



JASH Newsflash

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

Fall 2020

Natsumatsuri Virtual Summer Festival

協日 JAPAN-AMERICA
会米 SOCIETY OF HAWAII

NEXGEN

Leaders of tomorrow, bridging the U.S. and Japan relations.

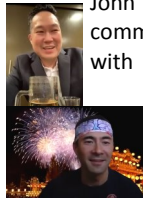


On August 13, 2020, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) hosted our largest and most-ambitious virtual-event to date, the inaugural “Natsumatsuri Virtual Summer Festival.” The event, initially intended to be a live in-person event, was reimaged to a virtual offering due to the pandemic. It was proudly produced by the JASH NexGen Advisory Committee after months of planning and preparation.

The culturally-rich program featured entertainment from Japan and Hawaii; a segment on how *Matsuri* is celebrated in both countries; sake etiquette by Sake Sommelier Keith Nakaganeku of The Cherry Company; and even an exciting interactive game and great prize.

Attendees also had the option to partake in traditional matsuri food by ordering an EXCLUSIVE JASH Natsumatsuri Bento Box created especially for our event by Izakaya Nonbei and Zigu restaurants. They were also able to purchase delicious sake to enjoy while eating their bento and listening to wonderful entertainment by Yuttai Kwattai, Anju Makoda, Hikariyama Torao and Eden Kai.

Natsumatsuri Co-Chairs Toby Tamaye and John Rankin provided lively commentary between segments with Toby live-streaming from Izakaya Nonbei and John live-streaming from his home against a backdrop of traditional matsuri fireworks.



Continued on Page 2

Origami Tutorial Series With the *Origami Swami*

This Summer, JASH was proud to host a popular virtual tutorial series featuring Hawaii’s *Origami Swami*, Ashley Nishihara, of the Hawaii Origami Club. This program was created to replace a few of JASH’s regular educational programs such as Japan Day and Japan-in-a-Suitcase which were cancelled or postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Our goal was to continue to provide students with educational opportunities regarding Japanese culture even though the pandemic dictated the need to socially-distance. We were thrilled to take advantage of the wide-reaching features of the Internet as participants live-streamed our program from not only Hawaii but also from the continental U.S., Japan, and even Central America!

Our first origami session in the three-part



series was held in late June 2020. During the second tutorial session entitled *Storygami 101* held on Friday, July 10, 2020, over 20 attendees made a penguin, a heart brooch and a rabbit while listening to a collection of fun short stories.

As the name implies, *Storygami* is a combination of storytelling and origami.

Continued on Page 2

President’s Message

Aloha JASH members, colleagues and friends,

This year, 2020, is certainly testing our ability to cope, be flexible and ready to change course at a moment’s notice. The term, “think outside the box” has never before been as urgent and necessary as it is today. We, the staff of JASH, are grateful to you for your support, participation and encouragement during these challenging times. As you can see by this issue, we did not miss a beat in continuing to produce quality programs that served a variety of your interests. Everything from Origami lessons to cultural and historical talks and our very first and wildly successful JASH Natsumatsuri—and all of this brought to you VIRTUALLY! It was quite a feat, teaching ourselves new tricks of the trade, but worth every minute of effort as we saw how we could still bring everyone together in a meaningful way.

Going forward, we remain committed to “reimagining” all that we do to serve you and our community and to better serve our mission of keeping strong the U.S.-Hawaii-Japan relationship via the power of people-to-people connection. We wish you good health, stay safe always!

Isshoni mae wo muite arukou,

Reyna

JASH Featured on *Living 808*



JASH President, Reyna Kaneko, was a featured guest on KHON2’s *Living 808* morning news show on Monday, July 6, 2020. Program Co-host Tannya Joaquin interviewed Reyna as she spoke about JASH’s popular virtual Origami Tutorial session with veteran JASH volunteer, Ashley Nishihara of the Hawaii Origami Club which took place on June 19, 2020.

Two additional *Storygami* segments in the series ran on July 10th and 24th. The classes were geared towards grades 1-5, but older students and adults also enjoyed the activity.

Natsumatsuri

Continued from Page 1

To view a recording of the full Natsumatsuri program, please click [here](#).



