

The AJS Kaneko Awards

List of Past Recipients

Third Kaneko Awards (2019) Recipients

US Side

Ms. Helen Rindsberg (recommended by JAS of Greater Cincinnati)

Ms. Rindsberg majored in art education in college and then taught art in public junior high and high schools for 15 years, and served as an assistant principal for 15 years. Since 1989, she has been a homestay family for 16 Japanese students and 3 teachers. Since 1984, she has visited Japan 18 times including as a co-leader of three tours for university students and one tour for docents. She joined the Cincinnati-Dayton Taiko Group in 2000 and is now its Director. She has been President of the Cincinnati Asian Arts Society since 2008. Thus for 35 years, she has devoted considerable and significant time to leading the development of cultural exchanges.

Japan Side

Mr. Charlie Nagatani (recommended by AJS of Kumamoto)

Mr. Nagatani was deeply enticed with the C&W music at the age of 20 as to decide to become a C&W singer at once. He organized his band named "Charlie and Cannonball" in 1961 and started concert tours for the US military bases in and outside Japan. He has organized the largest scale C&W music festival in Japan, "Country Gold" in Kumamoto. In the States, he has performed on the stage of "Grando Ole Opry" concert in Nashville Tennessee 29 times. He has sustained the good relationships with a number of people in the US enough to be invited to the guest of the White House by President Bill Clinton in 1999 as well as being awarded an honorary citizen from 33 states and the Honorary Ambassador assigned by the former Ambassador William Hagerty.

Special Awards

Dr. Genshitsu Sen (recommended by AJS of Kyoto)

Dr. Genshitsu Sen is the 15th-generation grandmaster of the Urasenke Chado tradition. He became grandmaster in 1964 and transferred the position and title to his son in 2002, taking the name Daisosho Genshitsu Sen. At the U.N. Millenium Summit in 2000, Dr. Sen made a tea offering in prayer for World Peace, introducing chado and serving tea to the General Assembly delegates in attendance. He became President of the United Nations Association of Japan in 2002, and also was named the first-ever Japan-U.N. Goodwill Ambassador in 2005. Dr. Sen has traveled to 62 countries, continuing his mission of "Chado Diplomacy" to this day.

Second Kaneko Awards (2018) Recipients

US Side

Dr. Jeannette South-Paul (recommended by JAS of Pennsylvania)

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. South-Paul received a doctorate in medicine from the University of Pittsburgh. Currently, she is a professor at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and also a member of nine related academic societies specializing in home healthcare. Utilizing her expertise, Dr. South-Paul promoted mutual exchanges between the nurses and doctors in Iizuka Hospital in Iizuka-city, Fukuoka Prefecture and Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania, US. During the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, she contributed to the collection of large donations in the Pittsburgh area and also donated medical equipment to Rikuzentakata Hospital.

Japan

Dr. Hiromi Hasai (recommended by AJS of Hiroshima)

Side

Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University. He is a nuclear physicist and A-bomb survivor. In 1986, he was appointed director of the Hiroshima University Baseball Club and a member of the board of directors of the Hiroshima Big-Six6 Universities Baseball League. Since 1987, the Hiroshima-Hawaii Friendship Baseball Tournament has been held every year, and has continued to this day. Mr. Hasai has been involved in the exchange of student baseball between Hiroshima and Hawaii for 30 years and with the understanding of the Hawaiian side, has made a great contribution to the mutual understanding between the youth of Japan and the United States at the grassroots level.

First Kaneko Awards (2017) Recipients

US Side

Ms. Jean Tsuchiya

(recommended by JAS of Southern California)

Born in 1922 in San Francisco, she is a Nisei or Japanese-American. From her youth days, she learned Japanese language, dance, flower arrangement and tea ceremony. During the war, she was placed in an internment camp in Utah. After returning to California after the war, she was convinced that direct exchanges between the Japanese and Americans are the key to promote mutual understanding between two countries. She thus engaged in many exchange programs as a volunteer. When Nagoya and LA became sister cities in 1959, she was asked to organize an event which turned out to be a great success, attended by more than 700 people. She also advised 33 successive chairs of LA-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation (LANSCA).

Japan Side

Mr. Yasuhiro Yabuzoe

(recommended by AJS of Wakayama)

Mr. Yabuzoe had been an English language teacher in Wakayama Prefecture public high schools near Osaka for many years. He became principal of his high school and also assumed directing posts in the Prefecture Governor's Office. He involved himself in youth exchanges and lead more than 30 high school teams to the United States. He accepted homestay students from the United States as well as from Asian countries almost every year for more than 40 years. He accepted at his home three students who stayed the entire academic year as well.

Special Awards

Mr. Joe D. Price

(recommended by The Japan Foundation)

Mr. Price was attracted to and bought a painting in NY antique shop when he was graduating from university. Later he was told it was the work of Ito Jyakuchu. He, guided only by his own taste, started to acquire Edo era paintings which initially was not respected too highly but began to become very popular as he collected them. He is said to have rediscovered EDO era paintings. His only collaborator was his Japanese wife, Etsuko. He has donated many of his paintings to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for the general public to appreciate. Also, Shin-en-kan studio was established in his house. He showed his collections to students and researchers to encourage and support their study of these works.



The 3rd Kaneko Awards Ceremony



The 2nd Kaneko Awards Ceremony



The 1st Kaneko Awards Ceremony