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NEWS RELEASE
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Southeast Japanese School and Community Center “2008 Recognition and Award Dinner”



Photo Caption: Hy Shishino, President of SEJSCC watches the program.

Over 200 attendees, comprised of award recipients, their family and friends gathered at the Southeast Japanese School and Community Center (SEJSCC) in Norwalk, California. The evening's ceremony recognized two of the center's members, Messieurs Harry Wakai and Dean Wada for their ongoing contributions to the center and for years of service. Wakai, active with the center since the mid 1960s, continues to participate in the annual October Boutique where all the proceeds go directly to the center's treasury. Wada has participated for over 20 years in the community center's youth sports program and spearheads the biannual Mochitsuki fundraiser. Wakai and Wada also received proclamations from the State 56th District Assemblyman Tony Mendoza and the City of Norwalk Community Spotlight Award; City Council Member Gordon Stefenhagen presented these awards. Toshi Teramoto and George Kato presided as masters of ceremony.

Mr. Hy Shishino, President of the community center, cooked dinner for over 200 guests. Prime rib and Chicken Cordon Bleu were on the menu along with green beans, mixed leaf green salad with miso dressing and rice pilaf. Shishino invited Japanese American Living Legacy as special guests and we were honored to witness this memorable ceremony.

The SEJSCC recognized their scholarship recipients for outstanding academic achievement, community involvement and youth leadership. Andrew Choi, Erika Fisher, Lance Kamiyama, Elizabeth Namba and Daryl Wada received the Koichi and Toyo Nerio Scholarship presented by

Art Nerio. Daniel Hong received the Norwalk Youth Sports Scholarship Award; Colleen Honma presented the award. Daryl Wada received the Norwalk Judo Club Scholarship Award.

The evening concluded with some of the community groups providing entertainment and raffle prize drawings. The Ayame Kai performed classical Japanese dances, the Na Wahine 'O Kawena danced traditional hula and the Akebono Club sang traditional Japanese songs, karaoke style. Hy Shishino ran around the room delivering raffle prizes.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a nonprofit (501c3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (714) 278-4483.

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