

New Year's Celebration at Washington Place

The Society welcomed in the New Year at its annual New Year's Reception on Thursday, January 22 at the Official Residence of the Governor at Washington Place. Governor Linda Lingle graciously hosted about 200 Society members and guests.

Sponsored by Stanford Carr Development, attendees enjoyed an evening of camaraderie by exchanging good wishes for the New Year and partaking the delicious foods prepared by Mariposa Restaurant. Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed elegant music performed by the Moanalua High School string quartet.

The evening commenced with opening remarks by President Ed Hawkins followed by a blessing by Reverend Irene Matsumoto, remarks from JASH Chair Allen Uyeda, and a message from Mayor Mufi Hannemann read by Acting Managing Director Kirk Caldwell.

Governor Lingle addressed Society members and guests with her supportive remarks about the Society's significant role in strengthening and maintaining the U.S.-Japan relationship. She also expressed her strong support for the Society's many educational programs, especially the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC), and encouraged everyone present to continue their support of JASH. Each year, JASH selects eight Junior Ambassadors from across the state to participate in the APCC, a global youth camp held in Fukuoka, Japan. The




JASH members and guests enjoy a shishimai performance by members of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii.

Junior Ambassadors visit with the Governor prior to and following their trip to Japan.

After the Governor's remarks, attendees witnessed a *kagamiwari* ceremony as Governor Lingle, Consul General Toshio Kunikata, Chair Uyeda, JASH Director Howard Hamamoto and Major General Stephen Tom participated in the traditional *sake* cask breaking ceremony. Following the ceremony, Governor Lingle and Consul General Kunikata each led a New Year *kanpai*, toasting to a prosperous new year.

The program concluded with an entertaining *shishimai* (Okinawan lion dance) performance by Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta, members of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii. Attendees were thrilled to experience such an exciting dance.

The Society sends a big mahalo to Governor Linda Lingle for providing an elegant backdrop for the New Year's Reception and also for her continued support of the Society. Thank you also to Stanford Carr Development for sponsoring the event and providing the wine. Mahalo to The Cherry Company for donating the equipment for the *kagamiwari* ceremony as well as the *sake* for the *kanpai*. Thank you also to Paradise Beverages.

The Society would like to wish all members and friends a prosperous new year! We hope to see you at future Society events. 



L-R: JASH Chair Allen Uyeda, Major General Stephen Tom, Governor Linda Lingle, Consul General Toshio Kunikata and JASH Director Howard Hamamoto participate in the kagamiwari ceremony.

Bereaved Family Members attend Ehime Maru Memorial Ceremony

February 9, 2009 marked the eighth anniversary of the tragic sinking of the Japanese Fisheries High School training ship Ehime Maru, resulting in the loss of nine crew members, including four students. On this day, a ceremony was held at the Kakaako Waterfront Park memorial attended by three of the bereaved families, Mizuguchi, Segawa, and Sakashima.

Reverend Irene Matsumoto of the Palolo Kwannon Temple offered a prayer to begin the ceremony. Consul General Toshio Kunikata of the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu accompanied by his wife Hiroko attended the solemn event and presented a flower wreath on behalf of the Japanese Government.

Wreaths were also presented on behalf of the Governor of Ehime, Mayor of Uwajima City, Ehime Hawaii Association, Ehime Maru Memorial Association, and the Commander, United States Pacific Fleet.

Following the wreath presentations, bereaved family members and friends offered flowers and lei. At precisely 1:43 p.m. the time of the accident, a moment of silence was observed in honor of the lost crew.

Consul General and Mrs. Kunikata hosted the bereaved

family members and friends at a dinner at his official residence that evening. 関口



Consul General and Mrs. Kunikata surrounded by bereaved family members following the ceremony: (Front Row, L-R) Mrs. Matsue Segawa, Ms. Takako Segawa, Mrs. Miyako Sakashima, Mrs. Kunikata, Mrs. Yoshiko Mizuguchi, Ms. Yuka Mizuguchi (Back row L-R) Mr. Kazuteru Segawa, Ms. Mikiko Yamashita, Consul General Kunikata, Mr. Tatsuyoshi Mizuguchi.

