2014 AWARD OF HONOR GALA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2014
WELCOME

JAPAN SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA’S
2014 ANNUAL AWARD OF HONOR GALA
NOBUKO SAITO CLEARY, GALA CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE GALA COMMITTEE, AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOME YOU TO

JAPAN SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA’S 2014 ANNUAL AWARD OF HONOR GALA

Saturday, November 22, 2014
The Westin St. Francis San Francisco on Union Square
335 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA

VIP Reception: ............................. 5:30 pm
General Reception & Silent Auction:............. 6:00 pm
Dinner Program: ................................ 7:00 pm

PRESENTING OUR AWARD OF HONOR TO
Ambassador John V. Roos
Ken Watanabe, Actor and Humanitarian

PRESENTING OUR VISIONARY AWARD TO
MUFG Union Bank, N.A.
PROGRAM

WELCOME
Isao ‘Steve’ Matsuura, Board Chair

REMARKS
Nobuko Saito Cleary, 2014 Gala Chair

TOAST
The Honorable Masato Watanabe,
Consul General of Japan in San Francisco

ENTERTAINMENT
Pasquale Esposito
San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra
Introduced by Jillian Manus

BENEFIT AUCTION
Chad Carvey, “The Principal Auctioneer”

AWARD OF HONOR
Ambassador John V. Roos
Introduced by Ambassador Michael H. Armacost

Ken Watanabe, Actor and Humanitarian
Introduced by Secretary Norman Y. Mineta

VISIONARY AWARD
Masashi Oka, Executive Chairman, accepting on behalf of MUFG Union Bank, N.A.
Introduced by Secretary Norman Y. Mineta

CLOSING REMARKS
Nobuko Saito Cleary and
Thomas P. Logan, Executive Director
DINNER MENU

FIRST COURSE

ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH BISQUE WITH CINNAMON CRÈME FRAÎCHE

ENTRÉE

ROASTED CALIFORNIA HALIBUT FILET, GRILLED HERB POLENTA CAKE, BROCCOLINI, ROASTED MEDLEY OF SQUASH POMEGRANATE, MERLOT REDUCTION

FILET OF ANGUS BEEF, HERBED PANKO CRUST GRILLED POTATO PANCAKE, ROASTED CARROTS, WILD MUSHROOMS ZINFANDEL REDUCTION

DESSERT

CHOCOLATE TRÉSOR CHOCOLATE MOUSSE, ANISETTÉ CRÈME BRÛLÉE IN THE CENTER, VANILLA SAUCE

WINE GENEROUSLY DONATED BY ROBERT MONDAVI WINERY

2013 ROBERT MONDAVI WINERY FUME BLANC, NAPA VALLEY
John V. Roos was the United States Ambassador to Japan from August 2009 - August 2013. On Aug. 6, 2010 he became the first sitting U.S. Ambassador ever to attend the commemoration ceremony of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. Ambassador Roos’ service in Tokyo coincided with the devastating 9.0 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis on March 11, 2011. Following this tragedy, Ambassador Roos led the American effort on the ground in support of Japan’s response to the multi-dimensional and unprecedented disaster. After the crisis, Ambassador Roos also led the creation of the TOMODACHI Initiative, a public-private partnership that has raised more than thirty million dollars and established more than 40 exchange programs.

Ambassador Roos is a member of the Board of Directors at salesforce and Sony Corporation and the Global Advisory Board of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group. Previously, Ambassador Roos served as Chief Executive Officer and Senior Partner at Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich, & Rosati, the leading law firm in the United States in the representation of technology, life sciences, and emerging growth companies. Ambassador Roos is a graduate with honors and distinction from Stanford University and from Stanford Law School where he was Order of the Coif.
Ken Watanabe began his acting career with the Tokyo-based theater company En. His performance in En’s Shitaya Mannen-cho Monogatari, directed by Yukio Ninawara, first brought the actor to the attention of Japanese critics and theatre audiences alike. His Japanese theatre credits include Hamlet, The Lion in Winter, and The Royal Hunt of the Sun. Last year, Watanabe returned to the Tokyo and Osaka stages in the critically acclaimed comedy Dialogue with Horowitz by Koki Mitani. Both runs were sold out and the production was subsequently filmed for and broadcast on Japanese television.

For his work in film, Watanabe received Oscar, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild award nominations for The Last Samurai. In Japan, he has won, among other awards, the Japan Academy Prize for Best Actor twice, for his work in Memories of Tomorrow and Shizumanu Taiyo. His motion picture credits in the US include Inception, Letters from Iwo Jima, Memoirs of a Geisha, Batman Begins and Godzilla. Watanabe recently completed Gus Van Sant’s Sea of Trees, and is preparing next for Martin Scorsese’s Silence.

