

## JASH Rings in the New Year at Annual New Year's Reception



The year of the Monkey was welcomed in on January 28, 2016 by JASH members at its annual Shinnenkai. The New Year's Reception was held at the Governor of Hawaii's official residence, Washington Place. JASH President Lenny Yajima led the evening's program by serving as emcee. A maximum-capacity crowd enjoyed hearing from Governor David Ige, our new JASH Chairman Sal Miwa, and New Year's Reception sponsor Mr. Stanford Carr. The evening started with a performance of an Okinawa-style lion dance and taiko by Ryukyukoku Hawaii Matsuri Daiko. Thank you for the engaging performances!




The Japanese traditional cask-breaking ceremony, *kagamiwari*, was performed by Governor David Ige, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Consul General Yasushi Misawa, JASH Chair Sal Miwa, and Mr. Stanford Carr.



Mahalo to Consul General Misawa for giving an insightful description of "*setsubun*" followed by a lively *kanpai*.


In addition, guests received a complimentary *omamori* (amulet) and blessing from Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii to wish them a healthy and prosperous new year.

JASH extends its sincere appreciation to the event's sponsor, Stanford Carr Development LLC. Thank you for supporting this event year after year. Thanks also to Neiman Marcus's Mariposa restaurant for catering, Kokusai Sake Kai for providing sake tasting, The Cherry Company for the *kagamiwari* donation, and Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii Thank you to Washington Place for hosting us again this year. 

## JASH's Project Reach Out (PRO) Collaborator JETAA Hosts Shinnenkai



As a collaborator in JASH's Project Reach Out (PRO), the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAA) Hawaii held its Shinnenkai with special guest speaker Grant Newsham, who spoke about the "other side" of Japan organized crime and its effects.

According to JETAA President John Anbe, "This was a night full of shock, awe, and amazing anecdotes. Because of our partnership with JASH, we were able to find a great speaker. Our members were so intrigued by Grant that we ran out of time during his Q&A!" PRO is supported by a generous grant from The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. 

## Congratulations to the Winners of the 13th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Competition



*JASH President Lenny Yajima with JASH Chair Sal Miwa, JASH Directors David Asanuma, Jean Rolles and Lauren Moriarty, JTB Hawaii's Akio Hoshino, and the winning teams*



## Congratulations to the Winners of the 13th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Competition (Continued)

Congratulations to the 133 students who represented 28 high schools from Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai at the 13th Annual Japan-America Society of Hawaii Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at Kapiolani Community College! Teams were comprised of three students each, with a total of 45 teams competing. The 45 student teams 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.

Students were divided into two levels: Level A or Level B, depending on their current Japanese language level. Level A students are enrolled in Japanese I or II and Level B students are enrolled in Japanese III or IV.

We are proud to announce the winners of this year's competition:

**Level A 1st place: Iolani School**

**Level A 2nd place: Hawaii Baptist Academy**

**Level A 3rd place: Mid-Pacific Institute**

**Level B 1st place: Iolani School**

**Level B 2nd place: Mid-Pacific Institute**

**Level B 3rd place: Kamehameha Schools –  
Kapalama Campus**

The Atsuhiko Tateuchi Memorial Award for Outstanding Scholarship was awarded to the overall top scoring team in the competition: Iolani School, Level A team. This team received a total of 225 points out of a possible 300 points at the competition.

JASH awarded Japan trips to the top scoring public and private school teams in each level.

We are pleased to announce the JWC Japan trip winners:

**Level A: Iolani School (private) and Leilehua High School (public)**

**Level B: Iolani School (private) and Kauai High School (public)**

In addition, JASH Board member and Educational Committee (K-12) Chair Jean E. Rolles sponsored a fifth award for a trip to Japan in honor of her friend and fellow JASH Board member, Dr. Michael Leineweber, who passed away in 2014. Dr. Leineweber was a loyal supporter of JASH who strongly believed in the educational programs that JASH conducts, especially those programs that encourage exchanges between people from Japan and Hawaii. In his memory, Ms. Rolles sponsored a team chosen through a random drawing during the JWC awards ceremony. To be qualified for this random drawing, the team must have scored at least 100 points and be in the top 20 scoring teams at the competition. The four teams who had already won Japan trips were not eligible for this drawing. (Continued on page 4)



*The winner of the Dr. Michael Leineweber award was: Island Pacific Academy, Level A team*

## Congratulations to the Winners of the 13th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Competition (Continued from page 3)

These five teams of three students and an advisor will travel to Japan this summer to experience firsthand what they studied in the classroom and through independent research. JASH will also arrange educational programs hosted by our colleagues in Japan: Temple University Japan; Tokai University; America-Japan Society of Tama-Tokyo; America-Japan Society of Hokkaido in Sapporo; and Ehime Prefectural International Center.




Between competition rounds, students were kept busy with numerous activity stations in the Activity Center. These included calligraphy, gyotaku fish printing by Prior 2 Pupu Productions, *karuta*, origami by Hawaii Origami Club, Jeopardy, *fukuwarai*, Pictionary, and other fun activities.