Mahalo to Title-Sponsor Island Insurance Foundation and Fuyu-Level Sponsors: All Nippon Airways (ANA); Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort; Kintetsu International; KTA Super Stores; Nippon Travel Agency; and Sachi Hawaii. Also to Event-Partners: Izakaya Nonbei; Zigu; Elite Delivery; and The Cherry Company.



Consul General Koichi Ito and Mrs. Ito sending their greetings to the audience. Consul General congratulated JASH for our efforts to perpetuate Japanese culture through new means because of the pandemic.

The NexGen is JASH's group of our next generation of leaders comprised of young professionals under the age of 50 years old. To learn more about the NexGen and how to get involved, please contact Lila Frisbie at lfrisbie@jashawaii.org or ph. 524-4450.

JASH 2020 APCC Program



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) is an annual homestay and summer camp in Fukuoka that welcomes delegations of 11-year-old Junior Ambassadors (JAs) from regions throughout Asia and the Pacific. JASH has the honor of serving at the liaison office for the Hawaii delegation and we usually spend months preparing the JAs for the culminating trip in July every year.

Because of the pandemic, we made the difficult decision early on to withdraw from this year's APCC trip to Fukuoka to ensure the safety of our JAs as well as our chaperone. The APCC in Fukuoka cancelled the entire program for this Summer soon thereafter.

Instead of following suit and cancelling our JASH APCC program, we made the ambitious decision to transform our regular APCC workshop curriculum into virtual culture and history lessons led by Christianne Ono, JASH Program Assistant and Takako Miyazawa, JASH Educational Program Director. Our goal was to teach our JAs all that we could regarding all things Japanese just as we would have if the program had continued on as initially planned. Our APCC JAs displayed

incredible resilience and optimism as we made the transition. In July, after social-distancing guidelines were relaxed to allow for a maximum of five people to meet, JASH welcomed our delegation back to the office for two final APCC workshops. Following social distancing protocol, our JAs had their temperatures checked, were spaced at least six-feet apart from one another, wore masks, and frequently washed their hands.

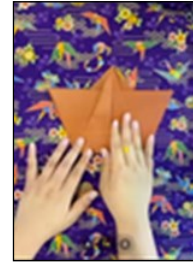
During the first workshop, our JAs worked on the APCC's "BRIDGE Question Exchange" as part of the organization's [BRIDGE Summer <WEB> Camp](#). For this project, delegations were assigned to groups with four other regions and submitted questions they wanted to ask the other groups. Each JA then answered the questions using text, drawings, or photos, and their posters were uploaded and shared on the Summer <WEB> Camp website. Our talented JAs illustrated each of their answers!

For our final workshop, we began with a special lesson about Sadako Sasaki, Hiroshima, and the significance of the thousand paper cranes by retired Punahou Japanese Language Faculty Naomi Hirano-Omizo-sensei. The JAs learned about the bombing of Hiroshima and subsequent aftermath, were inspired by Sadako's story of compassion and perseverance, and learned how to fold their own orizuru folded cranes.

Continued on Pg. 3

Storygami Sessions

Continued from Pg. 1



The story is told while the origami paper is being folded simultaneously to reflect what is happening in each story. This process fulfills the same role that illustrations do as they accompany stories.

Our instructor, Ashley, explained "this dynamic method of teaching origami engages people of all ages, especially young children who might find it difficult to adhere to the highly technical step-by-step process origami instruction usually entails."

At our final session on Friday, July 24, 2020, participants enjoyed a longer *storygami* called *The Wishin' Magician* by Rachel Katz, where they folded a duck, and a bonus mystery origami with interactive questions and answers.

Ashley has been doing origami since age six and she taught origami at Le Jardin Academy's after school program for seven-years. She is one of the organizers of the Hawaii Origami Club and volunteers at various events (including JASH's Japan Day and Japan Wizards Competition since 2014) to introduce the art of origami to Hawaii's youth.

JASH would like to express a big MAHALO to Ashley for providing fun and educational origami tutorials for our members and students. We hope to offer more virtual educational programs in the near future so please stay tuned!

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.

APCC Program Wrap-Up

Continued from Pg. 2



(L-R): Naomi Hirano-Omizo-sensei; JAs Loch, Rhegen, and Jackie; and chaperones Sandy Takeda and Rich Kiyabu with their cranes

After the lesson, the JAs then met several members of Bridge Club Hawaii, the APCC alumni group, through a Zoom meet-and-greet. We ended the morning with a snack party as we learned about the other delegations through the APCC BRIDGE Summer <WEB> Camp materials.

