

**No More Hiroshimas and Nagasakis**  
**By BILL LAWRENCE, Bureau Chief**  
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*We, the citizens of the world, have an inviolable right to live. Anyone who tries to jeopardize this right is a devil incarnate, a fiend, a monster. — Second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, Sept. 8, 1957*

Josei Toda was passionate in his commitment to nuclear abolition. In Japan at the time such views were opposed not only by the government but by the general public as well.

But for those forever scarred by the cruelty of war, Toda's cry has deep resonance. "At 11:02 a.m. on Aug. 9, 1945, an atomic bomb exploded over Nagasaki, Japan," states Hitomi Venneri of Seattle. "My mother and her family were inside her home when the bomb dropped. A brilliant flash of light filled the sky. After a few seconds, only the floor remained.

"After the bomb, my mother witnessed hell: Piles of bodies. Dozens of people groaning and burned. She could find no words to say, so for years she has kept it all inside."

Hitomi shared this experience as she helped prepare for the Pacific Rim Peace Conference sponsored by the SGI-USA and held at the Seattle Culture Center today.

The conference's purpose being to raise public awareness and foster dialogue about nuclear disarmament, Hitomi's and others' experiences were great contributions.

Among those who contributed to "A Cry for Peace," a multimedia presentation on Mr. Toda's declaration against nuclear weapons, was Jeanette Wallis, whose father "worked for 20 years on a nuclear submarine and insists nuclear development should be stopped."

Ms. Wallis explained that her father believes that the achievement of world peace now relies on using global institutions such as the United Nations to impose sanctions where appropriate and maintain a system of checks and balances. Ms. Wallis' father praises organizations such as the SGI that encourage dialogue and exchange among all people, regardless of their country of origin.

David Quintero, the U.N. Association Seattle Chapter president, likewise praised the SGI in Seattle for "working with the local community on issues that are international in scope. These are the major issues of the 21st century. The SGI's goals are aligned with those of the United Nations — namely, education, peace, environmental stewardship and educating youth. As a representative of the United Nations, I am very impressed with this level of interaction."

The members and guests, some of them first-time participants in an SGI activity, saw the importance of continuing this interaction through today's event.

"From practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, I realize my enemies exist within my heart," Hitomi Venneri concluded. "I also realize there are tremendous negative forces in one's environment. For the sake of my mother and for the sake of the next generation, I will speak out for the value of peace. There must never be another Hiroshima or Nagasaki."

Jeanette Wallis added: "World War I was called a war to end all wars. After the well-documented horrors, people assumed it would never happen again, but on its heels came World War II....

"Now that the Cold War is over and more countries than ever are working toward peaceful relations, is it necessary to further develop nuclear weapons?"

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