115TH ANNIVERSARY
34TH AWARD OF HONOR GALA
FRIDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2020
Trust and experience make a strong partnership

MUFG Union Bank® is proud to support the Japan Society of Northern California.
JAPAN SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

welcomes you to the

34th Annual Award of Honor Gala
December 4, 2020
5:00 pm

Award of Honor
His Excellency Shinzo Abe
Former Prime Minister of Japan

Humanitarian Award
Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D.
Ambassador Deborah Birx, M.D.

VIP Reception
6:00 pm

Ambassador Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Japanese Embassy, U.S.
Joseph M. Young, Charge d’Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Japan

PROGRAM COVER
Cover Art: Fine Evening on the Coast in Tsushima Province
Artist: Hiroshige Utagawa (1797-1858)

In this unusual year of the pandemic, the rainbow depicts today’s theme of Hope for the Future.
The two boats at the forefront allude to the historic arrival of the Kanrin Maru on U.S. shores.

The serene waters symbolize the ocean that connects Japan with the U.S. – acknowledging the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese Consulate-General in San Francisco.

This art piece, from the series Famous Views of the Sixty-odd Provinces, illustrates the appreciation of shared cultures that the Japan Society of Northern California has promoted in its 115 years.
PROGRAM

WELCOME REMARKS
Jon Metzler, Chairman of the Board, Japan Society of Northern California
Nobuko Saito Cleary, Chair, Japan Society Gala; Executive Board, JSNC

COMMENORATING 150 YEARS – CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN IN SAN FRANCISCO
Toru Maeda, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco

CELEBRATING 115 YEARS – PHOTOS OF JAPAN SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HUMANITARIAN AWARD
Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D.
Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, M.D.
Introduced by Nobuko Saito Cleary

ENTERTAINMENT
Zuiho Taiko, Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan

2020 AWARD OF HONOR
His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Former Prime Minister of Japan
Introduced by Takahide Akiyama

CLOSING REMARKS
Takahide Akiyama, President, Japan Society of Northern California
Nobuko Saito Cleary, Chair, Japan Society Gala; Executive Board, JSNC
Mr. Shinzo Abe, Former Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan, is the longest serving prime minister in Japan’s history. He served two times as prime minister, the latest starting in 2012 where he was elected three times to the position. He recently resigned, due to health conditions.

He was the President of the Liberal Democratic party during his terms as prime minister, in 2006 – 2007 and from 2012 - 2020.

He was born in Tokyo in 1954 to a prominent political family. Both his grandfather and great uncle served as prime minister and his father was a former secretary general of the LDP. He graduated from the Department of Political Science, the Faculty of Law, Seikei University and also studied politics at the University of Southern California.

In 1993, he was elected to the House of Representatives and, eventually, was reelected seven times and held a number of cabinet positions. In 2003, he became secretary general of the LDP. Four years later, he became the party’s president and was subsequently confirmed as prime minister of Japan, becoming the youngest post-war prime minister and the first to be born after World War II. After stepping down due to health reasons in 2007, he eventually returned to both positions in 2012.

On the world stage, Mr. Abe has served as Chair of the Group of Seven and as Chair of the Group of 20. A major domestic achievement was securing the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which has been postponed until 2021, due to the coronavirus pandemic. World leaders have lauded his achievements, including UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson who stated that he had achieved great things as PM of Japan, and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who called Abe a man of integrity and wisdom.
Humanitarian Award

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka is a Senior Investigator and the L.K. Whittier Foundation Investigator in Stem Cell Biology at the Gladstone Institute for Cardiovascular Disease (GICD). Dr. Yamanaka is also a Professor of Anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco, as well as the Director of the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) and a Principal Investigator at the Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences at Kyoto University.

After spending several years at the Gladstone Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, he returned to Osaka, but later moved to the Nara Institute of Science and Technology, where he began his Nobel Prize–awarded research. He returned to San Francisco in 2007 and assumed his current positions at UCSF, while also at Kyoto University.

Dr. Yamanaka’s research focuses on ways to generate cells resembling embryonic stem cells by reprogramming somatic, or skin, cells. He seeks to understand the molecular mechanisms that underlie pluripotency and the rapid proliferation of embryonic stem cells—they can become any type of cell in the body—and to identify the factors that induce reprogramming.

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to Dr. Yamanaka and Sir John B. Gurdon in 2012. He received the 2010 BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the biomedicine category, the 2011 Wolf Prize in Medicine with Rudolf Jaenisch and the 2012 Millennium Technology Prize together with Linus Torvalds. In 2013 he was awarded the $3 million Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for his work.
Humanitarian Award

Ambassador Deborah Birx, M.D.