JASH Collaborates with ICFA and BGCH for Cross-Cultural Exchange Program

February 6th was a day of cultural exchange at the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii's (BGCH) Hale Pono Ewa Beach Clubhouse. Eighteen youth from Japan and China hosted by the International Cultural and Friendship Association (ICFA) of Hawaii came to share their unique culture, and the students of Campbell High School reciprocated with their own brand of Hawaiian culture, the hula.

Each year, ICFA hosts a U.S.-Japan-China Friendship Youth Delegation in Hawaii and for the past several years



Chinese and Japanese delegates learn the hula.

collaborated with JASH to bring a cultural program to local youth in Hawaii. This year, the Chinese delegation taught traditional watercolor painting, the Japanese delegation demonstrated the art of origami, and the Hawaiian class from Campbell High School demonstrated and taught various hula dance techniques. Following the cultural exchange, the students and the escorts enjoyed a Hawaiian style lunch provided by BGCH.

For many of the Campbell High School students (many of whom are members of BGCH), this was their first hands-on experience learning about Chinese and Japanese cultures. JASH, BGCH, and ICFA hope to continue working together to bridge cultures and broaden horizons through this unique interaction.

This year, ICFA President Mitsunobu Endo attended from Japan to lend support. Mahalo to Hale Pono Director Frances Rivero and her staff for providing the venue and to Campbell HS Vice Principal Flossie Steffany for arranging her student participation. Mahalo also to Director Yoshinobu Sato, Mamoru Yamasaki, and Yuhi Yamsaki of the ICFA staff for sponsoring the Youth Delegation, and to JASH Education Programs Director Kelsey Soma for coordinating this event. 関口

JASH Conducts Japan Wizards Competition for Hawaii High Schools

And the answer is...! A tiebreaker round determined the winning team for a trip to Japan in 2009. A total of 29 schools sent 45 teams and 135 students to this year's Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on Saturday, February 14th. JASH was able to include eleven neighbor island schools from Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, in part due to the donation of a number of round trip airfares from Hawaiian Airlines and UH's Center for Japanese Studies.

Japan Wizards is a challenging, fun-filled annual competition for Hawaii's public and private high school students that tests their knowledge of Japanese arts, culture, geography, history, politics and government, sports, everyday life, Japan-Hawaii ties, and language.

JASH conducts this event annually to motivate students throughout the State to learn more about Japan and help develop lifelong skills in research, teamwork, personal responsibility and operating under pressure. Questions are developed by the JASH staff supported by a group of volunteers that include educators, pairing questions and answers to two levels of Japanese language expertise commensurate with the students' abilities.

JASH awarded plaques to the top three teams in each category, Level A and Level B. They were Mililani HS, Kauai HS, and St. Andrew's Priory (Level A) and Hawaii Baptist Academy, Waipahu HS, and Roosevelt HS (Level B). In the tiebreaker round, Waipahu HS edged out Roosevelt HS to capture second place.

The highlight of the day was the awarding of Japan trips to top scoring public and private schools from each level.



Top scoring teams from Mililani HS, Kauai, HS, St. Andrews Priory (Level A); Hawaii Baptist Academy, Waipahu HS, Roosevelt HS (Level B) with JASH President Ed Hawkins, JASH Community Service Community Chair Jean Rolles, JTB representatives David Asanuma and Keiichi Tsujino, and JASH Board Chair Allen Uyeda.

This year's winners were Mililani HS and St. Andrews Priory (Level A) and Hawaii Baptist Academy and Waipahu HS (Level B). Because of established rules, Kauai HS (public) did not earn a Japan trip even though it finished second in Level A competition. Long time JASH benefactor Mrs. Ina Goodwin Tateuchi who attended the competition learned of this rule and agreed on the spot to fund a Japan trip for the Kauai HS team. These students were called to the stage to be presented with this surprise award.



