



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



40th AWARD of HONOR GALA

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

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MENU

SALAD

Fall Harvest Salad

Baby Arugula, Radicchio, Roasted Butternut Squash, Sliced Apples, Candied Pecans, Dried Cherries and a Pomegranate Vinaigrette

ENTREES

Seared Cod

Cauliflower Puree, Asparagus, Baby Carrot and White Wine Tomato-Basil Sauce

Grilled All-Natural Beef Fillet

Potatoes Au Gratin, Haricot Vert, Roasted Cipollini Onion and Thyme Jus

Coconut Thai Green Curry (Vegetarian/Vegan)

Crisp Fried Tofu, Seasonal Vegetables and Jasmine Rice

DESSERT

Red Velvet Marquise Mousse Cake

Seasonal Fruit Coulis and Vanilla Cremeux

Coffee and Tea

Regular and Decaf Coffee and Rishi Tea Selection

AT THE BAR

Wine

Freeman Vineyard & Winery 2024 West Sonoma Coast, Pinot Noir
Freeman Vineyard & Winery 2024 Ryo-fu, Chardonnay

Sparkling Wine

J. Rog t American Champagne or Cook's California Champagne

Beer and Cocktails

Cash Bar

Soft Drinks

AGENDA

WELCOME REMARKS

Master of Ceremonies: Rickie Koo

Ray Hatoyama | CEO, Hatoyama Studios & Gala Co-Chair
Steve Pollock | President, Japan Society of Northern California

SPECIAL REMARKS AND TOAST

Kotaro Otsuki | Consul General of Japan in San Francisco

DINNER

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Award of Honor

Sandisk, Mr. David Goeckeler, Chairman & CEO

Introduction: Suzanne Basalla | Board Chair, Japan Society of Northern California

World Visionary Award

Netflix, Mr. Greg Peters, Co-CEO

Introduction: Kenton King | Partner, Skadden

NETWORKING BREAK

LIVE PERFORMANCE

Haruka Fujii and Nippon Kobo Ensemble

Ráyo Furuta, Beni Shinohara and Shota Otaguro

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Cultural Ambassador Award

TOHO CO., LTD., Mr. Hiro Matsuoka, President & CEO

Introduction: Ray Hatoyama | CEO, Hatoyama Studios & Gala Co-Chair

Lifetime Achievement Award

Ms. Kathleen Kimura, MBE, Board Director of Japan Society of Northern California

Introduction: Larry Greenwood | Board Director, Japan Society of Northern California

FUND-A-NEED

Steve Pollock | President, Japan Society of Northern California

Ray Hatoyama | CEO, Hatoyama Studios & Gala Co-Chair

Jay Huston | Auctioneer

CLOSING REMARKS

Christine Fisher | Gala Co-Chair, Japan Society of Northern California

GROUP PHOTO

AWARDEES



SANDISK™

Award of Honor Sandisk

Mr. David Goeckeler
Chairman & CEO

David Goeckeler is Chairman and CEO of Sandisk Corporation, a global innovator in flash storage and advanced memory technology with more than 10,000 employees across the United States and Asia. A transformational leader, he has built businesses in semiconductors, networking, and enterprise software.

Previously, Goeckeler was CEO of Western Digital, where he led the company's resurgence as the leading global supplier of data storage products and drove its separation into two public companies. After the February 2025 split, Sandisk and Western Digital ranked first and second in yearly gains among S&P 500 companies. Earlier, he was executive vice president and general manager of Cisco's \$34 billion networking and security business. He began his career at Bell Laboratories.

Goeckeler chairs the U.S.-Japan Business Council at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the boards of ADP and the Semiconductor Industry Association, which he previously chaired, and the University of Illinois College of Engineering's Board of Visitors.



NETFLIX

World Visionary Award

Netflix
Mr. Greg Peters
Co-CEO

Greg Peters was named co-CEO of Netflix in January 2023. Previously, he served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Product Officer. Earlier, Greg was International Development Officer for Netflix. Prior to joining Netflix in 2008, he was Senior Vice President of consumer electronics products for Macrovision Solutions Corp. (later renamed to Rovi Corporation) and previously held positions at digital entertainment software provider, Mediabolic Inc., Red Hat Network, the provider of Linux and Open Source technology, and online vendor Wine.com. Greg holds a B.S. in physics and astronomy from Yale University.



Cultural Ambassador Award

TOHO CO., LTD.

Mr. Hiro Matsuoka
President & CEO

Hiro Matsuoka is President and Chief Executive Officer of TOHO CO., LTD. As CEO of Japan's leading entertainment company, Matsuoka has spearheaded the exponential growth of TOHO's international business, overseeing the production of global hits such as the Academy Award-winning *Godzilla Minus One* and driving the company's strategic global expansion through key acquisitions, including GKIDS and Anime Limited. Under his leadership, TOHO also grossed record earnings in Japan's domestic box office in 2025. Matsuoka holds an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Ms. Kathleen Kimura, MBE

Board Director, Japan Society of Northern California

Kathleen Kimura, MBE, joined the Japan Society in 1974, and her husband Kozo's company, Tokyo Express, later became a corporate member. Elected to the board in 1989, she chaired the Outreach Committee and the Japan Women's Group and was board president from 1995 to 1997. She also served on the National Association of Japan-America Societies board for more than a decade. Her honors include the Consul General of Japan's Award (2011), the Foreign Minister's Commendation (2013), and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays (2014).

Kathleen chairs the Millbrae Japanese Culture Festival and the Millbrae Sister Cities Commission, co-chairs the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Association, and co-founded the California-Japan Sister Cities Network. A former chair of the British American Business Council and a past president of the British Benevolent Society, she received an MBE from Queen Elizabeth II in 2006. She and Kozo have three children and two grandsons.

PAST AWARDEES

Annual Award of Honor Recipients

1987-2025

Every year since 1987, the Society has honored distinguished individuals from both cultures at the Annual Award of Honor Gala. Awards are given to those who have worked to foster better American understanding of Japan and better United States-Japan relations. The first recipients of this award were Edwin O. Reischauer and Haru Matsukata Reischauer.

The complete list of recipients are as follows:

- 2025** His Excellency, Fumio Kishida, Former Prime Minister and Member of the House of Representatives of Japan (Award of Honor) + Hideaki Nishino, President & CEO, Sony Interactive Entertainment, (World Visionary Award) + Hiroshi Kawano, Managing Executive Officer, MUFG Bank (Legacy Partner Award) + Kei Kawai, President, Japan Niantic (Cultural Ambassador Award) + Shinichi Inoue, President & CEO, All Nippon Airways (Kakehashi Award) + Nobuko Saito Cleary, Board Member, Japan Society of Northern California (Humanitarian Award)
- 2024** Koichiro Nakamura (Award of Honor) + Peanuts (Cultural Ambassador Award)
- 2023** YOSHIKI (Award of Honor) + Hello Kitty (Cultural Ambassador Award) + Ira Ehrenpreis, Founder/Managing Partner, DBL Partners (Visionary Award)
- 2022** William F. Hagerty (Award of Honor) + U.S. Senator & Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman, AEON (Humanitarian Award) + Akiko Nakajo, Managing Director, YouTube Partnerships Japan, Google Japan G.K. (Visionary Award)
- 2021** Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer, Moderna, Inc. + Christophe Weber, Chief Executive Officer, Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited
- 2020** His Excellency, Shinzo Abe (Award of Honor) + Ambassador Deborah L. Birs, MD, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator with Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel Prize in Physiology for Medicine (Humanitarian Award)
- 2019** Ben Yoneyama, Chairman, YONEX CO., LTD. + Carl and Yurie Pascarella Executive Advisor, TPG Capital
- 2018** Hiroaki Nakanishi, Executive Chairman, Hitachi + Chairman, Keidanren & William Perry, Former Secretary of Defense
- 2017** David Pearson, CEO, Opus One + Yuzo Kayama, Actor, Artist, & Singer
- 2016** Hiroshi Mikitani, Rakuten, Inc. + Hayao Miyazaki, Animation Director Studio Ghibli (World Imaginator Award)
- 2015** Marc Benioff, Salesforce + Haruo Murase, Canon Marketing Japan Inc. + Nobuyuki Tsujii, Van Cliburn Gold Medal Winner (Music Ambassador)
- 2014** Ambassador John V. Roos + Ken Watanabe, Actor and Humanitarian + MUFG Union Bank, N.A. (Visionary Award)
- 2013** Margrit Biever Mondavi, Robert Mondavi Winery + Kenzo Tsujimoto, Kenzo Estate, Capcom Co., Ltd, Capcom U.S.A., Inc. + Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, 2012 Nobel Prize Winner (World Visionary Award)

