

JAPAN SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

117th ANNIVERSARY
36th
AWARD of HONOR GALA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Thank you for serving our community



**THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPACTFUL THAN DEDICATED PEOPLE
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THOSE WHOSE COMMITMENT IS HELPING CREATE A BETTER
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WELCOME REMARKS

Steve Pollock | President, Japan Society of Northern California
Nobuko Saito Cleary | Gala Chair, Japan Society Gala

SPECIAL REMARKS AND TOAST

Yasushi Noguchi | Consul General
Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco

DINNER

ENTERTAINMENT

Esther Tonea, Vocalist
Marika Yasuda, Pianist

REMEMBRANCE OF SHINZO ABE, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

AWARD OF HONOR PRESENTATIONS

AWARD OF HONOR

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM F. HAGERTY
United States Senator and former United States Ambassador to Japan
Introduction: Larry Greenwood | Chairman of the Board

HUMANITARIAN AWARD

MR. TAKUYA OKADA
Honorary Chair AEON
Introduction: Nobuko Saito Cleary

VISIONARY AWARD

YOUTUBE JAPAN
MS. AKIKO NAKAJO
Managing Director, YouTube Partnerships, Japan
Introduction: Steve Pollock

MAGICIAN

Keith Tyran | Gentleman Magician of San Francisco

LIVE AUCTION & FUND A NEED

Jerry Goldstone | Benefit Auctioneer Specialist

CLOSING REMARKS

Steve Pollock | President, Japan Society of Northern California
Nobuko Saito Cleary | Gala Chair, Japan Society Gala

IN REMEMBRANCE



SHINZO ABE

1954–2022

Prime Minister of Japan—2006–2007, 2012–2020

The Japan Society of Northern California
expresses its deepest gratitude to the

2020 Award of Honor Recipient

*“He was a world leader who could talk at the same level with international dignitaries
and still express genuine kindness with friends and supporters.
His personality was the same before he became prime minister and after his rise to leadership.
His smile mixed with shyness will be missed, as well as the trust he expressed.
I lost my dear friend, and our world is very different now without his leadership.”*

Nobuko Saito Cleary

Chair, 2022 Japan Society of Northern California Gala

AWARD OF HONOR



The Honorable William F. Hagerty

Senator Bill Hagerty was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2020 and proudly represents the great state of Tennessee. He is a member of the following U.S. Senate Committees: Appropriations; Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs; Foreign Relations; and Rules & Administration. Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Hagerty served as the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the world's third largest economy and America's closest ally in the region.

Hagerty is a life-long businessman. He started his business career with the Boston Consulting Group, where his work took him to five continents. He later became a venture capital and private equity investor where he invested in and served as an executive and board member of a wide range of companies. From 2011-2014, Hagerty served as a member of the Governor's Cabinet and commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Hagerty is originally from Sumner County, Tennessee. Today, he and his wife Chrissy live in Davidson County, Tennessee, and have four children.

PROGRAM COVER

White clouds symbolize an optimistic dream of happiness to all on this earth.

With many 'dark clouds' seen around the world, our cover expresses hope for peace, serenity, and love. It further emphasizes the mission of the Japan Society of Northern California:

***Be a bridge between the United States and Japan by
advancing collaboration and understanding in a global context.***



HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Takuya OKADA (97 years-old)

*Founder of AEON Group,
Honorary Chairman and Advisor, AEON Co., Ltd.*

Takuya Okada was born in 1925. In 1964, when he was attending Waseda University, Okada assumed a role as the 7th president of Okada Co., Ltd. (currently known as AEON), a company founded as a kimono

trader. During his tenure, Okada made this business grow into the largest retailer in Japan, which is now worth approximately 8 trillion yen. The foundation of this growth came from his experiences visiting the US 60 years ago, whereby he learned the chain retail store system as well as the importance of corporate social responsibility. Reflecting on his harrowing war experiences, Okada has also sought to promote peaceful societies around the world.

In 1990, Okada's company became the first private corporation in Japan that started a foundation focusing on the global environment. Thus, he has been actively working on conservation activities including the planting of 12.41 million trees with volunteers around the world, with the intention of leaving a healthy Earth, which is the only planet known to possess life, for children of the future.

Okada has also received numerous awards and honors including: the International Retailer Awards from National Retail Mutual Association (NRMA) in 1985; the Medal with Blue Ribbon (Japan); the Order of the British Empire; the Order of the Direkgunabhorn of Thailand (Third Class); Honorary Citizenship award from Beijing; Royal Order of Cambodia, Le Grand Cross; and Honorary Citizenship award of Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



AEON Co., Ltd. Company Data

Operating Revenue: 8,715,900 million yen

Number of Employees: 560,000

Number of Stores: 20,000

Overseas Operation: 15 countries

Number of Customers per Year: 4.4 billion

VISIONARY AWARD



Launched in May 2005, YouTube's mission is to give everyone a voice and show them the world. We believe that everyone deserves to have a voice, and that the world is a better place when we listen, share, and build community.

