



One Sunny Day Initiatives

*Working toward a nuclear weapons-free world through education;
promoting peace, hope & reconciliation.*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

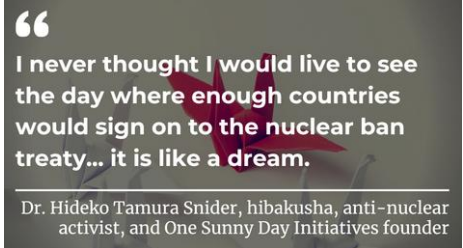
January 2022

As we begin this new year, all of us at One Sunny Day Initiatives want to send our best wishes for a healthy, happier and more peaceful new year to each of you. We also would like to report on the many accomplishments of last year, made possible with your participation.

Despite the continued daunting challenges of pandemic, fires, debilitating smoke and drought, we've had one of the busiest, most productive years in OSDI's 15 years of existence. Time and time again, we were deeply moved by the gracious acknowledgment and generosity of educators; of elementary, high school, college and visually-impaired students; of mayors, translators, reporters, editors, filmmakers; of gardeners, arborists, civic leaders, veterans and concerned citizens.

There's a lot of good news to share; we hope you'll read on and share with friends and organizations.

January 2021 started off with a big celebration (virtual) hosted by Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility to mark the historic coming into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Hideko was especially elated by this milestone, and gladly responded to their request to participate and share her reaction. Nuclear weapons and related activities are now officially banned under international law! The TPNW outlines the process for the verifiable and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons programs, and is the first to include the obligation to assist the victims of use and testing, and to remediate affected environments. There are currently 86 signatories and 59 ratifications of states parties willing to be held accountable to the treaty. More information about this milestone is [here](#), and video of the celebration is [here](#).



Green Legacy Hiroshima Peace Trees

Many more celebrations followed throughout the year as at least 10 more Hiroshima Peace Trees were planted and/or dedicated. These are the saplings germinated in 2017 from seeds of still living legacy trees in Hiroshima that survived the atomic bombing over 76 years ago. We are indebted to [Oregon Community Trees](#) (OCT) for a generous grant, and especially to members Mike Oxendine, Jennifer Killian, and Jim Gersbach who have been indispensable in germinating, caring for and distributing ginkgo and persimmon trees throughout Oregon. We also thank Oregon Department of Forestry members Jim Gersbach and Kristin Ramstad, who have overseen and publicized plantings in Oregon, plus created an excellent [webpage](#) that allows anyone to locate all the Green Legacy Hiroshima Peace Trees in the state.



We all had high hopes to plant and dedicate the remaining GLH trees in 2020 – the 75th anniversary of the end of WW II – to honor all who sacrificed and suffered, to celebrate the peace and friendship that have endured between former adversaries, and to serve as sentinels of resilience and hope for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Pandemic and fires intervened, but we all have persisted!

Most trees are planted, with some dedications postponed until the public can be invited. Some sponsors went ahead with limited attendance. It's been so deeply moving and fun to see the variety, creativity,

excitement and appreciation each community expresses. Check out the photos, news articles, and video clips on [our website](#) to see what we mean. Love of trees and yearning for friendship, peace and nuclear disarmament have been common threads throughout.



In **Oregon**, March found **Hood River** dedicating its second ginkgo at Idlewild Cemetery, organized by arborist Tyler Roth and historian/filmmaker David-Paul Hedberg with the Hood River Tree Commission. Planted near gravestones of Japanese settlers who had established orchards and farms in the area, these trees hold special meanings for descendants keenly aware of the tragic prejudice, forced relocations, and loss of property endured during and after

World War II. Author and retired Willamette University professor Linda Tamura (no relation to Hideko) shared her knowledge and reflections.

Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department chose their Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park as the perfect home for their ginkgo. It was especially fitting for Parks & Recreation to receive a tree, as OCT member Jennifer Killian and her P&R colleagues have cared for and helped distribute the Oregon ginkgos and persimmons since spring of 2019. Mayor Biff Traber, one of Oregon's 7 Mayors for Peace, shared remarks, along with P&R Director Meredith Petit and the guest of honor, Hiroshima bombing survivor, June Ikuko Terasaka Moore.

April saw the planting of a ginkgo in **Grants Pass** at Greenwood River Trail, near the popular Dog Park, and trail along the Rogue River. City Arborist Tony Mecum and the Urban Tree Committee were sponsors. It felt special to have all Oregon-based OSDI board members – Estelle, Hideko, Lucie and Stuart – able to attend an event together. Tony, Hideko and Lucie shared remarks, while many covered the roots with soil. Tony studied under a ginkgo specialist so he was able to share some interesting facts with us. Tree dedication awaits.



Also in **Corvallis**, Estelle was delighted to attend a dedication organized by Adams Elementary School Green Team Leader Rachel Kirby. Rachel, Principal Peter Henning, and four students shared their reflections. Because of long-term construction plans, their ginkgo was planted next door at Western View Center on the edge of a large playing field, surrounded by very distinctive fencing to protect it in its youth.

Closing out April, Hideko and Estelle were warmly welcomed at the dedication at **Independence**. Polk County Master Gardeners designed, and with assistance from Rotarians, Boy Scouts and city personnel, installed an entire Peace Garden on reclaimed land of a former lumber mill. Their special ginkgo, along with a peace pole and Chief Joseph Pine, are the central features of this delightful extension of their seven-acre Inspiration Garden at Mt. Fir Park. Hideko shared her joy, gratitude and hopes for the tree and the community. Serving as master of ceremonies, Bill Tweedy also talked about the symbolic meanings of the garden that he and Kay Beatty had designed. Deeply moved when he read Hideko's memoir *One Sunny Day*, Darrell Ward shared memories of her story. Rotary members then gifted a specially-commissioned origami crane sculpture to Master Gardener (and organizer) Becky Jay, and Mayor John McArdle officially opened the garden. Video of the [Dedication Ceremony](#).





While in the area, we visited and photographed the ginkgo planted at Oregon Garden in **Silverton**, near a waterfall at the edge of the expansive lower lawn. It will become a striking ambassador of peace as it matures, and appreciated by the thousands of people who visit there annually.

In August, another very meaningful dedication took place alongside the Rogue River, sponsored by the Tree Commission of the **City of Rogue River**, at John F. Fleming Memorial Park. A very festive occasion. Veterans lined the iconic bridge nearby with American flags.



Tables were full of bouquets and treats. Organizer JoAnn Dixon and Mayor Wayne Stuart welcomed everyone. Mike Oxendine, who germinated the seeds, told us about meeting Hideko and being captured by her vision. Historian and filmmaker David-Paul Hedberg, spoke about the documentary on the Hiroshima Peace Trees in Oregon that he and James Krzmarzick are working on. Interviewed by local Mail Tribune reporter Buffy Pollack, Hideko shared that she "always offers heartfelt apologies for anyone impacted by Pearl Harbor" when she learns veterans are present. Collective healing has been a core OSDI goal. Buffy's excellent [video/article](#) and [pre-event article](#).



Southwestern Oregon Community College in **Coos Bay** dedicated their ginkgo in October, before another COVID-19 surge struck. Many international students attended, and it was interesting to learn of SOCC's long interest in crosscultural connections in the region. Hidden behind a veil, the tree was revealed after remarks from SOCC Foundation member Carolyn Thompson, President Patty Scott, and OSDI representative Estelle, who shared greetings and hopes from Hideko. SOCC Foundation Director Elise Hamner arranged for the tree and dedication.

Lastly in Oregon, **Happy Valley** dedicated a ginkgo in front of City Hall in November. A number of communities hope to dedicate their trees in 2022 – including Gresham, Vernonia, Medford, Central Point and Ashland.



