

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

275 BATTERY STREET, SUITE 2100
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

TELEPHONE: (415) 780-6000

Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY 2024: Summary of Contributions

Kimi Kika Shibata has taught Sogetsu-style ikebana for 61 years since 1963. She served two terms as president of the Ikebana Teachers Federation and has taught ikebana classes, workshops, and demonstrations not only in San Francisco and the Bay Area, but also throughout the West Coast, including in Las Vegas, Nevada, Arizona, and beyond to Washington D.C.. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Sogetsu School, she was awarded by Iemoto Akane Teshigahara for her achievements in promoting and teaching ikebana in foreign countries. She has been contributing to the spread of Japanese culture and cultural exchange between Japan and the U.S. through ikebana for many years, including an annual exhibition of ikebana at the Nevada Aki Matsuri.

The JET Alumni Association of Northern California (JETAANC) was founded in 1994 following the JET Program's principle of "grassroots international exchange", has been dedicated to promoting exchange between the U.S. and Japan in Northern California and Nevada for almost 30 years. The JET Alumni Association has made a significant contribution to promoting understanding of Japan and friendship between the two countries by establishing a scholarship program for high school seniors with a strong interest in Japan, organizing a Kabuki Club to promote traditional Japanese performing art, and other events such as Japanese festivals. Alumni continue to contribute to the better understanding of Japan through exchange activities between Japan and the U.S., while playing an active role in their respective fields after returning to the United States.

The Japanese Festival Association of Nevada (JFAN) is dedicated to promoting Japanese culture by organizing the "Aki Matsuri," a Japan-focused event in Nevada. The "Aki Matsuri," which began as a project of trial and error started by the main members of the organization, has grown to become the largest event of its kind in Nevada and will celebrate its 15th event in 2024. It now provides a space for interaction among Japanese, Japanese Americans, and the local community, contributing to the promotion of understanding between Japan and the U.S. and to friendship between the two countries. The event has always had the cooperation of many volunteers and has been extremely popular attracting more than 10,000 visitors.