Ambassador-at-Large, Deborah L. Birx, M.D., is the Coronavirus Response Coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force since February, 2020. She is the Coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy. Ambassador Birx is a world-renowned medical expert and leader in the field of HIV/AIDS. Her three-decades-long career has focused on HIV/AIDS immunology, vaccine research, and global health.

As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Birx oversees the implementation of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, as well as all U.S. Government engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Serving as the U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, she aligns the U.S. Government’s diplomacy with foreign assistance programs that address global health challenges and accelerate progress toward achieving an AIDS-free generation; ending preventable child and maternal deaths; and preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious disease threats.

Ambassador Birx has published over 220 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, authored nearly a dozen chapters in scientific publications, as well as developed and patented vaccines. Her numerous awards include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, two U.S. Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit Award during her tenure at the Department of Defense (DoD), and the prestigious William C. Watson, Jr. Medal of Excellence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
VIP Reception

VIP RECEPTION

Opening Remarks
Takahide Akiyama, President, Japan Society of Northern California

Speakers
His Excellency, Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Japanese Ambassador to the U.S.
His Excellency, Joseph M. Young, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim, U.S. Embassy Tokyo, Japan

Special Guests
Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, Toru Maeda
  His Excellency John Roos
Former Consuls General of Japan in San Francisco
  His Excellency Nobuaki Tanaka
  His Excellency Hiroshi Inomata
  His Excellency Masato Watanabe
  His Excellency Tomochika Uyama

Breakout Room Hosts
Takahide Akiyama
Nobuko Saito Cleary
Larry Greenwood
Kathleen Kimura
  Kevin Kuhn
  Jon Metzler
  David Salzman
  Tomohiko Taniguchi
  Satoru Watanabe

Closing Remarks
Nobuko Saito Cleary, Gala Chair, Japan Society of Northern California
Dear President Akiyama & Chair Saito Cleary,

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you and your members on the 115th anniversary of the Japan Society of Northern California and on hosting what I am sure will be a successful Award of Honor Gala. I also wish to congratulate former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for receiving this year’s Award of Honor, and White House Coronavirus Task Force Chief Deborah Birx and Nobel Prize Winner Dr. Shinya Yamanaka for both receiving the Society’s Humanitarian Award.

The Japan Society has been and continues to be a key partner in the long-standing and deep friendship between California and Japan, and I sincerely appreciate all you have done to foster and promote this important relationship.

Although I am unable to participate, I wish you success with the gala and look forward to continuing to work closely with you, the many representatives of Japan in California, and the nearly 300,000 Californians of Japanese descent to continue to build on our close partnership.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
It's an honor to greet you at the 34th Annual Award of Honor Gala. In light of holding this annual gala virtually for the very first time, I’d like to commend the Japan Society of Northern California, President Takahide Akiyama, and Gala Chair, Ms. Nobuko Saito Cleary for organizing yet another wonderful event.

2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, as well as the 115th anniversary of the Japan Society of Northern California. For more than a century, we have enjoyed close partnership in enhancing understanding of Japan and promoting cooperation between our countries. This year, even faced by many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Japan Society on Northern California continues to serve as a center of knowledge, networking, and collaboration for people and organizations in the Bay Area who share an interest in Japan.

The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco will continue to work closely with the Japan Society and its activities to further strengthen Japan-U.S. collaboration in Northern California. I wish the Japan Society continued success and look forward to building upon our enduring partnership.

Friends - welcome to our 34th Annual Award of Honor Gala.

Tonight is truly a special night - we welcome leaders from the fields of science, public health, and state and global leadership. Joining us today are: former Prime Minister of Japan Abe Shinzo; Japan’s longest-serving prime minister; immunologist, diplomat and global health specialist Deborah Birx; California Governor Gavin Newsom; and Nobel laureate Yamanaka Shinya. It is a delight to welcome them here tonight. We are grateful for their presence, and to you for your support and friendship. I also want to thank our Gala chair, Nobuko Saito Cleary, and our president, Takahide Akiyama, in making tonight’s event possible.

The year since our 2019 Gala has been consequential. From trial and tribulation have come new ambition and innovation. I want to salute the team, who transformed a 115-year-old non-profit into a digital-first organization. There was no manual to follow in doing this. Not only did they take this Gala; our Bay Area-leading Japanese language program; our annual Innovation Awards; and other programming online, but also in a matter of months launched a new pillar program, our MedTech Forum with partner US-Japan MedTech Frontiers. In doing so we’ve grown our audience both in the U.S. and in Japan. The team also deepened our programming in the fields of music, cuisine and culture.

The team did this with their usual thrift in challenging times. We thank them, and thank you for your support and presence here tonight. Your support matters, and helps us deliver on our mission of building bridges between Japan and Northern California. Thank you for being with us tonight.
Warm welcome to our 34th Annual Award of Honor Gala as we celebrate our 115th anniversary. This year’s Annual Gala is special in the sense that it is held online for the first time and that it is held in a year to celebrate the 160th year of the arrival of Kanrinmaru in San Francisco and the 150th year of Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco as the first foreign office of the Japanese government in the U.S.