Further away, **Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis** held a planting and dedication ceremony on a sunny day in April, in conjunction with their annual Hiroshima Peace Event. Hideko and daughter (and Michigan-based OSDI board member) Miko were speakers the previous year, and were thrilled with the high level of student engagement. IUPUI compiled a [wonderful booklet](#) of photos, student peace declarations and writings of the 2021 events.

Closer to home, we have added to our website a few more photos and video of camphors sent to California through Miko's extensive contacts. We featured the August 6, 2020 dedication at **California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine** in Clovis last year. Now we know 3 camphors were also dedicated at Fresno State University's student-initiated Peace Garden the same day, planted amongst sculptures of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Jane Adams, Cesar Chavez, Nelson Mandela, and Dolores Huerta.





Shinzen Friendship Garden in Fresno planted a camphor in their garden, and also filmed the creation of a unique bonzai planting, done in forest style.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil

On August 6 at 8 am, the annual Rogue Valley Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil was held in Ashland's Lithia Park to commemorate those who were injured and lost their lives, as well as rededicate ourselves to abolishing nuclear weapons. Pandemic and smoke again limited events to one outdoor ceremony, but many masked individuals braved them to attend the ceremony.

After listening to "Cranes Over Hiroshima" recorded by the R.V. Peace Choir in Hiroshima, the Memorial Flame was lit, a gong was sounded at the exact moment the bomb exploded, and we observed a moment of silence. Ashland Councilor Shaun Moran read the Mayor's declaration. First United Methodist Rev. Brett Strobel shared reflections, and retired SOU Professor Michael Niemann explained the significance of the new international treaty banning nuclear weapons (TPNW) going into effect. Estelle read a personal letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima. All were invited to pour water over stones to soothe the souls of the departed, and pray for peace. Tears were flowing.



Estelle was one of the organizers representing OSDI, along with Elizabeth Hallett of Peace House and Herb Rothschild of South Mountain Friends. Hideko was acknowledged for inspiring so many people, as was artist Betty LaDuke.

OSDI treasurer Stuart, who often drives Hideko to events, and Lucie, who drafts our publicity and newsletters, were also able to participate. Local coverage by the Mail Tribune.

Peace Education By Chair

Our Chair continued responding to requests to present her “living history” about the human consequences of atomic/nuclear weapons, both in person when possible and virtually when not.

In March, Hideko received a warm reception when she read *When a Peace Tree Blooms*, and participated in a Q&A with the students at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, arranged by Linda Clements.

She met virtually with a local home-school history class in April, facilitated by teacher Yumi Nelson. It was so successful that Ms. Nelson also arranged an in person visit in May to a South Medford High history class, attended also by the principal and school superintendent. It was recorded for district-wide, future use. Hideko was very touched to receive encouraging notes from students and educators afterwards. Here’s an excerpt: “You had such a genuinely positive impact on all of us...The students cannot stop talking about how

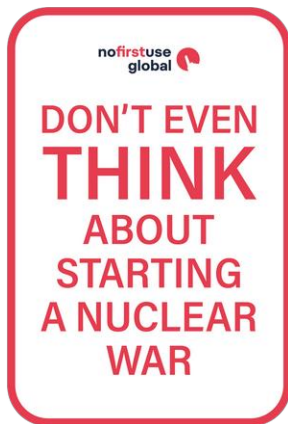


amazing it all was.” One of our greatest hopes is for the next generation to understand how important it is for them to continue to work for peace.

August brought an in person request from Charlie Hall, Head Football Coach at Southern Oregon University. He asked her to speak about “Endurance, Courage and Character”, coupled with a short documentary Nuclear Bomb Explosion.

She also attended, via Zoom, a forum facilitated by Steve Leeper at Swarthmore College, on the Ban Treaty and her experiences as a Hiroshima survivor in October.

Peace Initiatives and Efforts to Promote Nuclear Disarmament



A new international organization formed last year to promote the No First Use (of nuclear weapons) campaign, called No First Use Global. This is a pragmatic step on the way to eliminating nuclear weapons – asking all nations to commit they will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. OSDI endorsed their letter urging parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to embrace it. You can sign up if you want to learn more or participate in their campaign.

