

World Friendship Center, Hiroshima, Japan
For Immediate Release:

- **J. Kadir Cannon, American artist and peace activist, to present peace movie at World Friendship Center, Hiroshima, Japan and Memorial Hall, Peace Museum, Hiroshima, Japan**
- **Susan Gelber Cannon, peace educator, to speak on American peace education strategies**

Date: Saturday, April 15, 2006
Time: 2-4 pm
Place: World Friendship Center, Hiroshima

Date: Sunday, April 16, 2006
Time: 4-5 pm
Place: Memorial Hall, Peace Museum, Hiroshima



J. Kadir Cannon, American artist and political activist, will present his 31-minute movie, *Who's Telling Our Story?* at Hiroshima's World Friendship Center and at Memorial Hall, Hiroshima's Peace Museum on April 15 and 16. A nationally shown artist in the United States, Kadir Cannon's live narrative performance with words and images depicts the horror and futility of war and urges viewers to "abandon the myth of militarism and embrace the paradigm of peace." The movie, which premiered at Wilmington College's Westheimer Peace Symposium in Ohio has also been shown in movie theatres and colleges in the United States. In addition to the presentations in Hiroshima, Cannon will present his peace movie in Kyoto and Toyohashi, Japan, as well as in Beijing and Shanghai, China. In Asia, Cannon and his wife Susan, a middle school teacher, will collaborate with Asian artists and educators on peace projects during the months of April, May, and June, 2006. In Toyohashi, Japan, on April 23, the couple will join with American and Japanese artists to create the Toyohashi Station International Peace Project, using masks, banners, poetry, and public participation.

Susan Gelber Cannon, an American educator with over 25 years of classroom experience in elementary and middle school, will speak about her methods of "educating for peace in a culture of war" in the United States and will introduce the issues raised by the movie. Susan Cannon's special fields of interest are moral, global, and peace education: developing teaching methods to help children to think, care, and act honorably and globally. Currently on sabbatical, she teaches history and English, as well as debate and other elective courses at The Episcopal Academy, a college preparatory independent school near Philadelphia, PA, in the United States. Cannon has also taught middle school students and teachers in Yangzhou and Rugao, China, in Jiangsu Province. She has given numerous teacher workshops and public presentations in the United States as well. In Japan she will speak in middle schools, high schools, and universities. In China she will present teacher trainings in Xinglong

County, Hebei Province, and at Rugao Normal College, Jiangsu Province. She will speak in schools in Beijing and Shanghai as well.

The son of a Manhattan Project physicist, artist J. Kadir Cannon, uses the work of his father on the atomic bomb in World War II and his father's subsequent efforts to guard against military use of the bomb, to inspire his own efforts to promote peace among the citizens of the world. Like many American scientists in 1945, Vernon Cannon believed the development of atomic power would both defeat Hitler and create an unlimited energy supply for the planet. To his horror, and to the shame of himself and that of many of his scientific colleagues, the bomb was used instead by the American military on civilian targets in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Vernon Cannon was one of the first scientists to become active in early efforts to avert a nuclear arms race. His son, Kadir Cannon, working with his wife Susan, comes to Japan with the desire to build bonds of global citizenship. They hope to learn from the citizens of Hiroshima about the devastating effects of nuclear weapons, as well as to engage in dialogue with artists, educators, and other citizens about the best methods for members of the world community to promote peace education and to work for lasting peace.

At the events in Hiroshima, Kadir Cannon's art images will be on display. These images are seen in his movie and in his anti-war art series, *Anguished Art: Outcries for Peace*. Visit www.jkadircannon.com to learn more about Kadir Cannon's artwork and movie. See Susan Cannon's pages at The Episcopal Academy, Merion, PA (U.S.A.) to learn more about her teaching initiatives at http://www.ea1785.org/Eax_FacultyPage.aspx?euid=1000

For more information about these bilingual events, please contact the World Friendship Center.

A Plea for Peace from Americans and Japanese Working Together

April 23, 2006

Toyohashi Station, Toyohashi, Japan

Toyohashi Station International Peace Project



As Americans and as Japanese we have watched in horror as the United States has chosen the path of nationalism and imperialism and pre-emptive war. Japan took the path of militarism in the past, especially in the 1930s and 1940s. Today, it seems that forces of militarism are moving to change Japan's peaceful constitution. Consider these beautiful words of *Article Nine*:

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

This guiding principle should be the policy of the United States and Japan and of all countries.

We humbly plead that the Japanese people and the American people will choose a peaceful relationship with the rest of the world. It will be we common people who can change and redirect the leaders who are going in the wrong direction.

As citizens of the world, may we reject the ways of nationalism, imperialism, and militarism that harm the human family. May we join together in every country teach our children the ways of peace, respect, cooperation, and peaceful co-existence.

Vote for a peaceful Japan. Work for peace.
Vote for a peaceful United States. Work for peace.
Work for peace in all the world.