

NEWS RELEASE



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foreign Minister's Commendations for FY2020

On December 1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the recipients of the Foreign Minister's Commendations for 2020. This year, commendations will be awarded to 172 individuals and 66 organizations.

Within the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago's jurisdiction, the following four individuals have been selected for their contributions to the strengthening of relations between the United States and Japan.

Ms. Alice Kishiye Murata, Former President, Heiwa Terrace

Alice served as President of Heiwa Terrace—founded in 1980 to provide affordable housing for elderly Japanese Americans—three times. She is a founding member of the Japanese American Historical Society of Chicago and has been actively passing on the history of Japanese Americans, including by publishing books on the history of Japanese Americans.

Ms. Anne Shimojima, Storyteller

Anne began her career as a professional storyteller in 1982. She has given many lectures and actively disseminated the history of Japanese Americans across the U.S. In 2019, she gave a lecture at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago on the eighth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. She also shared the history of Japanese Americans with Japanese students in Tokyo when she was invited by the Japanese government to visit Japan last year.

Ms. Karen Izui Kanemoto, Executive Director, the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago

Karen has worked for the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago as Executive Director for over 15 years. In that time, she has managed JMAS property, offering cemetery plots mainly for Japanese American, at Montrose Cemetery and sponsored an annual Memorial Day Service. Previously, she also served on the Japanese American Service Committee as both manager and as a staff member for over 15 years. There, she helped carry on the legacy of Japanese Americans.

Mr. Kazumi Hatasa, Professor, School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University

Kazumi has contributed to the dissemination of the Japanese language in the U.S. for over 30 years as Director of the Japanese School at Middlebury College Japanese Language School (retired in 2018) and as Professor of Japanese at Purdue University in Indiana (since 2001). His efforts to improve the teaching method of the Japanese language, including the publication of books on the use of IT in Japanese language education, are highly regarded by those involved in Japanese language education in the United States.

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