Thank you to our overall JWC sponsor Hawaiian Airlines and other major supporters – ABC Stores, Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation, Freeman Foundation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation, JTB Hawaii, Temple University Japan, The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles and

Ms. Jean Rolles – who through the JWC encourage high school students to study Japan and the many fascinating topics associated with it.



JASH would also like to thank all the contributors of prizes, snacks, and other donations that assisted with the competition. Mahalo also to the 80+ volunteers representing the JET Alumni Association of Hawaii, UH Manoa, KCC, Hawaii Tokai International College, and American Savings Bank to name a few, that helped to run the JWC. Without their tremendous support, the competition would not have been possible. Finally, our gratitude goes to the President, Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and staff of Kapiolani Community College for the generous use of their facilities and for their support of the JASH Japan Wizards Competition. 

## Meet the 2016 JASH Junior Ambassadors to the APCC




*2016 JASH Junior Ambassadors with chaperone Dori Kim.*

On January 9, 2016, a JASH committee selected six 11-year-old students (three boys and three girls) to represent Hawaii as JASH Junior Ambassadors (JAs) at the 28th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC), which will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from July 9 – 24, 2016. A total of 226 children from 44 countries and cities throughout the Asia-Pacific region have been invited to participate this year. The delegation will be led by JASH volunteer Makua Dori Kim, a Hawaiian Studies Teacher at Aina Haina Elementary.

This year, JASH received a total of 30 applicants from Oahu's private and public schools. After a day of interviews and group workshops held at the JASH office, the final six JAs were selected: **Christian Kauhane (Punahou School); Makoto Murata (Niu Valley Middle); Spencer Niemann (Kainalu Elementary); Miya Kanetake (Moanalua Elementary); Davina Li (Aina Haina Elementary) and Kourtney Nishimura (University Laboratory School).**

The students will spend one Saturday each month from now until July preparing for their trip to Fukuoka. The workshops are designed to develop teamwork skills and build students' knowledge about Japan, Japan-Hawaii ties, cultural etiquette and the 43 other countries and represented at the Convention. Each delegation is required to give a cultural performance unique to that country or region. The Hawaii delegation will be performing a Hawaiian chant and hula in Fukuoka.

On March 3, we were notified by the APCC office in Fukuoka that Jocelyn Bonilla was selected to be the Peace Ambassador (PA) for this year. Jocelyn was able to attend a portion of the second JA workshop on March 5, where the delegates began learning the chant they will perform in Fukuoka and learned some basic rules of etiquette they will need in Japan. The Peace Ambassador has more responsibilities than the Junior Ambassadors and participates in separate programs, working closely with the Bridge Club International Organization during their stay in Japan. Jocelyn Bonilla was a JA in 2011 and has actively participated in Bridge Club Hawaii. She is currently its President Elect. JASH is very pleased to send our six JAs and PA to Japan this summer to participate in the APCC and represent the State of Hawaii, building international friendships and sharing the Aloha Spirit. 



## Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu Hosts JASH Tomodachi Hinamatsuri Celebration



*Mrs. Yoko Misawa shares insightful descriptions of the hina ningyo*

At the beginning of March, Consul General Yasushi Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa graciously opened their doors to hold a Hinamatsuri Celebration in their official residence for JASH members and guests.

Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival) also known as Momo-no-sekku (Peach Festival) is traditionally celebrated on March 3 by the Japanese to wish for the happiness and healthy growth of girls. Households display elegant dolls called *hina ningyo* dressed in ancient court costumes of the Heian Period (794 – 1185).


Mrs. Misawa provided a brief background on the Hinamatsuri tradition and shared insightful descriptions of the *hina ningyo* on display with

the guests. For example, the emperor and empress dolls on the top tier are placed in different order from left to right in the Kanto (Eastern Japan) and Kansai (Western Japan) regions.

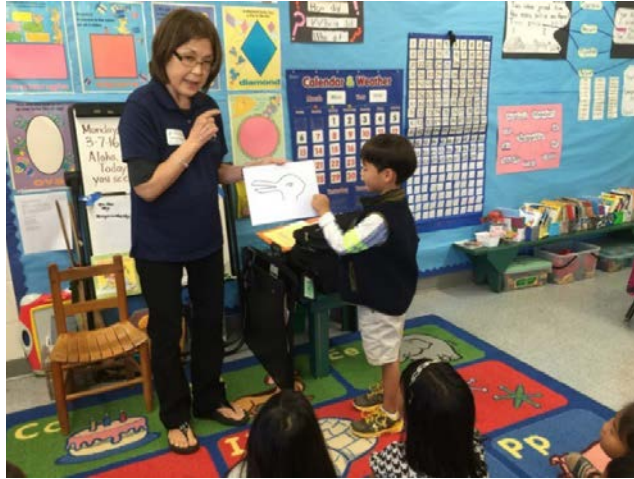
The guests also enjoyed a special performance of *shigin* (reciting poems) and traditional dance by Takamasa Fujima from the Fujima Takamasa Nihon Buyou Kenkyusho (Fujima Takamasa Japanese Dance Institute) accompanied by Kunihito Eguchi (*shigin*) and Darin Miyashiro (*koto*).