While we at JASH wish we could've given the JAs the international experience for which

they were so eager, we nevertheless enjoyed learning about Japan with everyone. Since March, we've talked about food etiquette and the Japanese perspective of nutrition; sports and exercise; anime, manga, and drawing; summer festivals; and Sadako Sasaki and her thousand paper cranes.

We were also very fortunate to welcome guest teachers including manga artist Kazuo Maekawa-sensei, *Origami Swami* Ashley Nishihara-sensei, and Japanese language teacher Naomi Hirano-Omizo-sensei.

Even without the physical trip, it is our hope that our JAs were still able to learn about Japan and Japanese culture through our workshops. We hope that we'll continue to see more of our 2020 JAs at future Bridge Club Hawaii activities and other JASH events, and we're excited to watch them grow into kind, mindful, global citizens.

Tohoku—From Devastation to Resilience

On July 16, 2020, JASH hosted its first of four Summer Talk-Story webinars entitled, *Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami: From Devastation to Resilience*. We were fortunate to have Ray Tabata, veteran JASH member and photography-aficionado, share his personal experience and profound interactions with the survivors of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami with us. The webinar illustrated the resilience of the Japanese people after the disaster.



He shared several photos from his collection which showed the devastation and despair that occurred after the disaster. More importantly, he also shared other photos which illustrated the steadfast resilience and dedication of the Japanese people in their efforts to rebuild and rebound.

Continued on Pg. 4

Previously he served as Destination Manager at Expedia for over eight- years managing Expedia's local partner accounts and sales teams. He also lived and worked in Tokyo for 6 years. John is a graduate of the University of Washington and the Hogan Entrepreneurship Program at Chaminade University. John is a member of JASH's NexGen Advisory Board and the U.S.-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Program and is a Summer school teacher at Iolani School.



Tyler is the Owner of Le Jardin Royaux, a fine jewelry sales and design company specializing in brand creation and design. Tyler is active in the community and served as the JCI Honolulu State President in 2018 and Asian American Jaycees Charter President from 2014-2016.

As JCI Honolulu State President, he chaired and hosted the first major international JCI project in Hawaii since 1997 focusing on sustainability. In addition, he has established new local chapter relationships with JCI Japan as well as other Asia Pacific JCI organizations. He is a graduate of Kapiolani Community College. Tyler is a member of JASH's NexGen Advisory Board and continues to play an active role as a member of JCI Honolulu.



協日会米 JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF HAWAII

NEXGEN

Leaders of tomorrow, bridging the U.S. and Japan relations.

In an effort to continue to promote JASH's mission, one of JASH's initiatives has been to cultivate our next generation of leaders.

Over the past year, the JASH NexGen Advisory Board comprised of JASH young leaders have been hard at work planning and producing several exciting and innovative events for JASH.

We started off with the popular *Taste of JASH* series featuring cuisine from five regions that Hawaii has Sister-State relationships with in Japan. We then hosted three intimate *Movers & Shakers* small-group talk-story sessions with prominent leaders in our community. We even held a panel discussion where tables were turned and three NexGen representatives were featured.

The culminating event was to be a full-scale in-person Natsumatsuri festival this Summer. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were forced to transform the event into a virtual one. Nevertheless, the fundraising event was a huge success and

reached a far wider audience geographically than any in-person event could have.

The evolution of the JASH NexGen Advisory Board and committee has been nothing short of remarkable as well as inspirational. Our JASH Chair, Steve Sombrero, recognized this *jewel in the rough* early on and convinced the Board to open up seats on the JASH Board to two deserving young professionals.

It was not only a way to recognize and reward this group but also an effort to harness the innate enthusiasm and innovative way of thinking that this group possesses. The Board agreed with Chair Sombrero as they recognized the value of allowing this group to have a say in the governing of JASH.

By allowing two NexGen representatives to sit among them, they filled a need to have JASH liaisons start to involve our organization with this promising demographic group. After all, it is where our future lies. Congratulations to John Rankin and Tyler Hiranaka for their nomination to the Board.