Surprisingly, the 5 NPT nuclear-weapons states (China, France, Russia, UK and US) worked together to create a recent joint statement on preventing nuclear war and avoiding arms races. Of course, their actions do not currently mesh with these words, but working together despite current tensions is a step to be acknowledged.

OSDI earlier endorsed an open letter to President Biden and Russian President Putin in June, calling on them to use the opportunity of their June 16, 2021 summit to affirm the 1985 Reagan-Gorbachev statement that "a nuclear war cannot be won and should not be fought" and to consider declaring a No First Use policy. They did so.

Hideko continued participating on the DISARM Committee of the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (sponsor of her August 9, 2020 virtual talk), attending meetings virtually.

She also joined other survivors in a public hearing, sharing perspectives on the impact of nuclear weapons on humans, regarding the National Park Service plans to memorialize the Manhattan Project in New Mexico.

OSDI engaged in the noble effort sponsored by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance in Tennessee, and many other organizations, including the former Hiroshima Mayor Akiba, to orchestrate a Moment of Silence at the Summer Olympics, but unfortunately it did not happen.

Hideko was pleased to engage in a virtual interview with filmmaker Regis Tremblay, who presented it at a conference in Ukraine in October. This was especially meaningful to her in light of what is occurring between Russia and Ukraine currently.

Estelle also remains active with regional, national and international organizations promoting nuclear disarmament.

Books and OSDI Website

A Russian translation of Hideko’s children’s book *When a Peace Tree Blooms* is currently in progress. Our Russian contact Tatyana Bukharina (through Regis Tremblay) has finished the written and oral translations of the story, kindly taking on the project, pro bono. We are awaiting completion of auxiliary text, hoping to have them available on our website soon. Tatyana hopes to pursue publication in Russia. This makes



us all so pleased, as there has never been a more urgent time to promote nuclear arms awareness in Russia and the US. The seeds for peace must literally be planted for the children of tomorrow.

We were especially delighted when Hideko received thank you letters from visually disadvantaged students, who attend Tsukuba University affiliates in Japan. Department heads selected for the curriculum an enlarged visual version of *When a Peace Tree Blooms* that a daughter of Hideko's friend, Mr. Ishida, provided them. The students expressed their appreciation in Braille and described their newly-discovered techniques for building peace.

We finally have great news about Hideko's revised memoir of *One Sunny Day* – it is now with an academic publisher. We'll be sure to let you know as we move closer to a publishing date. Special thanks to former OSDI board member Chris Crawford and to Lucie for extensive editing assistance. All of us, including our website manager/tech consultant Brian Voeller, were involved in reviewing and proofing. Hideko has worked so diligently to try to convey the depth of her experiences, in fervent hopes that people will be moved to work towards a nuclear weapons-free world.



We could use **your help** in continuing to promote *When a Peace Tree Blooms* to friends, schools, libraries. We still have many copies in Chinese – if you have any contacts with Chinese American families, schools or visiting Chinese students who might enjoy these, we can offer them at a substantial discount due to a generous donor. Hideko would love them to be used in U.S. public schools offering Chinese language classes as part of the curriculum or resources. They were published in China by a joint Chinese-Japanese initiative. Copies are being distributed in China, Japan and Pacific island communities.

We know there is a lot to take in here. We apologize for the length but wanted to share our news and joys with you. We have been blessed beyond measure to have so many people engaging in person-to-person activities that enlighten the public and promote peace and friendship. As always, if you would like to make a contribution to our peace efforts or purchase any materials, please visit our website at: OSDInitiatives.org, or send checks to OSDI, 1402 Andrew Drive, Medford OR 97501.

Very truly yours,

Hideko Tamura Snider, Chair

and OSDI Board Members: Stuart Raub,
Miko Rose, Lucie Scheuer, and Estelle Voeller

