



JASH Newsflash

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

Spring 2019

Introducing 2019 JASH Junior Ambassadors to the APCC

On January 19, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) held Junior Ambassador interviews to select six, 10- to 11-year-old students to represent



Hawaii and the United States at the 31st Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan from July 14 – 25, 2019.

The Junior Ambassadors will participate in a week-long exchange program where they will have the opportunity to meet over 200 students from 40 different countries, provinces, and cities in the Asia-Pacific region. The Hawaii chaperone this year will be former Junior Ambassador and Peace Ambassador Mr. Colby Takeda.

JASH received a total of 32 applications from private, public, and public charter school student from across the state. After a day of interviews and group-workshops held at the



(L-R): Carter Nobuhara; Ella Bosworth; Kristen Barrera; Caleb Kagawa; Anuhea Kealoha; and Jalen Matsuura.

JASH office, six Junior Ambassadors were selected: Kristen Barrera (Aina Haina Elem.), Ella Bosworth (Noelani Elem.), Caleb Kagawa (Momilani Elem.), Anuhea Kealoha (Wilson Elem.), Jalen Matsuura (Momilani Elem.), and Carter Nobuhara (Punahou School).

The APCC is dedicated to promoting international relationships among children in hopes that they will mature into adults with a strong sense of social responsibility. To prepare them for the trip, the students will

spend one Saturday each month from now until July in JASH's Junior Ambassador training program. Each workshop is designed to develop teamwork-skills and build students' knowledge about Japan, Hawaii, and cultural etiquette of the over 40 other delegations expected to be present at the APCC this summer.

The first workshop was held at the JASH office on Saturday, February 2, 2019. The new Junior Ambassadors and their parents had the opportunity to learn more about JASH, the APCC, and the responsibilities of a Junior Ambassador. They also had a chance to meet the 2018 delegation and hear about their experience from the program last year.

JASH is excited for the opportunity to send another delegation to the APCC, and we look forward to nurturing the next generation of young leaders. Thank you to all of the JASH supporters that allow us to make this program possible.

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu

JASH hosted its annual New Year's Reception at the Hawaii State Art Museum with food provided by onsite restaurant Artizen by MW on January 22, 2019.



To kick off the New Year, JASH President Reyna Kaneko along with Board Chairman Steve Sombrero, Executive Director Shoichi Suzuki from the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo, Consul General Koichi Ito, Governor David Ige and Deputy Consul General Takayuki Shinozawa participated in the traditional *Kagami Wari* or breaking of the sake barrel.

The Bridge Between Hawaii and Japan Featuring Dr. Dennis Ogawa & Sunshine Katsura

The Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu hosted a special program for Hawaii State Legislators and City and County Officials at the Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium on January 29, 2019. The special program, in which JASH helped to coordinate, was based on the friendship and goodwill built between Japan and Hawaii and Japan and the U.S.



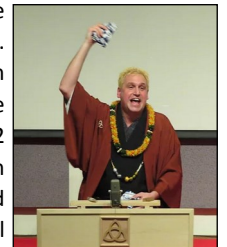
Consul General Ito McCartney of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

We continued with Dr. Dennis Ogawa a celebrated professor of American Studies at the University of Hawaii—Manoa with teaching and research expertise in the areas of Japanese American Studies, Television and



Ethnic Identity, and Multicultural Studies. Dr. Ogawa, who is also a JASH Board Director, gave a talk about the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii—the *Gannenmono*.

We concluded with Katsura Sunshine, a Canadian-born performer of Rakugo, traditional Japanese comedic storytelling. Sunshine has been performing around the world since 2012 sharing his views on Japanese society and acting as a cultural ambassador. Sunshine had the audience roaring with laughter throughout his lively performance.



Ehime Maru Memorial Ceremony

On Saturday, February 9, 2019, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) held a remembrance ceremony for the 19th anniversary of the collision between the USS



Greenville submarine and the Uwajima Fisheries High School training ship Ehime Maru. The Ehime Maru suffered the loss of nine lives, including four students, two teachers and three crew members.

Five family members who lost loved ones traveled from Japan to Honolulu for this occasion. Also traveling from Uwajima City were students and teachers from the Uwajima Fisheries High School. Consul General Koichi Ito, Lieutenant Governor Josh Green and Mayor Kirk Caldwell along with over 50 members of the community also attended the service at the Ehime Maru

Memorial in Kaka’ako Waterfront Park.