Next Spring, Watanabe will be making his American stage debut in Lincoln Center’s revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s The King and I.
Masashi Oka is Executive Chairman of MUFG Americas Holdings and its wholly-owned US banking subsidiary, MUFG Union Bank, the oldest commercial bank in the Western United States. Founded in 1864 as The Bank of California by William Ralston, it has played a vital part in San Francisco history for 150 years and maintained deep ties to Japan for more than a century. In 2013, the bank was named the most reputable bank in the nation by American Banker Magazine and The Reputation Institute, based on a nationwide survey of bank customers. Immediately prior, Oka was President & CEO of Union Bank and CEO for the Americas for The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, both members of Tokyo-based Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. MUFG is one of the world’s largest financial organizations, with which Union Bank has been associated for more than 30 years. Under Oka’s leadership, on July 1st this year MUFG integrated all its resources throughout the Americas, including Union Bank, into one unified organization doing business as MUFG Union Bank, with more than 12,000 employees, offices across the US, assets of $109 billion and strong capital and credit ratings. MUFG Union Bank offers services to retail, wealth, commercial and corporate banking customers, including trust and estate, investment management, capital markets and global transaction banking services. Its parent, MUFG, has assets of approximately $2.5 trillion.
Michael Armacost graduated with a B.A. from Carleton College as well as a masters and doctorate in public law and government from Columbia University. He began his professional life as an instructor of government at Pomona College in 1962. He entered the State Department in 1969 as a White House Fellow, and remained in public service for 24 years. During that time he held sensitive international security positions in the State Department, Defense Department and the National Security Council. These included Ambassador to the Philippines from 1982-1984, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs from 1984-1989 and Ambassador to Japan from 1989-1993. Armacost subsequently served as President of The Brookings Institution from 1995-2002.

Since 2002, he has been a Shorenstein Distinguished Fellow at Shorenstein APARC. Armacost has authored three books including Friends or Rivals? and edited The Future of America’s Alliances in Northeast Asia. He recently chaired the board of The Asia Foundation, and has served as a director on a number of public corporations. He has received the President’s Distinguished Service Award, The Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Award, the Defense Department’s Distinguished Civilian Service Award, and the Japanese government’s Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has the unique perspective of having served in Congress for over 20 years and in the Cabinets of both Republican and Democratic presidents.

For almost 30 years, Secretary Mineta represented San Jose city council member and mayor, then advancing to Congress for 20 years. He worked to encourage new industries and spur job growth through infrastructure development.

While in Congress, he co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and was Chair of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission in 1997. Then in 2000, Secretary Mineta was appointed by President Clinton as the Secretary of Commerce. At Commerce, he was known for his work on technology issues and for achieving international cooperation on complex industry and trade issues.

Secretary Mineta served as Secretary of Transportation by President George W. Bush and guided the creation of the TSA following the September 11 attacks. Since 2006, Secretary Mineta has been Vice Chairman of Hill & Knowlton based in its Washington, DC office, providing counsel and strategic advice to clients on a wide range of business and political issues. Secretary Mineta has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.
It is my great pleasure to extend greetings to you on the occasion of the Japan Society of Northern California’s 28th Annual Award of Honor Gala.

Since its founding in 1905, the Japan Society of Northern California has been dedicated to strengthening the bonds of friendship between Japan and the people of Northern California. As it has for over 100 years, the Society continues to facilitate opportunities to meet and learn from leaders in business, politics, society and the arts from both sides of the Pacific in order to promote mutual understanding between the United States and Japan.

I would like to congratulate the Honorable John V. Roos, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and esteemed actor, Mr. Ken Watanabe, as the recipients of the 2014 Japan Society of Northern California’s Annual Award of Honor, as well as Visionary Award recipient, MUFG Union Bank, N.A.. It is an honor to join you at this year’s Gala to recognize their great contributions to U.S. - Japan relations.

The Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco has long enjoyed a strong partnership with the Japan Society of Northern California in working toward our shared goal of enhancing U.S. - Japan relations. I hope that you, who have joined us here tonight, will continue to lend us your support in order to further enhance this lasting bond of cooperation, understanding and friendship between the U.S. and Japan. Thank you for supporting the Japan Society of Northern California and all of its programs and endeavors.
Welcome to the 2014 Award of Honor Gala!

The Japan Society of Northern California was established almost 110 years ago by three prominent gentlemen: Stanford University’s first President David Starr Jordan, San Mateo attorney Henry Pike Bowie, and San Francisco Consul Kisaburo Ueno. They hoped to spread knowledge of Japanese language and culture, and promote cooperation between the U.S. and Japan. Today the Japan Society continues to promote U.S.-Japan friendship through our various initiatives. Our programs cover a variety of fields including politics, diplomacy, economics, culture, sports and Japanese language classes.

