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**Seedling Grown from Atomic Bomb Survivor Tree Planted at San Diego Botanic Garden**

*Ceremonial event on August 5 to acknowledge and remember the history of Hiroshima bombing while planting seeds for global peace*

**Encinitas, Calif. (July 2023)** – This August, [San Diego Botanic Garden](#) (SDBG) joins in partnership and unity with [Green Legacy Hiroshima \(GLH\) Initiative](#) to dedicate a newly planted ginkgo tree descended from a mother tree that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan more than 70 years ago. The [Survivor Tree Commemoration](#) will take place at the Garden on Saturday, August 5 at 4:15 p.m., corresponding to the exact time in Pacific Standard Time that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The ceremonial event will also include guest speakers as well as a community wish writing activity for attendees to participate in.

GLH is a global campaign aimed at spreading the universal messages of caution and hope that the unique survivor trees of Hiroshima represent. Known in Japanese as *Hibakujumoku*, these survivor trees bring awareness to the dangers of arms of mass destruction, and nuclear weapons in particular, as well as the sacred character of humankind and the resilience of nature. Currently, seeds and saplings from the A-bombed trees are growing in more than 40 countries in a sustained, long-term campaign, joining other efforts to establish a nuclear-free and more ecological planet.

The result of a multiyear partnership with GLH, San Diego Botanic Garden received its ginkgo as a seedling from Shukkeien garden in Japan in 2020, and was recently planted at SDBG in June of 2023.

Guest speakers and representatives from Green Legacy Hiroshima will be in attendance for the tree dedication on August 5. In addition, visitors are invited to take part in a community wish writing and leaf rubbing activity where they can express written or drawn representations of wishes for the future.

“The *Hibakujumoku* have an amazing ability to simultaneously commemorate the devastation wrought by the bombing of Hiroshima and instill a profound sense of hope in the future. If trees can survive such an event, and their progeny can be shared across the world, there’s clearly so much we can do together to make the world a better place for people and plants,” said SDBG President and CEO Ari Novy, Ph.D. “We are honored to be part of this initiative and invite the community to join us in commemorating the history, legacy, and symbol of peace that this beautiful tree represents.”



Green Legacy Hiroshima

Novy was part of a select group of plant scientists and botanic garden experts invited by GLH to visit Hiroshima in November 2022. The scientists visited various sites of the survivor trees throughout the city and helped gather seeds to preserve and grow second-generation survivor trees around the world, making it a truly global partnership.

Often referred to as a living fossil, the ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) is one of the oldest living tree species with the ability to live up to 1,000 years. The planting symbolizes a hopeful opportunity to continue the lineage of survivor trees for hundreds, potentially thousands, of years to come.

For more information about San Diego Botanic Garden please visit the website at [www.sdbg.org](http://www.sdbg.org).

### **About San Diego Botanic Garden:**

Established in 1970, San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is a 37-acre urban oasis located in Encinitas, California, just north of San Diego. The Garden's four miles of trails and 8,000 square foot glass conservatory display more than 5,300 plant species and varieties. A premiere institution for botanical science and conservation, SDBG is actively involved in conservation horticulture, botany, and applied plant sciences to address our biggest local and global challenges, from biodiversity loss to climate change, food insecurity to environmental degradation. SDBG has the largest public bamboo collection in North America; gardens representing different regions and flora of the world; and demonstration gardens showcasing fruits and vegetables, water-smart ornamentals, and native plants. Through an array of educational programming, events and activities for both children and adults, the Garden aims to create, share and apply plant wisdom to the world. Learn more at [sdbg.org](http://sdbg.org). | FB [@SDBotanicGarden](https://www.facebook.com/SDBotanicGarden) | Instagram [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.instagram.com/sandiegobotanicgarden) | Twitter [@SDBGarden](https://twitter.com/SDBGarden) | TikTok [@sandiegobotanicgarden](https://www.tiktok.com/@sandiegobotanicgarden)

### **About Green Legacy Hiroshima (GLH) Initiative:**

The GLH Initiative is a global volunteer campaign, aiming to disseminate the universal message of trees that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Created in 2011 by two friends, Nassrine Azimi and Tomoko Watanabe, GLH shares worldwide the double message of caution and hope that the unique survivor trees of Hiroshima (and ultimately Nagasaki) represent, recalling on the one hand the dangers of arms of mass destruction and nuclear weapons in particular, and on the other hand the sacred character of mankind and the resilience of nature. Currently seeds and saplings from the A-bombed trees are growing in more than 30 countries - in a sustained, long-term (1,000-year) campaign, joining other efforts for a nuclear-free and more ecological planet.

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