YOUTUBE CONTRIBUTED OVER ¥350 BILLION TO THE JAPANESE ECONOMY IN 2021

The growing YouTube community generates a huge amount of economic value in Japan—not just for creators but also for businesses, consumers, and workers across the country.

78% of creative entrepreneurs agree they want to use the influence they discovered on YouTube to make a positive impact on society.



Ms. Akiko Nakajo
Managing Director
YouTube Partnerships, Japan
Google Japan G.K.

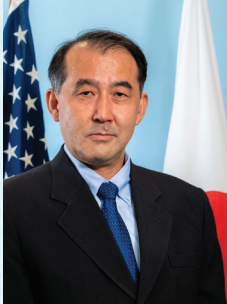
As a representative of YouTube Japan, Akiko has been overseeing YouTube Japan since July 2017, working closely with creators, artists, and media partners to support their success and reach a wide range of people of different ages for various purposes beyond borders. Her priority is also to ensure commitment to responsibly protecting our community. YouTube has been selected as the number one ranked brand in Japan in the general consumer category of the “Brand Japan” in three years consecutively for the first time in its history starting from 2020.

She is a member of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) Broadcast Programs Council (2020-), and serves as a councilor of Waseda University (2022-).

Before her current position, after joining Google in April 2013, she was responsible for advertising sales including entertainment and technology industries followed by launches of Asia-Pacific Google PartnerPlex where Google helps partners develop their innovative visions, strategies, and digitization.

Prior to Google, after working for broadcasters as an anchor person, Akiko served for Bloomberg L.P. as President/Head of Asia Pacific of Bloomberg Television K.K., then was appointed as Head of Sales/Deputy Representative of Bloomberg L.P. in Japan.

CONSUL GENERAL | JSNC PRESIDENT



Yasushi Noguchi

*Consul General
Consulate-General of Japan
in San Francisco*

It is an honor to greet you at the 36th Annual Award of Honor Gala. I would like to congratulate The Honorable William F. Hagerty, U.S. Senator & Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan; Mr. Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman, AEON; and YouTube Japan with acceptance by

Ms. Akiko Nakajo, Managing Director, on receiving the 2022 Award of Honor. These three luminaries have contributed to the promotion of Japan-U.S. relations through their exceptional work in the fields of diplomacy, logistics, and technology.

Throughout its history, the Japan Society of Northern California has played a pivotal role in strengthening the friendship between our countries. As travel between our countries has resumed over the past year, I look forward to seeing that friendship grow. Tonight illustrates the value of the Japan Society's work; by gathering together people who are dedicated to strengthening the Japan-U.S. bond, the Japan Society continues to promote mutual understanding between both nations.

I would like to express my appreciation for Board Chair Larry Greenwood, President Steve Pollock, and Gala Chair Ms. Nobuko Saito Cleary for their tremendous work in organizing this exceptional event. Since I arrived this past September, this is my first time attending the Gala, but I look forward to working with the Japan Society of Northern California as Consul General. I wish the organization, its leadership, and its members continued success in all their future endeavors.



Steve Pollock

*President
Japan Society of Northern California*

Dear Friends,

It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you to the Japan Society's 36th Annual Award of Honor Gala. I sincerely thank you for your generous support for our mission of connecting the Bay Area with Japan.

We get together like this once a year to recognize and celebrate several individuals and organizations who have made extraordinary contributions to Japan, the United States and the relationship between the countries. This year, we are delighted to recognize the contributions of Senator William Hagerty, former US Ambassador to Japan, Chairman Takuya Okada of AEON Group, and YouTube Japan. We will hear more about their many contributions this evening.

This is a special evening for me. As most of you know, this is my first Gala as president of the Japan Society, so I particularly appreciate your presence and support. One of my main goals as president is to extend the reach and impact of the organization. The financial support from this event will allow us to continue to conduct high quality programming in the coming year in many areas - entrepreneurship and innovation, business, policy, healthcare, as well as culture, language and the arts. But I also hope that this Gala will serve to create and deepen our connections with new and long-time friends who share a deep commitment to strengthening ties between the US and Japan.

I would especially like to thank the many people who have made this evening possible, including our board chair, Larry Greenwood, my predecessor Takahide Akiyama, and our tireless and amazing Gala Chair, Nobuko Saito Cleary, as well as our board of directors and our small but dedicated team that puts in the hard work behind the scenes to make all of our events run smoothly. Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your generous support and presence this evening. I look forward to seeing you at many more events and activities throughout the coming year.