*Kanto Region Hina Ningyo on Display*

Thank you once again to Consul General and Mrs. Misawa for hosting this much-anticipated occasion. JASH would also like to thank our Tomodachi Committee members for providing additional refreshments for this event. Thank you Fujima-sensei, Eguchi-sensei and Miyashiro-sensei for the wonderful performance, and we hope to see you again in Hawaii soon. 

## Japan-In-A-Suitcase Visits Lanai High and Elementary School on the Island of Lanai



*Volunteer Noreen Kawachika teaches a 1<sup>st</sup> grade how to look at a picture from a new perspective.*

On Monday, March 7, 2016, the 350 students of Lanai High and Elementary School (LHES) enjoyed presentations of Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JIAS) by Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) staff member Becky Ebisu and Volunteers Karen Fuse and Noreen Kawachika. This was all made possible through the kind and generous grant from the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation. This grant supports JASH's Japan-in-a-Suitcase program yearly to continue the presentations which share Japanese school life with the children of Hawaii. The students absorbed all the information presented with such energy and enthusiasm, that the 11 presentations whizzed by pleasantly. Together, the presenters were able to serve 13 classes within one school day. In addition, JASH presented two origami books to LHES Principal Elton Kinoshita for their school library.

Thank you to Lanai High and Elementary School's curriculum coordinator/counselor, Jennifer Ka'aikala, for making all of the arrangements.

JIAS is a free program offered to elementary schools in Hawaii. It is one of five JASH educational programs aimed at teaching the concept of "different perspectives" and is aligned with the Hawaii Department of Education Content Standards for Social Studies and World Languages. The major goal of JIAS is to nurture students' sense of inquisitiveness and help them to look at objects and issues from different viewpoints. This is accomplished through a hands-on demonstration of items used by children at schools in Japan. JASH believes teaching these concepts at an early age will make them more open-minded to new ideas and people of other backgrounds. The secondary purpose of JIAS is to teach children about Japan's unique culture and to appreciate Hawaii's special relationship with Japan. The young students at Lanai High and Elementary School now understand this rich cultural relationship first-hand.



*JIAS presenters Noreen, Becky, and Karen with LHES's Coordinator Jennifer Ka'aikala in front of Lanai Elementary*

## Japan-America Society of Hawaii Holds Spring McInerney Foundation's Japan Day



*Students learn how to dress in traditional kimono*

The Society held its bi-annual Japan Day program, sponsored by the McInerney Foundation, on March 10, 2016. The program, now in its 23rd year, is the Society's longest running educational program. Over 100 students representing Farrington High School, Hanalani Schools, Hilo High School and Saint Louis School gathered together at Pacific Beach Hotel for a half-day of Japanese cultural activities. 35 volunteer experts presented cultural classes on bon dance, calligraphy, *ikebana* (flower arranging), *kimono/yukata* wear, origami, *soroban* (Japanese abacus), and "Life Skills and Personal Success: Attributes of a Global Citizen".


The morning started off with an Opening Ceremony in the Mauka Ballroom led by JASH President Lenny Yajima and Pacific Beach Hotel General Manager Rob Robinson welcomed the students to Japan Day. Ms. Chizuko Endo and members of the Taiko Center of the Pacific invigorated the audience with a *taiko* performance. The students then proceeded to their various activities. Each student had the opportunity to participate in four different cultural sessions throughout the morning.

To date, over 5,700 students from 59 different schools have experienced Japan Day. This unique program is one of two programs offered

by JASH to Hawaii's high school students, with the other being the Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition. Japan Day provides students with hands-on experience in traditional Japanese arts and culture while reinforcing and complementing what is taught in the classroom. Japan Day also illustrates how art and culture in different societies can influence and enhance people's lives, and how these cultural values are perpetuated by devotees of the arts. Through understanding and respect for different cultures and customs, we continue to bridge the gap between Japan and the U.S., and encourage friendship and cultural appreciation.



*Earl Okawa teaches students how to gain life skills and personal success*

JASH would like to thank all the volunteer experts for their dedication to the program, for without them, this program would not be possible: Ms. Betty Dela Cuesta and members of Hawaii Shin Kobukai; calligraphy master Mrs. Setsuko Tokumine, her assistant Joyce Wong and Mr. Stanley Hashiro; Mrs. Jessie Nakata and her daughter Dawn Kanno of MOA Hawaii; Mrs. Jean Sakihara and members of Kimono Project USA; Ms. Ashley Nishihara, Scott Macri, Nin Gan and Lynn Masumoto of Hawaii Origami Club; Mr. and Mrs. Hideaki Oshima from Araki Hiroya Soroban School; and Mr. Earl Okawa, Dean of the I-Lion School and President Emeritus of JASH. We would also like to thank Pacific Beach Hotel for the generous discounted use of their facilities, and Chizuko Endo and the Taiko Center of the Pacific for their inspirational demonstration. 





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*Mahalo!*

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*Mahalo!*



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*Makalo!*