not only at peace, but close allies. We want to show our experience as an example of friendships growing against impossible odds. Above all, we want to make people envision peace in a different way — a way that makes the concept of war obsolete."

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