BOARD CHAIRMAN | GALA CHAIR



Larry Greenwood

*Chairman of the Board
Japan Society of Northern California*

As we learn to live with COVID, we are returning to the world outside our homes, meeting friends, and congregating in our communities. Zoom is wonderful, but in the end cannot take the place of a handshake, a hug, or a random smile. We are grateful that we can at last meet in person and travel freely to and from Japan.

By depriving us of human contact, the pandemic underscored the basic truth that relations between great nations are built on grassroots friendships. 117 years ago, the Japan Society was created to promote mutual understanding and fight discrimination against Japanese. That work continues today with our more than 40 programs in the Bay Area and Japan in 2022.

Our three awardees this evening epitomize those human connections. Senator Bill Hagerty as US Ambassador was literally America's face in Japan. Through his travel and media presence, he showed his deep respect and affection for Japan where he had worked as a young man. Takuya Okada was not content simply to steer AEON, Japan's largest retailer, to become a global player, but used his wealth to better the lives of others who struggle with environmental degradation and poverty. YouTube Japan is a powerful platform that every day allows Japanese and American creators to share their interests and perspectives in many millions of views.

I would like to thank Gala Chair Nobuko Saito Cleary for her masterful planning of the Gala Dinner; President Steve Pollock and his predecessor Takahide Akiyama for their leadership of the Society over the past year; our Board of Directors for their wise advice; the Society's staff for the hard work of putting on more than 40 programs this year; and all our sponsors without whose support we could not do a single program. And most of all, thank YOU all this evening for your valuable support of our mission.



Nobuko Saito Cleary

*Gala Chair, Executive Board
Japan Society of Northern California*

Esteemed Guests,

Thank you for joining us for the 116th Anniversary of the Japan Society of Northern California. Our three founders, San Mateo attorney Henry Pike Bowie, Stanford University president David Starr Jordan, and San Francisco Consul

Kisaburo Ueno established the organization on October 7, 1905, to increase knowledge and promote U.S. – Japan relationships.

Last year, we were pleased that we could finally have an in-person gala. Today, I am excited that we can welcome and greet you in person again at the 36th Award of Honor Gala.

Tonight, our Award of Honor will be presented to U.S. Senator and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, The Honorable William F. Hagerty. We acknowledge his work as ambassador when so many U.S./Japan connections were made.

Our Humanitarian Award will recognize the lifelong work of Mr. Takuya Okada, honorary chairman of AEON. He has led AEON successfully, not only on a worldwide scale, but he has accomplished so much in the areas of environmental and humanitarian programs. His vision and leadership have continually provided beneficial programs to many countries and their citizens.

And we are proud to present the Visionary Award to YouTube Japan, with Akiko Nakajo, Managing Director, accepting. Their company is at the forefront of present and future communications internationally. As Gala chair, I feel truly honored that these great awardees will join the ranks of other honorees through Japan Society's history.

I am grateful to the generosity of many friends and sponsors. I welcome Consul General Yasushi Noguchi. The Consulate-General of Japan in S.F. continually supports JSNC. I also extend my appreciation to Chairman Larry Greenwood, President Steve Pollock, the Gala Committee and the JSNC staff.

Most especially, I thank all of you for attending tonight and supporting the positive mission of friendship between countries. The clouds on the program cover speak to the peace that we seek and the promise of mutual respect and understanding. Join me in this wish as we enjoy this evening.

MENU

MENU

Salad

Endive & Pear Salad

*Endives, D'Anjou Pear, Persimmon Slices,
Point Reyes Blue Cheese, Walnut Dijon Vinaigrette*

Entrees

Grilled Ora King Salmon

Fennel, Nicoise Olive Tapenade, Champagne Lemon Sauce

Seared Filet of Beef

Potato Galette, Romanesco Broccolini, Red Wine Demi Glaze

Vegetarian

Roasted Autumn Vegetable Vol Au Vent, Roasted Onion Beurre Blanc

Dessert

(alternating)

Chocolate Hazelnut Gianduja

*Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Center, Roasted Hazelnut Pieces,
Chocolate Glaze and Hazelnut Crunch Garnish*

Cheesecake

Lemon Curd, Raspberry Drizzle

Coffee/Teas

Thank you to our generous wine donors

Freeman Winery

Suzuki-Marketing

ENTERTAINERS



Esther Tonea

Praised for her “dramatic excellence, flexibility, and beauty of her singing” by Classical Voice North America, Romanian American soprano and third-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow Esther Tonea has appeared in concert and recital across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Tonea won the 2022 Grand Finals of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition as well as the New York Lyric Opera National Competition, Holt Memorial Competition, Hennings-Fischer Young Artist Competition, and Concerto Competitions at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and University of Georgia. Tonea is a Presser Scholar and recipient of the Richard F. Gold Career Grant.