- 2012 Georges Desvaux (on behalf of McKinsey & Company)
- 2011 Japanese Ambassador to U.S. Ryozo Kato + William H. Neukom (on behalf of the San Francisco Giants) & Lewis Wolff (on behalf of the Oakland Athletics) + Masanori Murakami (Lifetime Achievement) + Sadaharu Oh (Lifetime Achievement)
- 2010 U.S. Ambassador to Japan J. Thomas Schieffer + Takahiro Moriguchi, JP Morgan Japan + Hatsuro "Hats" Aizawa (Lifetime Achievement)
- 2009 Japanese Ambassador to U.S. Shunji Yanai + Toichi Takenaka, Takenaka Corporation
- 2008 Sakie T. Fukushima, Korn/Ferry International & Kathy Matsui, Goldman Sachs Japan (Women in Business Gala) + Richard Heggie (Lifetime Achievement)
- 2007 Yuzaburo Mogi, Kikkoman + Philip Kan Gotanda, Playwright (Artistic Achievement)
- 2006 Yoshihiko Miyauchi, Orix & A.W. Clausen, Bank of America + Alexander D. Calhoun (Lifetime Achievement)
- 2005 Tatsuhiro Toyoda, Toyota Foundation + Scott Cook, Intuit + Atsuhiko Tateuchi, Tateuchi Foundation (Humanitarian Award)
- 2004 Keiji Tachikawa, NTT Docomo
- 2003 Nobuyuki Idei, Sony Corporation
- 2002 Walt Disney Corporation/Oriental Land Company + Osamu Yamada (Lifetime Achievement)
- 2001 Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta (On behalf of the Japanese American Community)
- 2000 Yotaro Kobayashi, Fuji Xerox
- 1999 James C. Morgan, Applied Materials
- 1998 Norio Ohga, Sony Corporation
- 1997 Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa
- 1996 Dr. Donald Keene, Columbia University
- 1995 U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael H. Armacost + Japanese Ambassador to U.S. Nobuo Matsunaga
- 1994 James Clavell, Novelist + Jesse Takamiyama, Sumo Wrestler
- 1993 Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone + Secretary of State George P. Schultz
- 1992 Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees + Dr. Robert Scalapino, National Committee on United States-China Relations
- 1991 U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Mansfield + Ambassador (and former Consul General in San Francisco) Hiroshi Kitamura
- 1990 U.S. Ambassador to Japan Robert Ingersoll
- 1989 Dr. Robert Ward, Stanford University
- 1988 Japanese Ambassador to U.S. Yoshio Okawara
- 1987 U.S. Ambassadors to Japan Edwin & Haru Matsukata Reischauer

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As of October 1st, 2026

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Walt Disney Family Museum

Yakitori Edomasa

As of October 1st, 2026

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT FUND-A-NEED?

Fund-a-Need is your shining moment to give directly to the critical work of JSNC. Every paddle raised tonight helps fund our Innovation Awards, the U.S.-Japan Healthcare Connection, Arts from Japan, and the countless other ways JSNC builds invaluable connections between Japan and the Bay Area. So if your life has been touched by the Japan Society of Northern California, please find your number, raise your paddle, get generous, and know that your support will keep JSNC strong.

Fund-A-Need (ファンド・ア・ニード)とは、非営利団体のガラなどで行われる寄付プログラムの一つです。あらかじめ設定された寄付金額に応じて、オークショニアの呼びかけに合わせてパドルを上げていただき、団体の活動やミッションを直接ご支援いただくものです。

北カリフォルニア・ジャパソサエティは、1905年に設立された非営利団体で、年間70を超えるイベントやプログラムを実施しています。ビジネス、テクノロジー、文化、教育など幅広い分野での活動を通じて、日本と北カリフォルニアを結び、日米間の交流と相互理解の促進に取り組んでいます。

今夜皆さまが上げてくださる一枚一枚のパドルが、私たちのアクティビティを支え、これからの日米交流をさらに発展させる力となります。ぜひお手元の番号をご確認のうえ、パドルを上げて温かいご支援をお願いいたします!

Sincere thanks to all of our honored guests for your generous support and participation from our 40th Annual Award of Honor Gala Committee:

Rehito Hatoyama (Co-chair), Christine Fisher (Co-chair), Suzanne Basalla, Steve Pollock, Larry Greenwood, Nobuko Saito Cleary, Kathleen Kimura, David Saltzman, Miho Greenberg, John Robinson, and Deidre Foley.

YOUR SUPPORT KEEPS US STRONG.

\$10,000 will fund...

- A signature program organized by JSNC at a premier venue, such as our U.S. Embassy reception in Tokyo; performing artists coming to SF
- A marquee event here in the Bay Area, such as our conference events featuring multiple presentations and speakers

\$5,000 will fund...

- One year of NAJAS (National Association of Japan America Societies) membership, connecting us with 40+ other Japan Societies around the U.S. and giving us access to grant funding for different programs
- Venue rental fees for a large event in the Bay Area or Japan, or travel fees for significant speakers we have invited from Japan

\$3,500 will fund...

- One standard event program such as a sustainability/climate-tech program, *kyudo* demonstration, Tennis Tournament, Biodesign reception at the Consul General's residence, VIP Reception for visiting Japanese politicians, etc.

\$2,000 will fund...

- Office rent for one month
- One panel discussion program (e.g. U.S.-Japan Partnerships in Healthcare, movie screening, program on AI regulations, etc.) or high-level visitor program (Keidanren mission, METI)
- One air ticket (economy class!) to Japan for healthcare or other program event

\$1,000 will fund...

- One Japanese language teacher salary for one group class for one term
- One year of our member management software, one month of bookkeeping support

\$500 will fund...

- One simple speaker program (with a free speaker)
- Zoom subscription for one year
- One small refreshment spread for an in-person event
- One month of website hosting and support

\$250 will fund...

- Textbooks for language teachers for a new class
- A small team lunch for our volunteer interns

\$100 will fund...

- One month of our MailChimp subscription, which we use for newsletters and event announcements to 17,000+ subscribers