While waiting between competition rounds, student participants enjoy a hands-on demonstration lead by members of the Ken Yu Kai Kendo Club. The students also enjoyed a Japanese dance demonstration from the Hanayagi Dancing Academy and a Nob demonstration by members of the UH Department of Theatre and Dance.

Mr. Keiichi Tsujino (Vice President for JTB Hawaii and JTB Goodwill Foundation Representative), Mr. David Asanuma (JTB Hawaii and JTB Goodwill Foundation Representative), Ms. Jean Rolles (JASH Director and Community Service Committee Chair), and Mr. Allen Uyeda (JASH Chair of the Board of Directors) assisted with the presentations.

This also was the first year for awarding a prize to the top scoring team, either Level A or Level B, in honor of Mrs. Tateuchi's late husband. The award, called the Atsuhiko Tateuchi Memorial Award for Outstanding Scholarship and consisting of an engraved plaque that the school will retain for one year, will be presented annually henceforth. This year's award went to Mililani HS and was presented by Mrs. Tateuchi.

JASH would like to thank all the major sponsors (including JTB Goodwill Foundation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, ABC Stores, KTA Super Stores, The Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation, The Freeman Foundation), the various contributors, and the 57 volunteers for their hard work in helping to make this event happen. 日本

2009 APCC Junior Ambassadors Selected

Each year, JASH selects eight 11-year-old students (four boys and four girls) from across the state to participate in a two-week global youth camp in July as Junior Ambassadors (JAs) at the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan. Hosted by the non-profit APCC office in Fukuoka since 1989, the APCC promotes international relationships between children so that they will become adults with a strong social responsibility. Over 300 children from more than 40 countries throughout Asia and the Pacific are invited to participate each year.

For two weeks, the JAs participate in an Exchange Camp with the other delegates, a homestay, school visits, and other

activities to share the culture between both Japan and the other representative countries. Upon returning to their respective countries, the JAs share their cultural experiences, awareness of global issues, and dreams toward world peace.

This year, a total of 35 candidates applied from two islands—Oahu and the Big Island. After a long day of interviews and team activities in January, the final eight JAs were selected:

Garrett Cho, Ahuimanu Elementary
John “Jack” Diehm, Aina Haina Elementary
Wesley Lum, Pearl Ridge Elementary
Logan Takeda, Mililani Mauka Elementary
Jordan Apela, Maile Bible Church and School
Haley Honda, Pearl Ridge Elementary
Sophia Krivatsy, Aina Haina Elementary
Samantha Ojeda, Palisades Elementary



From front left: Wesley Lum, Garrett Cho, Logan Takeda, 2009 Chaperone Kevin Matsuda, Jack Diehm, Sophia Krivatsy, APCC Program Director Liz Barrera, Jordan Apela, Samantha Ojeda and Haley Honda.

The students will attend monthly workshops preparing for the July trip. The workshops develop teamwork skills and build knowledge about Japan, Hawaii-Japan ties, and the 40 other delegate countries. The JAs will also learn a hula which they will perform in Fukuoka. Attending the APCC along with the JAs will be JASH volunteer chaperone Kevin Matsuda.

The students held their first workshop in February where they had a chance to meet last year's JAs. Following the workshop, the delegates were introduced to the Bridge Club of Hawaii, an APCC alumni association. About 50 individuals attended the potluck and they were able to meet the new JAs and share their experiences and perspectives. 日本

Hinamatsuri Program at the Japanese Consulate

On February 26, in observance of the traditional springtime *hinamatsuri* or Japanese Doll Festival, Consul General and Mrs. Kunikata invited members of JASH and Tomodachi Committee to their home. Usually held on March 3rd, *hinamatsuri* is marked by families praying for the good health, happiness, and prosperity for their girls.

