



JASH Newsflash

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

Spring 2020

JASH Shinnenkai at Washington Place

On January 16, 2020, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) was honored to hold our annual *Shinnenkai* New Year's celebration at historical Washington Place. There, at the home of Governor David Ige and Mrs. Ige, over 125 guests enjoyed warm camaraderie and conversation while dining on an abundance of delicious culinary creations. Featured premier chefs included: Chef Chris Kajioka of Senia; Chef Michelle Karr of MW Restaurant; Chef Ryo Takatsuka of Noe at Four Seasons; and Chef David Lukela of Alohilani Resort - Waikiki Beach.

Governor Ige welcomed guests and spoke about the importance of Hawaii-Japan relations as well as relayed his well wishes for a wonderful new year. Guests also enjoyed the entertainment as they rang in the new year with the thunderous beat of *Taiko* drums performed by Dragon Beat. A highlight of the evening's program was the announcement of the winner of the JASH NexGen Flyaway Contest sponsored by Japan Airlines. The contest, only open to JASH NexGen *Committee* Members, challenged contestants to write about U.S.-Japan relations and what they could personally do to support JASH and our mission. In addition, contestants received entries for any new members that they recruited to JASH. The contest ran from August to December 2019



Consul General Koichi Ito leading a kanpai toast with (L-R) Lt. General Mike Minihan; JASH Board Director Mr. Sal Miwa; JASH President Ms. Reyna Kaneko; Governor David Ige; and JASH Board Chair Mr. Steve Sombrero.

and the winner, Mr. John Rankin, was selected by random drawing in early January 2020.

JASH would like to thank JASH Corporate Member, Mr. Tejiro Handa, President & Chief Executive Officer at Wing Spirit Inc. for providing a generous grant to sponsor our *Shinnenkai*. Mahalo also to Kokusai Sake Kai for hosting a booth to educate guests about different types of sake and serving samples from various regions in Japan. Thank you also to The Cherry Company for donating use of their sake cask for our *Kagamiwari* ceremony and sake for the kanpai.

President's Message

Aloha JASH Ohana,

With this message, I hope that you and your loved ones are well and staying safe. These are challenging and unprecedented times for all of us. We need to band together as a community to shelter in place so that we can combat the COVID-19 pandemic, flatten the curve, and be on our way to recovery.

I speak on behalf of the staff of JASH to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to you, our members and friends for your continued support, especially during these difficult times. Sadly, we have had to cancel or postpone many of our planned programs and events. It is a huge disappointment for us, but we are keeping things in perspective and will be very active in hosting interesting events once it becomes safe to do so.

Please visit us at www.jashawaii.org for the latest JASH updates. Although we cannot meet in person for the time being, we are still only an email away. Please feel free to contact me at kaneko@jashawaii.org. I look forward to the time when we can come together again. In the meantime, STAY SAFE, STAY HOME, AND STAY HEALTHY!

With Aloha,
Reyna Kaneko

NexGen Movers & Shakers Let's Talk Story Series—Panel Discussion



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

On January 29, 2020, through the generous sponsorship by the Island Insurance Foundation, JASH hosted a panel discussion entitled, "The Next Generation of Leadership: Embracing Change While Preserving Traditions, A Multi-Generational Discussion" at the Entrepreneur Sandbox in Kakaako.

This Panel Discussion was the culminating event following three JASH



"Movers & Shakers Talk Story" sessions. The three Talk Story sessions leading up to this panel discussion were small, exclusive events offered to young leaders, to allow intimate and deeper discussions on topics such as leadership and closing the generation gap.

The three "JASH Movers & Shakers Talk Story" sessions featured business leaders, Mr. Colbert Matsumoto, Chairman & President, Island Holdings, Inc.; Ms. Barbara Tanabe, JASH Board Director and Owner of Hoakea Communications; and Mr. Bob Harrison, Chairman, President & CEO, First Hawaiian Bank.

JASH Board Director, Mr. Dan Dinell served as Moderator during the panel discussion along with four distinguished young leaders from different sectors of the community who served as panelists to discuss their perspectives on leadership.

Continued on Page 2

Movers & Shakers—Panel Discussion

Continued from Page 1

Ms. Cristina Moon is Marketing Director & Resident Priest, Daihonzan Choen-ji Temple and Owner & Principle, MoHo. She is a multidisciplinary strategist, writer and Zen teacher who helps mission-driven organizations manage marketing and social change campaigns across a range of geographies, industries and issues.

Mr. John Rankin, is the Founder and President of Hapa Travel LLC, a boutique destination-management company which specializes in group travel to Hawai'i which he started in 2018.

Ms. Sara Lin is Senior Special Assistant with the Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii. Ms. Lin is Governor David Ige's lead for housing, responsible for helping to drive his affordable housing initiatives and serving as

his liaison to private sector, nonprofit and government stakeholders in Hawai'i's housing community.

Mr. Toby Tamaye is the President of AT Marketing which is one of Hawai'i's top digital and social media marketing firms. Recognized as a top strategist to reach the 25-50 year old demographic market and international visitor industries.

Following the panel discussion, guests continued the conversation and enjoyed networking and refreshments.

Stay tuned for a follow up panel discussion in 2020! For more information on future NexGen Programs or JASH Membership, please contact Lila Frisbie, Director of Membership and Programs at lfrisbie@jashawaii.org.

Ehime Maru Memorial Ceremony

On Sunday, February 9, 2020, the Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) held a remembrance ceremony for the 19th anniversary of the collision between the USS Greeneville 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.