It is truly our privilege to honor former U.S. Ambassador to Japan John V. Roos, international movie star and humanitarian Ken Watanabe, and MUFG Union Bank for its 150 years of community service.

We at Japan Society are devoted to meeting global challenges in our rapidly changing world. In the years ahead, we will continue to examine Japan’s transforming role on the global stage while exploring new ways to strengthen the partnership among Japan, the U.S., and northern California. I ask all of you for your advice, your cooperation, and your support as we move forward with this mission.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy the evening!
Esteemed guests,

Thank you for joining us this evening at the Japan Society of Northern California Gala.

We are proud to honor two remarkable individuals who embody so much of the Japan Society vision to strengthen cooperation and understanding between the people of Japan and the United States.

Tonight we confer our Award of Honor on former Ambassador to Japan John Roos, and international film star Ken Watanabe for their personal commitment and humanitarian efforts to aid those who were severely impacted by the Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Tonight, we also commemorate MUFG Union Bank, led by Executive Chairman Masashi Oka, for 150 years of service to our community and the State of California. Our award presenters, former Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, are previous Japan Society honorees.

The grandness of this evening would not be possible without the efforts of many. I extend my appreciation to Chairman of the Board Steve Matsuura, the members of our Gala Committee, the Japan Society staff, and the St. Francis Hotel team. My personal gratitude to the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra and Pasquale Esposito for this evening’s entertainment.

Through the years, we have honored leaders who have served to help improve our world, especially the relationship between our two great cultures. Your kind support and dedication allows us to continue this good work. Thank you for helping Japan Society to serve as a bridge to connect us.

Please enjoy your evening.
Founded in 1981 to provide pre-professional training to the Bay Area’s most gifted young musicians, the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (SFSYO) has earned a reputation as one of the finest youth ensembles in the world. The SFSYO has toured Europe and Asia to rave reviews and made acclaimed recordings, including Mahler’s Symphony No. 5 recorded live at Davies Symphony Hall in 1994 and a live recording of Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 2 made at Prague’s Dvořák Hall in 1998. Today, the orchestra features 108 musicians and typically performs five concerts a year at Davies Symphony Hall. The orchestra’s success has a lot to do with its innovative, tuition-free training program, which taps members of the San Francisco Symphony to coach the young musicians. The orchestra members also get the invaluable experience of working with many renowned artists and conductors, from Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas to guest stars like Yo-Yo Ma and Wynton Marsalis. In 2009, Donato Cabrera, the San Francisco Symphony’s Resident Conductor, became the Youth Orchestra’s Music Director.

PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

Ann Elena Rodier and Michael Turkell, violins
Daphne Gooch, viola
Adam Young, cello

Pasquale Esposito was born in Naples, Italy. He immigrated to the United States in 1998 to pursue his dream and passion for music. He studied at San Jose State University’s School of Music where he received a degree in Vocal Performance. Esposito has released six full-length CDs and has traveled the world performing with the finest orchestras and his stellar band of international musicians.

Aside from recording and touring, Pasquale directed and produced his 1st PBS television special titled: Pasquale Esposito Celebrates Enrico Caruso. The docu-concert pays homage to the great Italian tenor Enrico Caruso by taking the audience on a musical journey through the places and songs that made him an international star. The concert was filmed on the Amalfi Coast in Italy and the United States. Pasquale had the great honor of collaborating with Placido Domingo on the program that is set for its premier airing on public television stations in March 2015.

Aside from performing, Pasquale continues to give back to the community by providing vocal lessons to under-served students and provide outreach musical programs to the public schools that have experienced cuts in the arts programs. He founded Notable Music and Arts Organization, a charitable non-profit to carry out the mission of providing music education locally and globally. This December, he is set to perform his 6th Annual Benefit Concert “Bianco Natale” at the Menlo Atherton Performing Arts Center on December 14, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

For more information about Pasquale Esposito, visit www.pasqualeesposito.com
THE JAPAN SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THESE DONORS TO THE 2014 AWARD OF HONOR GALA

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with
Nobuko Saito and Dr. Gary Cleary

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John V. Roos
Ambassador to Japan (2009 to 2013)

Ken Watanabe
International Film Actor

Masashi Oka, Executive Chairman
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The Japan Society of Northern California expresses its deepest gratitude posthumously to board member Betty Jean Ogawa for her selfless work on behalf of the Society and her unflagging support.

My dear Betty, it is all here: Flowers, Music, Light and Laughter with Friends. These are the things you cherished and we have them all tonight.

Love, Nobuko

Nobuko Saito Cleary  
Chair, 2014 Japan Society Northern California Gala
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