John is the Founder and President of Hapa Travel LLC, a boutique destination-management company specializing in group travel to Hawaii.

A Question of Loyalty - A Talk-Story Session with the Author

On July 22, 2020, JASH hosted its second of four Summer Talk-Story webinars entitled, “A Question of Loyalty: Five Inflection Points on the Road to Dignity.”

Mike Malaghan discussed his new book, *A Question of Loyalty*, which dramatizes the Nisei struggle to prove their loyalty to a doubtful country wary of their presence. He covered five inflection points, one being “How a 17-year old Japanese-American au pair and a Chinese man shaped Hawaii’s successful resistance to Franklin D. Roosevelt’s order to remove Japanese from Oahu.” To find out what the other four inflection points were, or to view the full webinar, please click [here](#).

Mike Malaghan, life-time JASH member and author, spent a large part of his career in the corporate world on four continents, but knew in his heart that he was a writer.



Married to a Tochigi “new Issei” and living in Hawaii, he knew the story of the Nisei Territorial Guard, who were stripped of their uniforms was a story that needed to be told. He is currently working on the final book of his trilogy. Mike’s books are available for purchase on Amazon.com.

JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mike for hosting this historically-significant webinar for JASH and our members.

Hachijōjima: The Language Isle

On July 30, 2020, JASH hosted another installment in our Summer 2020 Talk-Story Series entitled, *Hachijōjima: The Language Isle*. We were very fortunate to collaborate with linguist Dr. David Iannucci, who introduced attendees to the small island of Hachijōjima and the severely endangered Hachijō language that is spoken there.

Dr. Iannucci received his PhD in Linguistics from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa in 2019. He briefly visited Hachijōjima twice for linguistic fieldwork, consulting community members and collecting information for his dissertation, *The Hachijō Language of Japan: Phonology and Historical Development*. Drawing from his own experiences and research, Dr. Iannucci gave attendees a virtual tour of Hachijōjima by using Google Maps and sharing photos from his fieldwork trips.



Dr. David Iannucci with language consultants Mrs. Eiko Fukuda and Mr. Tōichi Okiyama

In his presentation, Dr. Iannucci also compared basic vocabulary items in Japanese versus the Nakanogo variety of Hachijō. The Hachijō language systematically differs from Standard Japanese, Dr. Iannucci explained, which is one of the reasons why linguists can determine they are genetically related and share a common language ancestor.

However, due to factors such as geographical distance, Hachijō has diverged so much from Japanese that they are barely mutually intelligible. That is, if a speaker of standard, current-day Japanese tried to talk with someone who only spoke Hachijō, they would not be able to communicate! Unfortunately, due to social, political, and economic factors, most of the younger generations no longer know Hachijō. As transmission of the language from parent to child has halted over several generations, the language is now considered to be severely endangered as the community has instead shifted to using the Japanese language. There have been small grassroots efforts to revitalize Hachijō, and Dr. Iannucci hopes that his and his fellow researchers’ work will help these projects receive attention and support to grow and continue.

As a linguist, Dr. Iannucci primarily focuses on

Tohoku Resilience

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This inspiring webinar closed with a rendition of “Elegy” performed by renown Japanese classical pianist Nobuyuki Tsujii at Carnegie Hall in a tribute to all victims of the Tohoku disaster.

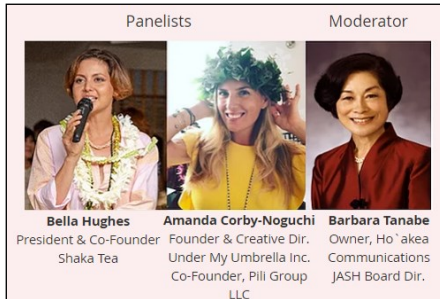
Ray retired as a Program Specialist from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine in May 2011. Since then, he has been spending his time enjoying photography, listening to classical music, and traveling to Japan. He has made numerous trips to Tohoku from 2012 to present with his last trip taking place in March 2020.

Ray has been a loyal member of JASH since April 2006. Currently serving as Co-Chair of JASH’s Tomodachi Committee, he has helped to coordinate numerous committee programs for JASH over the years and was even a featured speaker on several occasions. JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Ray for hosting this poignant webinar for JASH and our members. Access a recording of the program by clicking [here](#).

the grammar and history of Japanese and of the Japonic language family, which includes Modern Japanese, Hachijō, and the various Ryukyuan languages. When not geeking out over language, he works as the lead software developer at the UH Economic Research Organization.

JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Iannucci for hosting this insightful and educational webinar for JASH and our members. If you missed viewing this program live, you may watch a recorded version of it by clicking [here](#).

Women Who Lead—Resilience Through Crises



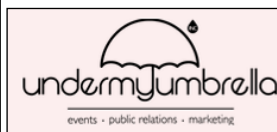
On August 5, 2020, JASH hosted its last webinar in a four-part Summer Talk-Story webinar series entitled, *Women Who Lead: Resilience Through Crisis*.

Ms. Bella Hughes, President and Co-Founder of Shaka Tea and Ms. Amanda Corby-Noguchi, Creative Director and Owner of Under My Umbrella and Co-Founder of Pili Group, shared how they are successfully leading their companies through the COVID-19 crisis and how they are managing to persevere and rise above challenges that many of us are facing today.

They candidly spoke about the inclusion of their children in their work to keep a work-life balance. The inspirational talk-story was moderated by Ms. Barbara Tanabe, Owner of Hoakea Communications LLC and JASH Board Director.

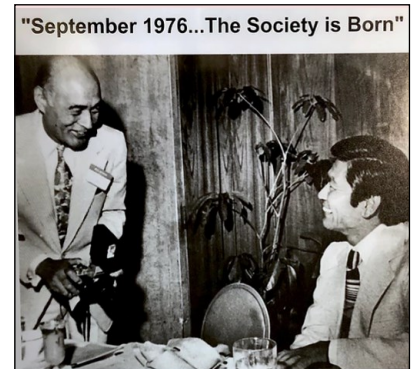
To view the full a recorded-version of the webinar, please click [here](#). To learn more about these amazing women, please click [here](#).

JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Ms. Hughes and Ms. Corby-Noguchi for sharing their amazing stories and to Ms. Tanabe for moderating this talk-story session.



Happy 44th Birthday JASH!

On September 28, 1976, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii held its inaugural meeting at the Ilikai Hotel. The meeting was attended by about 200 people, including Hawaii Governor George R. Ariyoshi and Japanese Consul General Masao Tsukamoto. The officers elected that night were Frank E. Midkiff, president; former US Ambassador to Japan John M. Allison, vice president; Masaji Marumoto, vice president; Ralph Honda, secretary; and Sydney Kosasa, treasurer.



JASH inauguration covered by the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, published Sept. 29, 1976.

Upcoming Events

TALK-STORY SERIES
Women Who Lead: Strengthening Our Spirit
 Virtual Talk-Story with
 Phyllis Look & Cristina Moon
 Moderated by Colby Takeda
 THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 2020 @ 4PM-5PM (HST)

[Free Virtual Event—Click here to Register](#)

PACIFIC GUARDIAN LIFE
30th Annual Friendship Golf Classic
 Monday, November 2, 2020
 @
 Mid-Pacific Country Club
 JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF HAWAII

JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF HAWAII ANNUAL GALA REIMAGINED AND ONLINE SILENT AUCTION
 ONLINE SILENT AUCTION NOV 12 ends Nov 16
 VIRTUAL GALA NOV 14 8-9PM HST
HONORING SONY CORPORATION

Contact JASH

The JASH Office is open Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm. Due to social-distancing guidelines in effect, please call before visiting the office in person.

Main phone line: (808) 524-4450
Email: admindir@jashawaii.org
Website: www.jashawaii.org

30th Annual Friendship Golf Classic (2020)
 Nov 02, 11:30 AM HST
 Mid-Pacific Country Club, 266 Kaelepulu Dr,
 Kailua, HI 96734, USA
 Sponsored by Pacific Guardian Life Event is at capacity, Hole Sponsorships still available.

JASH Annual Gala Reimagined & Online Silent Auction (2020)
 Nov 14, 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM HST
 TELEVISED on KHNL
 JASH cordially invites you to our 2020 Annual Gala Reimagined & Online Silent Auction: Mirai "Our New Future." This year, we honor Sony Corporation for their exemplary leadership in U.S.-Japan relations, and welcome Corbett Kalama, President of Friends of Hawaii Charities, as our keynote speaker.