

*The John F. Kennedy Center for the
Performing Arts
and the
“The Blue Star of Life” Organizing Committee
present*

“The Blue Star of Life” Dedication Ceremony

For Eternal World Peace and Environmental Conservation

On the occasion of the
160th Anniversary of
the Japan-US Treaty of
Peace and Amity
(Concluded March 31, 1854)



**Friday May 29th,
2015
10:00 am**

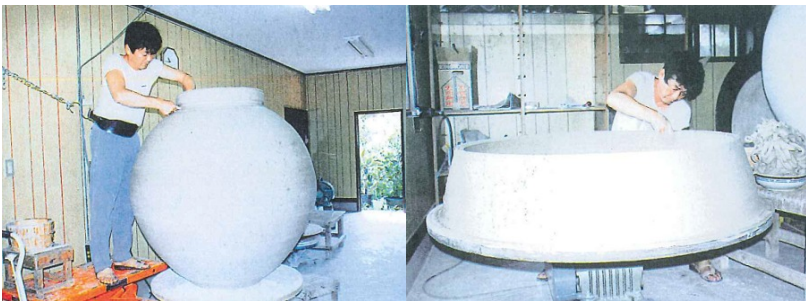
About the Vase

“The Blue Star of Life” is a globe-shaped porcelain vase which was conceived and created by Japanese Artist “Maestro” Shirakata Yasuhiko in Tobe, Ehime Prefecture.

The Blue Star of Life organizing committee has donated a porcelain vase for display in the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater lobby. The artwork to be donated is almost identical to the original vase, housed in the Chamber Lobby of the Palais des Nations at the United Nations in Geneva since 1995.

Since the original dedication, delegations of young people have been dispatched to Geneva every five years to hold a symbolic ceremony of vow renewal in front of the vase.

Today’s ceremony falls on the anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s birth, and will mark the longstanding relationship between the Kennedy Center and the people of Japan.



The Kennedy Center's Relationship With Japan

The people of Japan have supported the mission of the Kennedy Center from its inception. As a gift to mark the 1971 opening of the national cultural center and living memorial to President Kennedy, Japan gave the 3,000-pound red and gold silk curtain for the Opera House stage. In 1975, Japanese Prime Minister Miki presented President Ford with the funds to build the Terrace Theater, fulfilling the Center's need for a small, intimate performance space as a Bicentennial gift from the people of Japan to the United States.

In 1989, the Japan Endowment was created as a result of strengthening economic relations between the countries, enabling the Center to present Japanese performing artists and companies. In 1994, during the Emperor and Empress of Japan's first state visit to the United States, they attended a performance at the Center in their honor featuring young Japanese and American musicians.

In 2008, the Kennedy Center presented a two-week festival that brought together 467 artists from 17 different performing companies in 47 performances of music, dance, and theater, and five exhibits featuring visual arts, design, film, and literature._



Program

Welcome	Deborah F. Rutter <i>President, The Kennedy Center</i>
Emcees	Sarah Moore, <i>Georgetown University</i> Kanako Kimura, <i>Toyo University</i>
Remarks & Unveiling	Ambassador Yoshio Karita <i>Chairperson, Blue Star of Life Committee</i>
Remarks	Ambassador Kristie Kenney <i>Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, United States Department of State</i>
Remarks	Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae <i>Embassy of Japan in the United States</i>
Remarks	Kat Fiske <i>U.S. Student Representative, Georgetown University</i>
Remarks	Enri Tominaga <i>Japanese Student Representative Keio University</i>
Messages	Mrs. Akie Abe <i>First Lady of Japan</i> Read by Utano Shinozaki <i>Japanese Student Representative, Dokkyo University</i> Ambassador Caroline Kennedy <i>Embassy of the United States, Tokyo, Japan</i> Read by Jeff Adler, <i>Public Affairs Asst. Attaché Embassy of the United States, Tokyo, Japan</i> Ms. Sadako Ogata <i>Former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Former President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency</i> Read by Mr. Hajime Takeuchi <i>JICA USA Chief Representative</i>

Program

Messages

Peace Corps Message

Read by Andrew Chapman
*U.S. Student Representative,
Georgetown University*

Ms. Fumiko Hayashi
Mayor of Yokohama City

Read by Ali Nakazono
*Japanese Student Representative,
Meio University*

Pebble Drop

Students representing Japan and the United

States of America led by
Laura Anderson, *Sidwell Friends School*
Ali Nakazono, *Meio University*
Haruka Fukui, *Matsuyama East High School*

Closing Deborah F. Rutter

Remarks President, *The Kennedy Center*

Reception

Terrace Gallery

Student toast led by
Jack Hannah, *Sidwell Friends School*
Haruka Fukui, *Matsuyama East High School*

Student Participants:

Japan

Haruka Fukui, *Matsuyama East High School*
Kanako Kimura, *Toyo University*
Ali Nakazono, *Meio University*
Utano Shinozaki, *Dokkyo University*
Ryusuke Suzuki, *Dokkyo University*
Enri Tominaga, *Keio University*

United States

Laura Anderson, *Sidwell Friends School*
Andrew Chapman, *Georgetown University*
Kat Fiske, *Georgetown University*
Jack Hannah, *Sidwell Friends School*
Sarah Moore, *Georgetown University*

The Organizing Committee

The Blue Star of Life Committee organizes projects where young people from Japan and other countries can convey messages about world peace and environmental conservation to the world. The Committee's intention is to promote friendship among these students and nurture leadership skills through customized events.

The project to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the United Nations Organization started in October, 1995. A globe-shaped porcelain vase named "The Blue Star of Life" was donated to the European Headquarters of the United Nations at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where it still resides in the lobby adjacent to the room once used for the meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

The porcelain globe contains a collection of pebbles from around the world. Since stone in Japanese is "ishi," phonetically the same as "will" in Japanese, these pebbles symbolize the will of the world to seek peace and conserve the environment.

The Committee is scheduled to send a delegation to the European Headquarters of the United Nations and hold a ceremony on October 28, 2015, to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of the U.N., following this honorary dedication of the artwork to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President Kennedy. Under the leadership of Chairman David M. Rubenstein and President Deborah F. Rutter, the nine theaters and stages of the nation's busiest performing arts facility attract audiences and visitors totaling 3 million people annually; Center-related touring productions, television, and radio broadcasts welcome 40 million more.

Opening its doors on September 8, 1971, the Center presents the greatest performances of music, dance, and theater; supports artists in the creation of new work; and serves the nation as a leader in arts education. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the Center's achievements as a commissioner, producer, and nurturer of developing artists have resulted in more than 300 theatrical productions, and dozens of new ballets, operas, and musical works.

Each year, millions of people nationwide take part in innovative, inclusive, and effective education programs initiated by the Center. The Center also has been at the forefront of making the performing arts accessible to persons with disabilities, highlighted by the work accomplished with its affiliate, VSA.



Special Thanks

Supported by:

Embassy of Japan in the United States of America
Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,
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Sponsored by:

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(Co-Founder, S&R Foundation)

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