While offering his condolences to the nine souls and their families, Mayor Caldwell spoke words of comfort to them; “we will always be here for you and you are always welcome here.” A representative of the bereaved families, Mr. Tatsuyoshi Mizuguchi, said “I am so grateful for the warm



hospitality and help that the people of Hawaii provided for us to heal our pain and grief throughout the years.” Mr. Mizuguchi lost his 17-year old son in the accident. His remains are the only one who could not be found.

JASH serves as the administrator of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association and works to preserve the memory of the lives lost in this tragic accident, and to maintain the memorial in perpetuity.

Annual Hinamatsuri Celebration

On Wednesday, February 27, 2019, Consul General Koichi Ito and Mrs. Misako Ito graciously opened their residence to the Japan-America Society of Hawaii’s annual Tomodachi Hinamatsuri celebration in honor of Girls’ Day.

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



Mrs. Ito shared with the guests some background about the seven-tiered *hina ningyo* display. She also explained

how special food traditionally served at a Girls’ Day celebration, such as *hishi mochi* (diamond-shaped tri-colored rice cakes) and *hina arare* (colored ball rice puffs) have significant meanings.

Guests were entertained with a unique collaboration of *shigin* (reciting poems) and calligraphy by Ms. Keishu Tokugawa and Ms. Yuki Terasaka. A lively and powerful



performance of Japanese songs by Anju Madoka of the Madoka no Kai Japanese folk song school put everyone in a festive spring mood as well.

Following the performances, guests were able to partake in special refreshments prepared by the Consul General’s personal chef and donated by the Tomodachi Committee members.

Thank you once again to Consul General and

Taste of JASH—Hiroshima



On Thursday, February 21, 2019, JASH hosted the first in a series of five *Taste of JASH* events at Odori-ko Restaurant.

Our goal for this series is to bring young professionals in mid-management together with establish local business leaders so that these up-and-coming leaders can learn from veterans. Our hope is that valuable professional connections can be made while established leaders serve as an inspiration for our NexGen of leaders

Almost 70 guests, both JASH veterans and those new to JASH, enjoyed a fun ice-breaker game to start the evening off for a chance to win door prizes.

Guests enjoyed Hiroshima style *okonomiyaki*, fried oysters, sushi, and more! JTB USA, Inc. did a short presentation on travel hot spots in Hiroshima as well as other travel destinations in Japan.



Thank you to our partners, The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership; Odori-ko Restaurant; JTB Hawaii, USA, Inc.; and OtaJoy by Otafuku for their donation of Okonomi sauce for every guest.

Mrs. Ito for hosting this much-anticipated occasion. JASH would also like to thank Ms. Keishu Tokugawa, Ms. Yuki Terasaka and Ms. Anju Madoka for their special performance. A big Mahalo to Tomodachi Committee members for providing additional refreshments.

Photos by Leslie Ozawa

16th Annual Japan Wizards Competition

Congratulations to the 126 students who represented 27 high schools from Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai at the 16th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Hawaii Tokai International College!



Teams were comprised of three students each, with a total of 42 teams competing. The 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.

The theme for the 2019 competition was “*Nihon no Kankyō Mondai: An Ever-Changing Japan.*” This theme pertains to the shift in Japan’s environmental landscape and the challenges Japan faces due to global warming and climate change.

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 pleased to announce the overall first, second, and third place winners by level:

Level A

- 1st place: Punahou School
- 2nd place: Iolani School
- 3rd place: Moanalua High School

Level B

- 1st place: Iolani School
- 2nd place: Punahou School
- 3rd place: Maryknoll School



Level B, 1st place winner, Iolani School was also the Tateuchi Memorial Award winner for highest number of points received in the competition.

Each year, JASH awards 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: **Punahou School** (private) and **Moanalua High School** (public)

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

In addition, JASH Board member and Youth Education Committee 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 encouraged 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 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. The winner of the Dr. Michael Leineweber award was **Hawaii Baptist Academy (Level B)**.

H.P. Baldwin High School (Level B), was also



awarded a trip to Japan donated by a retired public school teacher, who chose to remain

anonymous. The donor expressed how her former students benefited from the JASH Japan Wizards Competition and requested that a second public school from Level B travel to Japan.

These six teams of three students and their advisors will travel to Japan this summer to experience firsthand what they studied in the classroom and through independent research.