Ten family members who lost loved ones traveled from Japan to Honolulu for this occasion. Also traveling from Uwajima City were Deputy Mayor Mitsuhiro Tamada of Uwajima City and students as well as teachers from the Uwajima Fisheries High School. Consul General Koichi Ito, Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Mr. Mike McCartney, Director of the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism along with over 50 members of the community also

attended the ceremony at the Ehime Maru Memorial in Kaka'ako Waterfront Park.

While offering his condolences to the nine souls and their families, Mayor Caldwell encouraged the community to continue building on the relationships that have developed through this tragedy.

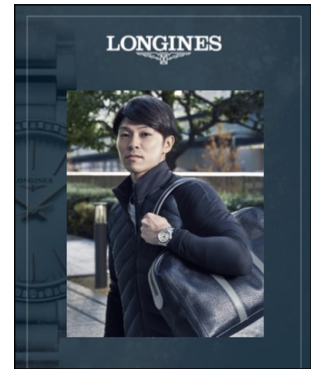


JASH serves as the Administrator of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association and works to preserve the memory of the lives lost in this tragic accident, and to maintain the memorial in perpetuity.



Longines 5:01 Event

On February 20, 2020, JASH was proud to partner with JASH corporate member Nashimoto & Associates to present an exclusive event to view the iconic HydroConquest Collection of watches at Longines - Ala Moana. JASH members enjoyed complimentary refreshments and hors d'oeuvres while they shopped the exquisite line of fine Swiss watches from this luxury brand.



In October 2017, Japanese artistic gymnast Kohei Uchimura joined the prestigious family of Longines Ambassadors.

Based in Saint-Imier, Switzerland since 1832, Longines watchmakers enjoy an expertise steeped in tradition, elegance and performance. The Longines brand, with its winged hourglass emblem, is established in over 150 countries.

Longines has since joined JASH as our newest Corporate Member. Located in Mall Level 2 in the Ewa-Wing of Ala Moana Center.

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.

Top High School Students Compete for Trips to Japan at the 17th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition

Congratulations to the 111 students who represented 19 high schools from Oahu, Hawaii and Maui at the 17th Annual JASH Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Kapiolani Community College!

Teams were comprised of three students each, with a total of 37 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 2020 competition was the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics.

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, Tateuchi Memorial Award and International Christian University (ICU) Special Award winner (For highest number of points in the overall competition):

- Konawaena High School**
- 2nd place: St. Andrew's School**
- 3rd place: Hawaii Baptist Academy**

Level B

- 1st place: King Kekaulike High School**
- 2nd place: Hanalani Schools**
- 3rd place: Mililani High School B-1**

Each year, JASH awards trips to Japan to the top scoring public and private school teams in each level. We are pleased to announce the JWC Japan trip winners:

Level A

- St. Andrew's School (private)**
- Konawaena High School (public)**

Level B

- Hanalani Schools (private)**
- King Kekaulike High School (public)**

In addition, JASH Board member and Youth Education Committee Chair Jean E. Rolles



Group-shot of the six JWC teams who won trips to Japan at this year's competition.

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 qualify for this drawing, the team must have scored at least 120 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.



Konawaena High School Level A Team receiving the plaque for the Tateuchi Memorial Award, certificate for Japan trip, and International Christian University Special Award

Mililani High School, Level B-1 was also awarded a trip to Japan donated by a retired public school teacher, who chooses 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 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 how Tokyo is preparing to welcome the world with the spirit of 'omotenashi' at the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics and what we can learn from the same spirit.

JASH received a total of 22 video entries, and 14 of those were selected as "finalists." Of these final 14, four were given top awards in the following categories:

Most Representative of the Topic:
Mililani High School Level B-1

Most Educational:
King Kekaulike High School Level B

Most Inspirational:
Mililani High School Level A

Best Produced:
Konawaena High School Level B

Between competition rounds, students were kept busy with numerous activity stations in the Activity Center. These included Gytaku Fish Printing by Prior 2 Pupu Productions, Hanafuda by Hanafuda Hawaii, Origami by Hawaii Origami Club, Pictionary, the Chopsticks Game, Ohajiki and other fun activities.



Students learning the basics of Hanafuda from a representative of Hanafuda Hawaii

This year, at our first-ever College Fair between competition rounds, students were also provided opportunities to explore higher education options in Japan and Hawaii by

JWC Academic Team Competition

Continued from Page 3

JASH Corporate Member and supporting organizations including Hawaii Tokai International College/Tokai University, Hosei University, International Christian University, International Pacific University, Lighthouse/JTB College Tours, Temple University Japan Campus and Tokyo Management College.



Students learn about higher-education opportunities at the JWC College Fair.

Thank you to our title sponsor Hawaiian Airlines and other major supporters – Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation; Freeman Foundation; Friends of Hawaii Charities; Halekulani Corporation; Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation; International Christian University;

International Cultural and Friendship Association; Jean E. Rolles; JTB Hawaii; License Academy; Lighthouse; Temple University Japan; The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles; and our anonymous donor – 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 the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu who provided prize items for our competition. Also, a HUGE Mahalo to the 60+ volunteers who helped the JWC run smoothly and also volunteered their Saturday in late January for a JWC training session.

Volunteers were from organizations that included the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association of Hawaii, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Kapiolani Community College, Hawaii Tokai International College, and JTB USA, just to name a few. Without their tremendous support, the JWC would not have been possible. Finally our gratitude goes to the President, Chancellor and staff of Kapiolani Community College for the generous use of their facilities and for their support of the JASH Japan Wizards Competition.

Hinamatsuri Celebration

On March 3, 2020, Consul General Koichi Ito and Mrs. Misako Ito graciously opened their residence to JASH for our annual Hinamatsuri celebration in honor of Girls' Day.



(L-R): Kazuko Love—Tomodachi Committee Co-Chair, Mrs. Misako Ito, Mr. William Watson, Ms. