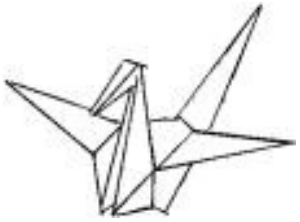
Media Advisory
July 26, 2006



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Cranes for Peace
On the 61st anniversary
of the bombing of Hiroshima . . .
join us in hanging up 1,000 origami cranes
as paper symbols of living peace --
and let's talk about what we can do
to keep peace alive.

Cranes for Peace
Marshall Peace Park
(south side of Michigan Avenue,
1½ blocks east of the fountain)
3pm • Sunday, August 6

peace comes with signs & symbols

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WHEN: Sunday, August 6 * 3pm

WHERE: Marshall Peace Park
south side of Michigan Avenue, 1-1/2 blocks east of the fountain

The Peace Park features a peace pole and markers honoring Marshall's Sister City relationship with Kôka-Chô, Japan.

WHO: Ann La Pietra, longtime peace advocate in Marshall, will lead the event. Members of other area groups working for peace have been invited to join in. Individuals who want to work for peace are welcome to attend.

WHAT: Hanging of 1,000 (or more) origami cranes on the 61st anniversary of the atom-bomb attack on Hiroshima. The La Pietra family has done this for the past several years at Marshall's Peace Park. Ann's son John, who will be away on this year's anniversary helping the Green Party of Michigan state convention nominate a "Stop the War" slate of candidates, delivered one set of cranes to Hiroshima, hanging them at the monument to radiation victim Sadako Sasaki.

Cranes are a symbol of good luck and peace; there is a Japanese legend that anyone who folds 1,000 cranes gets a wish granted. 50 years ago, Sadako -- a 2-year-old living in Hiroshima when the bomb hit -- started folding cranes . . . hoping to get her wish, recover her health, and run again. Unfortunately, she was still several hundred cranes short of 1,000 when she died of radiation poisoning on October 25, 1955.

http://www.sadako.org/sadakostory.htm

WHY: To come together and hang up 1,000 (or more) cranes as a symbol of our wish for peace -- and, after that, to stay together for a while and talk about what we can do together to keep peace alive.

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DIRECTIONS: The fountain is on a big circle intersection at the west edge of downtown. You can get to that circle:

* from the west by taking Exit 36 (Business Route 94/Michigan Avenue) off I-69 and heading east into town (1.3-1.4 miles);
* from the north by taking Exit 110 (Old US 27) off I-94 and heading south into town (1.5-1.6 miles); or
* from the east by taking Exit 112 (Partello Road/[to] Business Route 94) off I-94 and heading west into town (about 2-1/4 miles . . . but if you get that far, you'll have passed not only all three downtown stoplights, but the Peace Park, too – it's a block and a half ***east*** of the fountain).

There are parking lots behind most of the storefronts on both sides of the three main downtown blocks of Michigan Avenue.

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