



JASH Newsflash

A Summary of Recent Events of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii

Fall 2019

JASH Celebrates the Dawn of Reiwa - 43rd Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

On September 17, 2019, a record 800 members and guests attended the Japan-America Society of Hawaii's (JASH) 43rd Annual Dinner & Silent Auction at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The theme for our event was "Celebrating the Dawn of Reiwa"; the beginning of a new era for Japan, a time when Japan and the U.S. can celebrate the very special bond that our countries share.



(L-R): Mr. Steve Sombrero, Ms. Ann Kobayashi, Mr. Paul Yonamine, Ms. Reyna Kaneko, Governor David Ige, Ms. Kimberly Pine, and Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

The 2019 Bridge Award was presented to Mr. Paul Yonamine, Chairman and CEO of Central Pacific Financial Corp., and Executive Chairman of Central Pacific Bank.

We were also honored to have Mr. Duane Kurisu as our keynote speaker.



Mr. Kurisu, Chairman and CEO of the Hawaii-based conglomerate aio, described the difference between a "warrior" and a "leader." A warrior sees only one side of things and forges ahead relentlessly. A leader is able to step back, assess the whole situation, and plan strategically to conquer challenges more effectively and efficiently. In reference to the theme of the dinner, "Celebrating the Dawn of Reiwa", Mr. Kurisu passionately spoke about the need for "not good, not great, but extraordinary leaders" in this new era.

Mr. Yonamine has spent most of his

professional life building bridges of friendship and understanding between the people of Japan and Hawaii. He humbly accepted the award, not for himself but, as a delegate to celebrate the collective work of the community. Mr. Yonamine recalled words from the late Senator Daniel Inouye stating that the relationship between Japan and the U.S. as the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

Mr. Yonamine is the epitome of what the JASH Bridge Award stands for and why it was established. He serves as an inspiration for all of us and most importantly, he is a role-model for our next generation of leaders.

JASH wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our silent auction donors for helping to make the online auction a success!

In appreciation to Mr. Kurisu and his work with Kahauiki Village, the affordable permanent housing project for former homeless families, JASH is pleased to donate 10% of the net proceeds from the 2019 JASH Silent Auction to this cause.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all table sponsors, dinner patrons, silent auction patrons, donors, and volunteers who made our event a great success.

Please join us in continuing our important work of promoting understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and Hawaii. Now more than ever, "Being the Bridge" between the U.S. and Japan through the unique perspective of Hawaii is critical. The ability to appreciate and respect differences promotes diversity and contributes to a peaceful and harmonious world.

Please continue to support our efforts to understand and appreciate different perspectives.

Mahalo for your continued support.



Brown Bag Lunch—Talk Story Session

On July 23, 2019, JASH hosted a Brown Bag—Talk Story session with Ms. Joy Sakurai, former Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka, Japan. Born and raised in Wahiawa, Hawaii, Ms. Sakurai, joined the Foreign Service in 2003 and was on her way to her next assignment in Washington, D.C. Attendees at the luncheon were impressed to hear of her experience as a career diplomat.



Upcoming Events

- Tue., Nov. 19 Taste of JASH—Hokkaido or Tonkatsu Tamafuji
- Wed., Dec. 11 (tentative) Tomodachi Holiday Tea More details forthcoming
- Jan. 2020 New Year's Reception More details forthcoming

JASH Japan Wizards Competition Sends Six Teams to Japan This Summer

On February 23, 2019, 126 students representing 27 high schools from Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai participated in the 16th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) at Hawaii Tokai International College. Teams were comprised of three students each, with a total of 42 teams competing. The 42 teams competed in one of two levels, A or B, depending on the Japanese language class they were enrolled in at their respective high schools. Students were tested on their knowledge of various Japan-related topics such as art, culture and tradition, food, geography, history, Japan-Hawaii ties, literature, politics and government, sports, contemporary Japan, and of course language. At the conclusion of the JWC, six teams were awarded trips to Japan.

immigrants to arrive in Hawaii. They started arriving in 1863, just ten years after the nationwide isolation of Japan was brought to an end.” The team also had a chance to pay a short visit to Temple University Japan, where they were greeted with warm hospitality by the staff there and learned about how college life in Japan would be like.



Kapaa team posing with students at Tokai University Yoyogi Campus

sponsored educational visit at Temple University Japan, where they took part in a campus tour and had the opportunity to discuss future plans with a career advisor.

Kapaa High School (Kauai) was the next to embark on their adventure to Japan. From June 6 - 16, the team spent the majority of their time in Hokkaido and enjoyed its magnificent nature and spectacular sceneries of the Blue Pond in Biei, flower farm in Furano and onsen in Noboribetsu as well as the panoramic view of Hakodate. The team was then whisked away by bullet train to Tokyo, where they received a special tour of Tokai University Yoyogi Campus arranged through JASH and interacted with students studying business and tourism. Student April Murakami recalled this cultural exchange:



H.P. Baldwin team meets with Principal Officer Joy Sakurai (second from right) at the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka.

“We could understand one another and speak our thoughts. We learned about their business, their lifestyle in college, and ate Japanese food... I feel that this learning is necessary to improve our bonds with Japan.”

The next team to head to Japan was H.P. Baldwin High School from Maui. They began



Iolani team posing in front of Kiyomizudera Temple in Kyoto

Iolani School also left for Japan on May 31, 2019 and visited various prefectures within the Kansai area during the first half of their trip. Their first full day started in Hiroshima, where they visited Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima and Genbaku Dome (Hiroshima Peace Memorial). Visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum gave students a new perspective on global understanding and peace-building.

Student Tierra Nakamura recalled the grief, horror and hope she felt while being surrounded by many other foreign tourists, “It was nice to see others learning more about the past and paying their respects to those who have lost their lives in the bombing. Hopefully this reflects a growing effort to come closer as nations and support one another.”

The team also spent three days in the Keihanshin area (Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe), where they explored many tourist attractions including temples/shrines, a bamboo forest and market, and tried famous regional dishes such as okonomiyaki, Kobe beef and kushikatsu. The group then took the shinkansen to Tokyo and enjoyed several fun-packed days before heading back home to Hawaii. They participated in a JASH



Punahou team enjoying a meal with Mr. Suzuki (second from left) at the Oedo Onsen Monogatari

The first team to visit Japan was Punahou School from May 31 – June 7, 2019. The students spent one-week in Tokyo and explored numerous popular sites such as Tokyo Sky Tree, Harajuku, Shibuya, Ginza and Akihabara. The team also had the privilege of spending one day with Mr. Shoichi Suzuki, Executive Director of the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo.

They toured the Edo-Tokyo Museum to learn about the history of Tokyo during the Edo Period and went to an onsen. Student Angela Uyeda commented on the museum visit, “I was able to gain a more profound sense of respect for the first Japanese

Japan Wizards Winners Travel to Japan

Continued from Page 2

their two-week trip on June 11, 2019, in Tokyo and traveled all over Japan from Sendai down to Kagoshima. They were able to experience both the historical and modern sides of Japan by visiting places ranging from the ancient capital of Nara and old temples in Kyoto to Universal Studios in Osaka and one of the most popular interactive digital art installations in Tokyo.

In Fukuoka, the team visited the U.S. Consulate to meet with Principal Officer Joy Sakurai, who informed them of the importance of U.S. and Japan ties. "This day was a great reminder of how important it is to hold a strong relationship with Japan and



Moanalua team participated in a live radio show.

that you do not need to be an incredible person to start. These ties can begin with something as simple as having a chat over dinner with locals about your own personal lifestyles, which I find incredibly valuable," said student Phoebe-Kate Bancaco.

The Moanalua High School team was the fifth to leave Honolulu. From June 15 – 27, 2019, the team enjoyed not only the ultramodern city of Tokyo but also the natural beauty of Hokkaido, visiting places like Shikotsu-Toya National Park and Asahikawa Zoo. In Sapporo, they had the opportunities to visit the Hokkaido Prefectural Office as well as Sapporo Intercultural and Technological High School and appear on a live local radio show to share their culture and experiences through their advisor's connection.

JASH arranged an educational visit for the team at Tokai University Shonan Campus, where they were treated to a special campus tour and gave presentations on Hawaii Pono, Hawaiian snacks, and common Hawaiian words to the college students. Team member Andrew Lin commented on this



Hawaii Baptist Academy team learns the basics of calligraphy at Matsuyama Higashi High School.

experience: "It helped bring Japan and Hawaii closer to one another because by sharing our culture, we gradually gain a deeper understanding into what each other are like."

Last to set off on their Japan adventure were the winners of the Dr. Leineweber Trip Award, Hawaii Baptist Academy team, who spent ten days from July 10 – 20, 2019 in Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Ehime, and Tokyo. While in Ehime, the team participated in a JASH-organized program hosted by the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) and a tour around Matsuyama city by EPIC interns from Hawaii.

In addition, the students attended an exchange program at Matsuyama Higashi High School where they were able to get a taste of student life in Japan by listening in on an English class and biology class, learning calligraphy, and talking with Japanese students. In her trip report, Alyssa Mayeshiro remarked, "this high school visit was my favorite part of the trip because of the students' genuineness and the fact that I got to use my Japanese language skills in a real-life situation." Following their time in Ehime, the team traveled to Kyoto, where they witnessed the spectacle of the Gion Festival. Their last few days were spent in Tokyo, visiting famous districts such as Shibuya, Harajuku, Shinjuku, and Asakusa.

JASH would like to thank our overall sponsor for the JWC, Hawaiian Airlines, for coordinating and donating the four winning teams' air transportation. Other major supporters include: ABC Stores; Atsuhiko and



Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation; Freeman Foundation; Friends of Hawaii Charities; Halekulani Corporation; Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation; International Cultural and Friendship Association; JTB Hawaii; The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; Takuyo Corporation (Lighthouse Hawaii); Temple University Japan; Ms. Jean Rolles, and our anonymous donor. Thank you for providing the means for JASH to encourage Hawaii's high school students to study Japan, its fascinating culture, and the important U.S. – Japan relationship.

Because of the generous support of our donors and supporters, these students were able to have life-changing experiences and immeasurable opportunities to learn about the Japan firsthand. Jessica Matsuda from Hawaii Baptist Academy describes her inspirational journey, "I feel so lucky that I was able to meet so many people, all the way from Ehime to Tokyo. Not once had I ever imagined going on such an exciting and life-changing trip whilst sharing once-in-a-lifetime memories with my Wizards team. My passion for the Japanese language has grown to new heights and I plan on returning back to Japan once my speaking, reading, and writing have improved."

2020 JWC Registration: Now Open!

Registration is now being accepted for the 2020 JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) on February 29, 2020 at Kapiolani Community College!

The JWC is a challenging, fun-filled academic team competition for Hawaii's high school students that tests general knowledge of Japan and Japan-related topics. Registration deadline is **Friday, November 15, 2019**.

Please contact tmiyazawa@jashawaii.org or (808) 524-4450 if you have any questions.

2019 Asia-Pacific Children's Convention

JASH sent six Junior Ambassadors (JAs) to attend the 31st annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan from July 13 – 24, 2019. The APCC has been hosted by the Fukuoka City government since 1989 in celebration of the city's 100th anniversary. Now in its 31st year, the APCC has hosted over 11,000 students from all across the Asia-Pacific region and other countries across Europe and South America.

The mission of the APCC is to promote international relationships among children so that they will become adults with a sense of social responsibilities for the world. In addition, the APCC is intent on helping to build a bridge between people of Japan and the international community.

After six-months of homework, research and JASH's APCC Junior Ambassador training program, the six JAs departed on their long-awaited journey to Fukuoka accompanied by chaperone Colby Takeda and Peace Ambassador (PA) Kristen Izuo. Upon their arrival in Fukuoka, the JAs stayed at the Marine House Camp, where they were able to meet students from over 40 different delegations from across the world. They participated in a number of exchange programs and team-building activities in order to bridge the gap between people and cultures. These activities helped to deepen the JA's understanding of cultural diversity and the need to show compassion towards those with different ideas and perspectives.

After leaving the Marine House Camp, having made new friends and precious memories, the JAs visited Kashii Elementary School where they performed a hula for the entire



(L-R): Elias Kagawa, Colby Takeda, Carter Nobuhara, Jalen Matsuura, Ella Bosworth, Kristen Izuo, Anuhea Kealoha, and Kristen Barrera upon arrival in Fukuoka.

school. That afternoon the JAs met their host families and began their home-stay and experienced a number of fun and new activities including enjoying a summer festival, trying all different kinds of food, visiting local amusement parks, malls and shrines/temples, and going to local schools with their host siblings.

As the JAs enjoyed their camp, the Peace Ambassadors including Kristen Izuo, representative from Bridge Club Hawaii, departed for a separate camp that focused on leadership development and strengthening regional Bridge Clubs (alumni organizations for former JAs). At camp, Kristen shared her ideas about how to facilitate better exchanges between Bridge Clubs and how to promote strong relationships between other countries.

Towards the end of their home-stay, all the JAs and PAs from the APCC gathered for the "We are the Bridge Festival 2019" where the JAs gave a special performance, reflecting Hawaii's local culture by performing a hula

and oli (chants), taught by Kumu Hula Blaine Kamalani Kia. Following the home-stay, the JAs returned to another camp at Global Arena and had opportunities to reconnect with all the friends they had made at the Marine House camp and participate in more bonding activities.

The delegation returned to Honolulu on July 24th and were greeted by anxious parents. Later that week JASH held a debriefing workshop to allow the delegates to share their stories, reflect on their experiences, and their next steps moving forward. The JAs expressed how the trip has impacted their lives with Anuhea Kealoha saying, "I became more independent and I met many different people from around the world. We, as Junior Ambassadors, can show kindness and make this world a better place."



JASH would like to thank all of the wonderful staff and incredible volunteers of the APCC. Also, a special Mahalo to the Freeman Foundation for funding the travel expenses for two out of the six JAs. Our hope is that through Bridge Club Hawaii, the JAs can stay connected with their new friends and continue to be global citizens.

Applications Now Being Accepted for the 2020 Asia-Pacific Children's Convention!



For July 2020, JASH will send four 10 or 11-year-old Junior Ambassadors to Fukuoka to interact with over 200 other student-peers from over 40 countries and regions at the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention. They will also participate in a home-stay where they experience living with a Japanese family in Fukuoka for about one week.

Deadline to apply is **Friday, November 22, 2019**. Applications available online at www.jashawaii.org.

5:01 Pau Hana Event: “Post Gannenmono...What’s Next”

JASH hosted a 5:01 Pau Hana event at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort on Wednesday, July 31, 2019. Eight Japanese-related organizations convened and had an open discussion on the viability of Japan-related community organizations and succession planning.



The following organizations were represented at the event: Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA), Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC), Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce (HJJCC), Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH), Japan Exchange Teaching Program Alumni Association (JETAA), Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (JCCH), United Japanese Society of Hawaii (UJSH) and the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC). The panel discussion was followed by a cocktail networking session.

Ms. Courtney Takara of HUOA pointed out the importance of providing opportunities for the younger generation to travel to Japan to make the connection to their heritage.

Mr. Jacce Miculanec of JCCH spoke about collaboration as opposed to duplication while Ms. Christine Kubota, JASH Member, former JCCH Board Chair, among many other leadership roles in the community, spoke to the need of grass-root efforts to educate various ethnic communities about their heritage.

Mahalo to all organizations and their representatives who were part of our panel and those who were in attendance at the event. Special thanks to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort for generously sponsoring our event.

Tomodachi—Let’s Talk Story Luncheon

On Thursday, September 26, 2019, the Tomodachi Committee of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii held its annual “Let’s Talk Story” Luncheon at Waioli Kitchen and Bake Shop, formally known as Waioli Tea Room, in Manoa.



Over 25 JASH members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and a special presentation by Ms. Jessica Welch,

Executive Director, Manoa Heritage Center (MHC).

On behalf of Mrs. Mary Cooke, Co-Founder of MHC, who wasn’t able to join us, Ms. Welch shared with us the history of Manoa Valley

and what Mr. and Mrs. Cooke have done to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Hawaii.

JASH members and guests were able to catch up with each other and make new friends following the very informative and inspiring talk.

Mahalo to Ms. Jessica Welch and Ms. Jenny Leung of MHC for helping us become more aware of the important history and nature around us. Special thanks also to Tomodachi Committee Co-Chair and volunteer photographer Ray Tabata for coordinating this event.



Taste of JASH—Ehime



Over 75 members and guests enjoyed Jakoten (fishcake), Imodaki (hotpot),

Wasabi Shrimp and Poke Roll at the fourth Taste of JASH event. This time, we featured Ehime cuisine at Zigu Restaurant in Waikiki on August 6, 2019.

Mahalo to Chef Masaki Nakayama, Mark Rogers and the staff of Zigu for hosting our event!

Volunteer Opportunities

We’re always looking for great volunteers to help us run our programs. Current needs include positions in two of our educational programs. Please contact Educational Program Director, Takako Miyazawa at tmiyazawa@jashawaii.org or (808) 524-4450 for more information.

Japan Wizards Program:

Volunteer opportunities include: Coming up with questions for the competition; Helping with set-up and registration on the day of the competition; Sitting on the competition panel; and Running an Activity Center station.

Japan-in-a-Suitcase Program:

We are looking for volunteers to go out to elementary schools to present the JIAS program to K—5th grade students. The goal of this program is to teach students about the concept of Different Perspectives.

JASH Newsflash Newsletter

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii was founded in 1976 to promote understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii.

The *JASH Newsflash* newsletter is published quarterly. Visit our website at www.jashawaii.org for more information.