She holds a Master of Music in Voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in vocal performance and cello performance from the University of Georgia.



Marika Yasuda

Marika Yasuda is a first-year pianist/vocal coach in San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowship Program. She is a recent Master of Music graduate of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where she is a doctoral candidate in Collaborative Piano. Her Bachelor of Music is from Oberlin Conservatory.

As a soloist, she has received top prizes including the Hellam Young Artists' Competition, Virginia Waring International Piano Competition, and Julia Crane International Piano Competition, and was named a winner of the 2015 Oberlin Conservatory Concerto Competition.

As a collaborative pianist, Yasuda has worked with opera, vocal, and instrumental music organizations throughout the U.S., including engagements at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Bennett Gordon Hall, and Herbst Theatre. She has held fellowships that include the Merola Opera Program, Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Tanglewood Music Center, SongFest, and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.



Jerry Goldstone

Jerry Goldstone is one of Northern California's premiere Fundraising Auctioneers, each year helping non-profits raise millions of dollars for their organizations. With over 20 years of experience as an auctioneer, business speaker and entertainer comedian, he inspires every guest to have fun and feel good about giving. Jerry is a native

San Franciscan and holds the designation of Benefit Auctioneer Specialist from the National Auctioneers Association. Jerry has been a featured and favored auctioneer for the Japan Society of Northern California galas through the years.



Keith Tyran

Keith Tyran, aka The Gentleman Magician, has studied magic intently over the past 10 years. Keith has performed at private events including the St. Francis Yacht Club, Barn Diva, and Wells Fargo. Learning from famous master magician Joe Pon, Keith is known for delighting audiences with his

charm across Northern California!

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Hilary Ley – New York Metropolitan Opera
Memorial and Performing Arts Center
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Yasuko Naiki, Kimiko Takahashi – Satsuki Kai
Mark Shigenaga – Photographer
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Christina Sue – Graphic Designer
Suzuki-Marketing – Wine
Keith Tyran – Magician
Gala Volunteers
Christopher Wiseman

PAST AWARDEES

Award of Honor Gala History

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, "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 on March 11, 1987. The complete list of recipients are as follows:

2022 William Hagerty, U.S. Senator & Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan (Award of Honor)
Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman, AEON (Humanitarian Award)
YouTube Japan (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. Birsx, MD, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator & Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (Humanitarian Award)

2019 Ben Yoneyama, Chairman, YONEX CO., LTD. & Carl and Yurie Pascarella Executive Advisor, TPG Capital

2018 Hiroaki Nakanishi, Executive Chairman, Hitachi and 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 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 Tatsuro 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

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2022 Gala Award Recipients

Mr. William Hagerty | Mr. Takuya Okada | Ms. Akiko Nakajo



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**Dr. Gary W. Cleary and
Nobuko Saito Cleary**

Congratulate

**Award of Honor
The Honorable William F. Hagerty**

**Humanitarian Award
Mr. Takuya Okada, Honorary Chair,
AEON**

**Visionary Award
YouTube Japan,
Ms. Akiko Nakajo, Managing Director**

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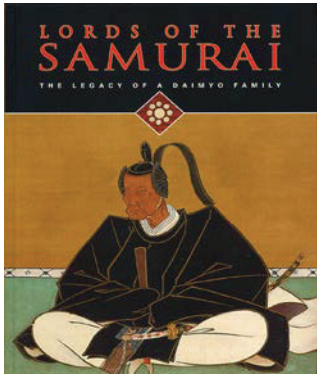
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programs

Past Community Collaborations

JSNC looks forward to more in the future



Asian Art Museum
Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa,
Dr. Gary Cleary



Nobuyuki Tsujii



Nomura Mansaku
Mansaku no Kai



**Japan Society was thrilled with
the success of our first-ever 2-day, 2-city
Healthcare Conference in Japan.**





After (2022)

TAKUYA OKADA, the founder of AEON Group, established AEON Environmental Foundation in 1990 as the first independent corporate foundation in Japan, focused on global environment. Since then AEON has promoted various environmental projects around the world. One of them is Tree-planting. This year the number of trees planted by AEON has reached over 12.41 million.

Photos: AEON Forest in Paya Indah Wetlands Reserve, Malaysia, in 2004 during the first Tree-planting, and in 2022 after the trees have grown.



Before (2004)