



## **PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release**

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### **2011 Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award and Takeo Okamoto Leadership Award Winners Announced**

San Francisco, CA (September 12, 2011) - Throughout the Nikkei Community are individuals who selflessly give of themselves. This year, the Okamoto Awards will recognize three exceptional individuals who have demonstrated deep concern and long-standing dedication to the Nikkei Community within which they actively participate. The awards, the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award and the Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award, will be presented to the winners at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) Annual Event, scheduled for Saturday, September 24.

In 1988, the Okamoto Family established the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award to recognize an individual(s) who exemplifies Kay's spirit of volunteerism in the Japanese American community. This year, two individuals were selected for the award. They are Yo Hironaka of San Francisco and Shigeyuki Doi of Richmond, CA.

Yo Hironaka has worked tirelessly over several decades on behalf of the Japanese American community in a variety of capacities and organizations. She is a Sunday School teacher at Christ United Presbyterian Church, a 25-year-long board member of the JCCCNC, and a board member of the San Francisco JACL for 20 years, where she organizes the group's annual health fair, "Kenko-No-Hi," and the chapter's annual Crab Feed, where proceeds are donated to a worthy local cause. She is a respected member and recognized face in San Francisco's Japantown, who people turn to for support whenever a community issue or event arises. Those who have worked with her marvel at her long-standing dedication and say she hasn't slowed down one bit.

Shigeyuki Doi, a veteran of the United States Army, served faithfully with the decorated all-Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. He spent his internment years in the concentration camp at Amache, Colorado. He has been described as a thoughtful and efficient volunteer for the East Bay organization, Sakura Kai, where he actively supports all facets the group, especially where seniors are involved. His volunteer efforts have been key in sustaining Sakura Kai, as he faithfully fills in the need for additional and necessary manpower. Those who have worked with



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him describe the honoree as humble and gracious and a well-respected member of the Japanese American community.

The Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award is presented each year to an individual who exhibits the modest and scholarly "spirit" exemplified by Takeo Okamoto's leadership qualities. The honorees of this award are chosen for their values, integrity and years of community service.

This year's recipient, Nobusuke Fukuda, exemplifies all the qualities of the Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award. Now retired, he was employed in the Social Services Department of the City of San Francisco, retiring in 1992 as a child welfare administrator. For nearly 30 years, he has supported the San Francisco Japantown community in a number of capacities. Those who know him say, "Nob's quiet demeanor, his careful approach and his understanding improves the work of all organizations in which he participates."

As a member of the Konko-kyo Church, he has led their Boy Scouts of America Troop 58 for many years, mentoring countless Japantown youth. He is one of the founders of the Japanese Bilingual-Bicultural Program in the San Francisco Unified School District, is a Board member of the Japanese Benevolent Society of California, a member of the Nikkei and Retirement organization of San Francisco, a member of the National Japanese American Historical Society, president of the Japanese American Democratic Club, and a former president and member of the JCCCNC. The honoree is also a member of the San Francisco Barons, a local social club formed after World War II in Japantown.

Each award recipient will receive a total prize of \$1,000. (\$500 in the case of this year's Volunteer Award recipients). One-half is awarded to the recipient and the other half is donated to an organization of the recipient's choice. The awards presentation will take place on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> as part of the JCCCNC Annual fundraising event, "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Opening Our Doors".

For more information about the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Award and Takeo Okamoto Leadership Award, or on the annual event, please contact the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505 or visit their website at [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org)

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### About 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 administrative support and facilities for other local service organizations. The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center based in San Francisco.