Attendees at this year's event enjoyed refreshments provided by the Consulate as well as several generous Tomodachi Committee members and their guests. Attendees also enjoyed entertainment by Shihan Rank Koto Master Dr. Bernice Hirai and fellow koto player Yumiko Uyeno who played beautiful songs that brought back many happy memories for all.

Special thanks to Consul General and Mrs. Kunikata for allowing this celebration in their home as well as to Dr. Hirai and Ms. Uyeno for their beautiful performance. Mahalo to Ms. Kazuko Love, Tomodachi Committee Coordinator, for this year's *hinamatsuri* program. 日本



L-R Ms. Kazuko Love, Ms. Yumiko Uyeno, Dr. Bernice Hirai, Mrs. Hiroko Kunikata, Ms. Shizue Goldblatt and Mr. Raymond Tabata.

Bridge Club Hawaii Underway

Bridge Club Hawaii (BCH) is an alumni organization of Junior Ambassadors (JA) in Hawaii who have participated in the Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC) and want to continue developing “global citizens” who seek peace and coexistence throughout the world.

BCH, which started in December 2009, held its first event on Sunday, January 4, 2009, at the Newtown Recreation Center in Aiea. Twenty-five former APCC JAs, their families and four former chaperones attended the potluck and reunion, bringing the total attendees to over 60 people. JAs from the 1990s (there was even one from 1989- which was the first year that the APCC began) enjoyed speaking to their younger counterparts – JAs from recent years.

Thank you to everyone who brought food for the potluck and those who helped clean up. After lunch, the JAs introduced themselves to each other and everyone participated in some fun games. Colby Takeda (2008 Peace Ambassador and 2000 Junior Ambassador) and Dean Ueda (2007 chaperone) then led the official BCH meeting and got everyone energized about BCH and its future. Many people volunteered to help out with future events by signing up for various committees.

The day was a great success with many motivated individuals, tasty food and productive conversations towards improving BCH. Please contact Colby Takeda at bridgeclubhawaii@gmail.com for more information. 



Former APCC Junior Ambassadors and chaperones share the aloha at the Bridge Club's first event.

Japanese Glider Pilot Instructor “at Home” in Hawaii

It’s not every day one sees a female instructor pilot. When that instructor is from Japan, it raises some eyebrows. Yuko Matsumoto is not a typical flight instructor, nor a typical Japanese female. Hailing from Kawasaki, Japan, Yuko is a fashion designer turned surfer who arrived in Hawaii in 1991 and fell in love with Oahu’s North Shore.



Yuko Matsumoto and a student poses next to a glider at Dillingham Airfield.

To support her lifestyle, Yuko began working part time as a receptionist at a local airfield that specialized in glider rides for tourists. This got her interested in flying, and she

began to think seriously about becoming a pilot herself. Through hard work and determination, she soloed and became a Federal Aviation Administration certified flight instructor in 1997. She’s been flying ever since, now giving opportunity to other Japanese who want to become qualified pilots.

Yuko is fluent in English and of course Japanese. This bilingual capability and her Japanese upbringing helps her understand Japanese pilot wanna-bes. “Japanese students are used to treating the *sensei* with respect, rarely questioning them. That’s not the way to learn flying. I make them speak up and question everything...otherwise, they endanger themselves,” she says.

Yuko is a FAA-certified Instructor and Pilot Examiner for gliders and single and multi-engine light aircraft. She now collaborates with Steve Wood of the “Original Glider Rides” to run a training program for Japanese. Steve, or “Woody” as he’s called, owns the local business at Dillingham Airfield near Waialua.

A transplanted Englishman, Woody is looking to start a glider training program besides his glider ride business and Yuko provides that important link to the Japanese. If you want to see Oahu’s beautiful sights from the serene vantage point of a glider, or if you’re interested in earning a glider pilot license, go see Yuko and Woody. It’s truly an international show on the North Shore of Oahu. 