This year, students were also invited to create a video that illustrates the challenges Japan faces due to global warming/climate change. The videos captured the many different ways in which Japan is attempting to mitigate climate change or cope with the increased temperatures.

JASH received a total of 27 video entries, and 15 of those were selected as “finalists.” Of these final 15, eight were given top awards in the following categories:

Most Representative of Topic:

- **Iolani School** Level A

Most Inspirational:

- **Leilehua** High School Level B

Most Educational:

- **Punahou School** Level A

Best Produced:

- **Kapolei** High School Level A

Thank you to our title sponsor Hawaiian Airlines and other major supporters – 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; Jean E. Rolles; JTB Hawaii; Takuyo Corporation dba Lighthouse; Temple University Japan; The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; and our anonymous donor.

JASH would also like to thank all the contributors who provided prizes, snacks, and other donations to our competition. Also, a HUGE mahalo to the 70+ volunteers. JASH would like to express our sincere gratitude to Chancellor Naoto Yoshikawa and everyone at Hawaii Tokai International College for the generous use of their facilities and for their support of the 2019 JASH Japan Wizards Competition.

JAPAN UPDATE: A Glimpse of the U.S. Japan Relationship

Thank you to those who attended the Japan-America Society of Hawaii’s “Japan Update Program” on March 1, 2019 at the Halekulani Hotel. We were honored to feature three prominent speakers: Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, Mr. James Kelly and Mr. Paul Yonamine.



Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University; Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Area of Expertise: U.S. Politics and Foreign Policy; U.S.-Japan relations spoke about how the Japanese view President Trump’s America, and why the Japanese are “comfortable” with him. While they may not agree with his tactics, President Trump’s bold stance on international relations is something that Japan can understand and relate to. He also spoke to the geopolitical tension in the Asia-Pacific region and that for Japan, the bilateral relationship between Japan and

America is critical to Japan politically and security wise.

Mr. James Kelly, Chairman, Pacific Forum International; President, EAP Associates, LLC. Area of Expertise: Foreign Policy



provided a macro view of the geopolitical climate in the Asia-Pacific region with a focus on the many issues facing Japan-tension with China and North and South Korea, population decline, U.S. Military bases in Okinawa to name a few.



Mr. Paul Yonamine, Chairman & CEO, Central Pacific Financial Corp. Executive Chairman, Central Pacific Bank, Area of Expertise: Business & Economic

Development, localized the discussion by speaking about potential economic opportunities as well as challenges between the U.S./Hawaii and Japan. He also spoke

about the use of technology and AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the business sector.

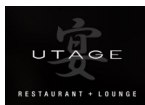
Ms. Barbara Tanabe, Owner, Ho`akea Communications, LLC (a public relations company) served as Moderator for the evening.

We were pleased to be able to host this program through the generosity of the Embassy of Japan in the United States of America and the support of the National Association of Japan-America Societies.



(L-R) Mr. James Kelly, Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, Mr. Steve Sombrero, Ms. Barbara Tanabe, Ms. Reyna Kaneko and Mr. Paul Yonamine

Taste of JASH—Okinawa



On Monday, March 18, 2019, JASH hosted the SECOND in a series of FIVE *Taste of JASH* events at Utage Restaurant.

Over 60 guests enjoyed Okinawan soba, champuru, delicious andagi, etc. and joined



in on a friendly Okinawan trivia competition. Guests won prizes for participating in the trivia competition and door prize drawing. Randy Kuba of Lotus Spirits educated the crowd on the “spirit” of the famous Okinawan beverage, Awamori, and the many ways to enjoy the popular drink.

Next destination.....**FUKUOKA!!**
May 21st at Minori Craft Japanese Tavern
Register NOW!

MAHALO to our partners: The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership; Utage Restaurant; JTB Hawaii; and Lotus Spirits.

About JASH and the 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.

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Upcoming Events

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Tue., May 21 | <i>Taste of JASH—Fukuoka</i> at Minori Craft Japanese Tavern |
| Sun., Jun. 9 | Zen and Leadership WS at Daihonzan Chozen-ji |
| Tue., Jul. 16 | <i>Taste of JASH—Ehime</i> at Zigu Restaurant |
| Fri., Aug. 2 | Hilton 5:01 at Hilton Hawaiian Village |
| Tue., Sep. 17 | Annual Dinner & Silent Auction at the Hilton Hawaiian Village |
| Thu., Nov. 7 | <i>Taste of JASH—Hokkaido</i> at Tonkatsu Tamafuji |