Our tradition of presenting awards to special people who have made tremendous contributions to advancing the relationship between the two countries continues this year and it is our greatest pleasure to present the Award of Honor to former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe and the Humanitarian Award to Dr. Deborah Birx and to Dr. Shinya Yamanaka.

Our mission to promote the understanding and friendship between the U.S. and Japan does not change under any circumstances and I am pleased to inform you that, for that purpose, we are able to continue to present as many events this year as in the previous years by switching quickly to online. This has been made possible by the challenging spirit of our small but dedicated team and by continued encouragement and support from many corporate sponsors and collaborators and individual members as well as our board members. Thank you.

Our board did a strategic review earlier this year and confirmed our emphasis on further connecting the Silicon Valley/San Francisco ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship with Japan. We will continue to evolve in the right way in this changing world and to fulfill our mission in the years to come. Thank you very much for your participation and continued support.

Esteemed guests,

Thank you for joining us for the 115th 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.

This year we are facing new challenges of the California wildfires and the Coronavirus. Yet, we have surmounted these difficulties to present a virtual gala that will honor our special awardees.

Tonight, our Award of Honor will be presented to former Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, internationally recognized as a successful leader. And the Humanitarian award honors Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D., 2012 Nobel Prize winner and my special friend, and Ambassador Deborah Birx M.D., of the White House Corona Virus Commission. 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 back past Consuls General who continue their support of JSNC. I also extend my appreciation to Chairman Jon Metzler, President Takahide Akiyama, the Gala Committee and the JSNC staff.

This year is special as we celebrate the 160th year of the arrival of the Kanrin Maru to U.S. shores, the 150th Anniversary of the Consulate-General of Japan in S.F., and the 115th Anniversary of the Japan Society of Northern California. With determination and creativity, we were able to have this event virtually. Congratulations to the honorees and thank you to everyone for attending and supporting the Japan Society Northern California.
On October 7, 1905, amidst a hostile environment of fear and prejudice on both sides of the Pacific, these three men founded the Japan Society, to spread knowledge of Japanese arts, industry, history, customs and to promote U.S.–Japan cooperation. Following are photos that highlight some of the successes that have come from their vision.
Zuiho Taiko

This professional Japanese drum ensemble is from Nagasaki Prefecture and performs over 100 programs a year in Japan and internationally. The members have intellectual disabilities and their dynamic performances are an opportunity to witness a more inclusive society. They have been invited to perform at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., at a United Nations event and in France at one of the largest concert venues. Their performance at the gala will be from the documentary, “Challenged” – a film by renowned director, Kenichi Oguri, that chronicles the story of this remarkable performance troupe.

Kenichi Oguri

After working under renowned Japanese directors, including Nakahira Ko and Kinji Fukasaku, Mr. Oguri established his own independent production company in 1981. Throughout his 39 years career as a filmmaker, he has produced and directed 11 film and TV feature and short length documentaries. His works have been selected by international film festivals and received multiple awards. Documenting stories of people with intellectual disabilities has become his life’s work. “Challenged” is the fifth film of the series and the second on Zuiho Taiko.
Japan Society of Northern California Annual Award of Honor Recipients 1987-2019

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:

2019
Mr. Ben Yoneyama, Chairman, YONEX CO., LTD.
& Mr. Carl & Mrs. 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 & Yuzu 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 Blever Mondavi, Robert Mondavi Winery & Kenzo Tsuchimoto, 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 Schieffler & 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 Yasuhiko 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. Ambassador to Japan Edwin & Haru Matsukata Reischauer

Annual Award of Honor Recipients
34th Award of Honor Gala Sponsors

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A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to the Napa Valley Invictus Fund, created by the Harlan Family, for victims of the California wildfires.
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2020 Gala Award Recipients

HIS EXCELLENCY, SHINZO ABE
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DR. SHINYA YAMANAKA

Congratulations to Japan Society

Jeff Morgan
Founder and Executive Director

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Nobuko Saito and Dr. Gary W. Cleary offer sincere congratulations to

His Excellency Shinzo Abe
Former Prime Minister of Japan
Award of Honor Recipient

and

Dr. Shinya Yamanaka and
Dr. Deborah Birx
Humanitarian Award Recipients

Best Wishes to the Society on 115
Years of Success

Congratulations to
The Japan Society of Northern California
& Honorees

Scott Cook
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It's that courage to leap into the unknown. That constant thirst for a challenge. And we love a good challenge.

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JSNC looks forward to more in the future

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

Nomura Mansaku
Mansaku no Kai

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