



## Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115 • Tel: 415-567-5505 • Fax: 415-567-4222 • www.jcccnc.org

### PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### JCCCNC 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT WAS AN ECLECTIC GATHERING

SAN FRANCISCO – On the evening of September 24, 2011, more than 400 guests enjoyed wonderful entertainment and award-winning cuisines from Hawaii and Bay Area restaurants at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's (JCCCNC) Annual Event, *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Opening Our Doors*.

The evening's highlights began with a flamenco performance by Los Japonesas Flamencas, while the appetizer stations served delectable bites from the following award-winning San Francisco restaurants: Betelnut; Nombe; Hayes Street Grill; Spice Monkey; La Mar; and Ozumo.

Guests were also treated to desserts donated by Big Island Candies, Diamond Bakery, Hawaiian Host and Benkyodo; drinks from ITO EN, Sapporo, Marlowe Restaurant, Park Tavern Restaurant, Rogue Beer distributors, and Tres Agaves Restaurant; and bags of rice supplied by Nomura and Co. for each guest to take home.

Following a welcome and announcements by co-emcees Mike Inouye of NBC Bay Area and Jan Yanehiro, longtime Bay Area broadcaster, Japan Consul General Hiroshi Inomata gave a sake toast to the crowd. Servers then began to serve the main course from Hawaii's acclaimed Side Street Inn restaurant, which included their famous pork chops, fried rice and poke. Owner Colin Nishida and Executive Chef Chris Manabe flew in to be on hand for the special occasion.

As dinner continued, the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Service Award was presented to Shigeyuki Doi and Yo Hironaka, and the Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award was given to Nobusuke Fukuda.

Another highlight of the evening was when JCCCNC Executive Director Paul Osaki gave a heartwarming presentation on the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund and recognized the 12 guests from Japan who was in San Francisco as part of the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund weeklong mental health training program.

Throughout the evening guests had the chance to bid on approximately 200 silent auction items and four live auction items, including a trip to Japan for two on Japan Airlines in business class and five-night hotel stay donated by Japan Airlines and Kintetsu International; a sushi party for 50 people donated by Chef Alan Hirahara; a five-night, six-day Hawaiian getaway donated by Ed and Janet Chen and Hawaiian Airlines; and a private dinner for eight at the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco donated by the Consulate of Japan in San Francisco.



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The evening's festivities wrapped up with the presentation of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary honorees by Fukami. Yo Hironaka, Kaz Maniwa and Allen Okamoto were honored their dedication and commitment on the JCCCNC Board of Directors for more than 25 years.

"We had an amazing celebration that looked back at what we've done the past 25 years and looking ahead to the future as JCCCNC continues to play a key role in preserving Japanese American heritage, culture, and our legacy," said Dianne Fukami, JCCCNC board president. "We also know the importance of community here – we wouldn't have enjoyed the level of success without our exceptional sponsors and the wonderful participating restaurants"

The presenting sponsors for the sold out event were: AT&T; Union Bank; Japan Airlines; and the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation. Benefactor sponsors were Comcast and Glen S. Fukushima. The media sponsor was NBC Bay Area (Channel 11), and the patron sponsors were: Pacific Gas and Electric Co.; Kikkoman; Wells Fargo; Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California; Minami Tamaki, LLP; and Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation.

For more information about the event or for future sponsorship opportunities, please contact Development Manager, Yumi Yukawa, at (415) 567-5505 or email [yyukawa@jcccnc.org](mailto:yyukawa@jcccnc.org).

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### **About the JCCCNC**

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.