

## CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

### **Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2022: Summary of Contributions**

**Cathy Inamasu** has worked for Nihonmachi Little Friends, a Japanese American childcare organization in San Francisco, since its establishment in 1975. Since then, she has been providing Japanese culture-oriented early childhood and elementary education programs, contributing to the promotion and understanding of Japanese culture in postwar San Francisco Japantown. She has served as Executive Director since 1987, working to expand child educational programs, diversify and stabilize funding sources, and raise funds and support from the community. She has also been actively involved in the preservation of local Japanese culture, including the listing of the Issei Women's Building on the National, California, and San Francisco Registers of Historic Places.

**Tsuneo Larry Oda** has been a member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, since 1962. He served as JACL National President from 2006-2010, advocating for Japanese American rights throughout the United States. He has also served seven consecutive terms as President of the Monterey Peninsula Chapter and has been instrumental in publishing the history of Japanese American immigration to the Monterey Peninsula, preserving Japanese American history, and promoting mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan. In 2013, he visited Fukushima with a JACL delegation to observe the disaster situation and to deliver donations from the JACL, which has deepened the friendship and goodwill between the U.S. and Japan.

**The Northern California Japanese Teachers' Association** has contributed to building Japanese teachers' networks in Northern California, sharing information, and conducting workshops on the pedagogy of the Japanese language since its founding in 1972. The association has worked to enhance the status of Japanese language education in Northern California, becoming an affiliate member of both the Foreign Language Association of Northern California in 2000 and the American Association of Teachers of Japanese in 2012. Since 2016, the association has cultivated the development of Japanese language education and promoted Japanese culture in Northern California through various activities including co-organizing Japanese-language speech contests with the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco.