

JASH Celebrates 40th Anniversary at Annual Dinner



(L-R) Bridge Award Honoree, Mr. Daniel Martinez, and Keynote Speaker, Vice Admiral Yoji Koda (Ret.)

Over 450 guests celebrated JASH's most recent milestone — its 40th Anniversary — at the Annual Dinner held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Coral Ballrooms on September 29, 2016. Distinguished guests included Governor David Ige, former Governor George Ariyoshi, Consul General of Japan Yasushi Misawa, Consul General of the Republic of Korea Walter Paik, and Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center Wallace Chow.

Master of Ceremonies Kimo Kahoano began the evening with a welcoming oli (chant). A video highlighting JASH's accomplishments over the last 40 years paid tribute to those instrumental in shaping the Society and its contributions to Hawaii and beyond. JASH also recognized and thanked founding members, Dr. Fujio Matsuda and Mr. Siegfried Ramler, who were in attendance.



(L-R) Mrs. Lynette Dinell, Mr. Daniel Dinell, Dr. Blair Odo, Mrs. Dawn Amano-Ige, Governor David Ige, Mrs. Amy Matsuda, Dr. Fujio Matsuda, Dr. Dori Fujimori.



Jean E. Rolles' Platinum Table with special guests, (front left) Mrs. Kiyoko and Mr. Siegfried Ramler.

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The talented students of Mrs. Momoko Maniscalco performed impressive musical arrangements during the three-course dinner. Following dinner, JASH Chairman of the Board Sal Miwa called the Annual Membership Meeting to order with his poi pounder ‘gavel’ and shared a moving video about the Tomodachi-Aloha Leadership Program (TALP), a tribute and testament to the power of JASH’s cultural exchange programs.



Mrs. Momoko Maniscalco's extraordinarily talented music students provided entertainment throughout the evening.

JASH presented its Bridge Award to Mr. Daniel Martinez, Chief Historian at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, for his contributions toward building and strengthening the relationship between the United States and Japan.

Keynote speaker, Vice Admiral Yoji Koda (Ret.), of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Fleet (JMSDF), spoke about his experience in the JMSDF, working closely with the U.S. armed forces following the events of September 11, 2001, and his commitment to the U.S.-Japan alliance. He concluded his speech with heartfelt remarks, stating that the people of Japan will always support the people of the United States.



Top: Mr. Daniel Martinez and Consul General Yasushi Misawa.

Bottom: Vice Admiral Yoji Koda (Ret.) and Consul General Yasushi Misawa.

JASH extends its sincere appreciation to table sponsors, donors, student performers, volunteers, and all guests for celebrating JASH’s 40th anniversary. 日本 協会


2016 JASH Junior Ambassadors Depart for APCC



The APCC delegates arrive in Fukuoka.



Junior Ambassadors land safely in Japan.

On July 9, 2016, six JASH Junior Ambassadors (JAs), Peace Ambassador (PA) Jocelyn Bonilla, and chaperone Dori Kim departed for their two-week adventure in Japan to participate in the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC). When they arrived in Fukuoka, they received a warm welcome from APCC volunteers. They then headed towards the Marine House Camp where they stayed for the next few days. At Camp, the JAs had the opportunity to meet their 226 fellow JAs from 44 different countries and cities in the Asia-Pacific region. 

JASH Continues to Foster Ehime-Hawaii Sister State Relationship



Students learn how to play POGS at JASH office.

On Friday, July 22, 2016, JASH welcomed 15 students from two schools in the Ehime prefecture of Japan. As a sister-state of Honolulu, Ehime maintains a strong connection to the islands, especially following the tragic Ehime Maru accident of 2001. Hawaii and Ehime are committed to working together to strengthen relations between their people.

Uwajima Minami Secondary School and Matsuyama Higashi High School students played icebreaker games with JASH staff, interns, and volunteers and were treated to delicious yakisoba made by Mr. Atsushi Takebayashi of Move4Japan.

Earlier this summer, JASH was contacted by Uwajima Minami Secondary School teacher Mr. Kazuyoshi Asao about the upcoming visit to Honolulu by students from two schools in Ehime who planned to take English classes at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and learn about Hawaiian culture. JASH staff eagerly arranged activities for the students, including not only a visit to the JASH office, but also to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the East-West Center, the UH Mānoa Kanewai lo'i, and the I-Lion Hawaii School, an international school headed by Mr. Earl Okawa, JASH President Emeritus.




Move4Japan has served over 30,000 plates of his famous yakisoba to survivors of the Tohoku and Kumamoto natural disasters.

During their visit to the JASH office, the students received a brief introduction to JASH's non-profit activities, including the Society's many fundraisers, educational programs, and member events. The staff and volunteers then introduced the game called POGS. *Menko*, a simple game popular during the Edo Period, was introduced to Hawaii through Japanese immigrants, and evolved into POGS, a game now known throughout the United States.



Students from Ehime joined JASH staff and volunteers for an afternoon of food and fun.

Since 2003, when the sister-state relationship was first established, JASH has been dedicated to the vision of uniting students and citizens of the two states and fostering that unity into the future. 

Summer 2016 Intern Reflections by Naomi & Emily



Naomi Natori, Summer 2016 Programs Intern

This summer, I had a chance to learn more about JASH's history while working with the Program Coordinator on the Annual Dinner video for JASH's 40th Anniversary. We sorted through JASH's extensive archives, updated the new website, and conducted multiple interviews with members of the JASH community. One of the questions we asked during every interview was "What does JASH mean to you in one word?" I have heard multiple answers but my personal favorites were relationships, synergy, and opportunity.

Through its many programs and events, JASH instills the continuation of the bond between Japan and Hawaii. Without JASH's volunteers, members, and staff, the chances for the people of Hawaii to connect with Japan would be difficult to come by. Having personally benefited from the JASH programs as a student, I would like to once again thank JASH for all of the work and effort put in to create such wonderful opportunities. I still cherish the memories of when I participated in the Japan Wizards Competition Program and am grateful for the staff and donors who helped us with our trip to Japan, a trip that motivated me to continue my Japanese studies.

Thank you to the staff for giving me the opportunity to come back and intern for another summer. The work you all do is truly inspiring. It was a joy to come in and learn something new every day. 毎日
楽しみ



Emily Ratté, Summer 2016 Education Program Intern

My time at JASH was not what I expected it to be—in the absolute best way possible. As a college student, an internship at a non-profit organization most often means doing grunt work: spending the day filing or filling coffee orders in busy offices whose employees don't have the time or energy to give you more substantial work. And that's not all bad; nonprofit employees have high-stress jobs and receive little thanks for the work they do to improve our communities, and with ever-limited funding, every minute counts. However, viewing interns as the next generation to lead nonprofits like our own, JASH staff dedicates time and effort to training interns as staff members, with the conviction that spending the energy now will better serve the organization, and its purpose, in the long term. As a recipient of this care and education, I could not be more thankful.

Under the supervision of Educational Program Director, Liz Stanton-Barrera, I have had the chance to experience all which make possible JASH's extensive student-gearred programs, like Japan in a Suitcase, Japan Wizards Competition, Japan Day, and others. By assisting with grant proposals and reports (key steps in organizing such events) I have learned valuable skills in persuasive writing that will be vital to my future career in the nonprofit sector, and by helping to boost JASH's social media presence, I have become aware of all that it takes to keep JASH and its various programs in the public eye. The summer internship at JASH also allowed me to meet influential members of the Japanese community in my hometown of Honolulu, dedicated civil servants to the mission of promoting intercultural relations, as well as a number of young students with whom JASH is working to foster interest in Japan and its culture. Facilitating workshops for these students has given me a chance to take the role of educator, and working with the JASH staff on everything from event set-up to budgets and expense reports has allowed me to see the complicated process of funding community programs through grants and donations.

As I continue to meet Japanese and Japanese-Americans, I will remember that interacting across cultural barriers is the first step in "building bridges" between the peoples of the world. 毎日
楽しみ

JASH Hosts Beer Garden at The Plaza at Waikiki



Yakisoba by Move4Japan and Aloha Beer Red Ale and Lager.

On Wednesday, August 24, 2016, JASH held its third annual Beer Garden event. Over 80 JASH members, guests, and Plaza residents enjoyed The Plaza at Waikiki's beautifully decorated lounge areas and spacious outdoor terrace. The weather added to the ambiance of a Beer Garden gathering in Japan!

This event provided an opportunity for JASH members to introduce friends and business partners to the Society, and gave JASH members, guests, and The Plaza residents a unique venue to relax and socialize. Attendees participated in a fun game by guessing how many Japanese candies were in a glass jar, with the chance to win fantastic prizes.



Guests submit their best guess as to how many candies are in the jar and for a chance to win prizes.

The Aloha Beer Company provided refreshing beer, the chef of The Plaza at Waikiki created an amazing pupu menu, and Move4Japan's Atsushi and Mayumi Takebayashi prepared delicious yakisoba on-site. Attendees were invited on guided tours to learn more about The Plaza at Waikiki and its services.




Guests enjoy The Plaza at Waikiki's outdoor terrace.

JASH Chair Sal Miwa began the evening's short program by welcoming all attendees and expressing thanks to JASH Beer Garden sponsors and supporters. Throughout the evening, attendees visited all of The Plaza's lounge areas, each equipped with a different food station, including hot pupus, cold pupus, and dessert.



Mahalo to Aloha Beer for providing the beer.

On the outdoor terrace, Atsushi and Mayumi prepared yakisoba for everyone to enjoy, and ice-cold Aloha Beer was served as the perfect complement to the summer heat. The presentation of prizes to the winners of the candy count game signaled the conclusion of another successful and enjoyable JASH Beer Garden event.

A huge thank you to The Plaza at Waikiki Administrator, Colby Takeda, for welcoming JASH to The Plaza, and to his staff for their hospitality. Special thanks to JASH Vice Chair Steve Sombrero for the Aloha Beer Company beer, to Atsushi and Mayumi Takebayashi for their Move4Japan yakisoba, and to Ray Tabata for taking photos. 

Tomodachi – Let’s Talk Story with Mike Malaghan



Mike Malaghan discussing his book, Picture Bride.

On Tuesday, September 13, 2016, the Tomodachi Committee of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii held its annual “Let’s Talk Story” luncheon at Taormina Sicilian Cuisine in Waikiki. Over 20 JASH members and guests enjoyed a delicious 3-course lunch and a special presentation by Mike Malaghan, JASH Lifetime member, on his recently published novel, *Picture Bride*. Based on extensive research and personal interviews, attendees learned about the immigrant life of Japanese women in Hawaii prior to WWII.



Guests enjoying friendship and conversation.

JASH members and guests were able to catch up with each other and to make new friends in Taormina’s cozy and relaxed environment.

JASH would like to express a big mahalo to Mr. Mike Malaghan for donating a portion of his book sales at the event to JASH. Special thanks to volunteer photographer Ray Tabata. 



July - September 2016

Mahalo!

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