



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

Contact:

Lori Matoba, Imatoba@jcccnc.org

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

1840 Sutter Street - San Francisco, CA 94115

415-567-5505 – <http://www.jcccnc.org>

JCCCNC Celebrates the Past and Future at Annual Event

San Francisco (October 3, 2012) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's (JCCCNC) annual fundraising event, *Looking Forward, Giving Back*, held on Saturday, September 29, 2012, hosted a sell-out crowd of over 400 in the Center's Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Community Hall.

"The theme of the event, 'Looking Forward, Giving Back,' represents the important roles youth plays in the future of the culture and the community, and what we all must do to preserve the Japanese culture, history and heritage," mentions Dianne Fukami, JCCCNC Board President. During the event, the JCCCNC honored two outstanding community members who embody the theme of the event - NBC Bay Area and the late Martha Suzuki.

The event was dedicated in memory of Yo Hironaka who passed away on August 30, 2012. Yo was a dedicated community volunteer and advocate who loved serving on countless Boards and committees throughout her lifetime including more than 25 years on the JCCCNC Board of Directors.

The event began with the opening of eight appetizer stations which featured Bay Area and Hawaii restaurants and chefs that included: Bridges, Chotto, Hukilau and Da Kitchen, Il Cane Rosso, Izakaya Juku, La Mar, Ozumo, and Pa'ina. Also at the event was Haamonii, a San Francisco based Shochu manufacturer, who provided free tastings of their satiny smooth shochu in the silent auction room.

The program, emceed by Jan Yanehiro and JCCCNC Board member, Kyle Tatsumoto, commenced with performances by JCCCNC youth programs: Kirakiraboshi, Gen Ensemble, Children's Hula, and Tokyo Ondo; Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Hiroshi Inomata, took the lead on taiko



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

during the Tokyo Ondo performance. A celebratory sake toast followed to officially kick off the event.

Side Street Inn of Honolulu, Hawaii, returned for their second consecutive year as the featured restaurant with Chefs Colin Nishida and Chris Manabe dishing up favorites from last year along with new local style comfort foods including furikake ahi, slow cooked braised short ribs and Big Island smoked pork.

The program continued with a lively Cause Giving roundup raising funds for special JCCCNC programs such as their Digital Leadership Program, annual Colma Cemetery Clean-up, and Children's Day School Visits. A live auction followed featuring a trip for two to Japan courtesy of Japan Airlines and Kintetsu International, a sushi party for 50 people donated by ABS Seafood and Chef Alan Hirahara, and a rare 2012 World Series celebratory champagne bottle used in the San Francisco Giants locker room courtesy of an anonymous donor.

The evening concluded with recognition of the Kay Okamoto Volunteer Service Award which was presented to Mary Ishisaki and the Takeo Okamoto Community Leadership Award presented to William (Bill) Hirose and Florence Hongo.

The JCCCNC would like to thank their generous sponsors for supporting this event, which include: Presenting Sponsors – Comcast, Japan Airlines, The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, and Union Bank; Benefactor Sponsor – AT&T, and Glenn S. Fukushima; Patron Sponsors – Safeway, Hosoda Brothers, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, Kikkoman, Mary Ishisaki, Minami Tamaki, LLP, PG&E, and Wells Fargo Foundation; Community Partners – Always Dream Foundation, Christ United Presbyterian Church, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Dianne Fukami, Dianne Fukami and Jan Yanehiro, Emily Murase, Taniguchi and Friends, Frank and Edith Tanaka, Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, Hosoda Family, Japanese Community Youth Council, Kaz Maniwa and Rumi Okabe, Ken and Yoshiko Ho, Kimura Family, Konko Church, Marilyn Oshiro and Keith Onishi, Mutual Express, Nikkei & Retirement, Noguchi and Osaki Family, Pat & Allen - Grandparents to Chloe and Lucy, Robert and Alicia Sakai, San Francisco Associates, San Francisco Drakes, San Francisco JACL, Teresa Serata and Sherilyn Chew.

This event also would not have been possible without the support of the many volunteers and donors.



Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

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

For more information about the event and for future donor or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Development Manager, Yumi Yukawa, at (415) 567-5505 or email yyukawa@jccnc.org

#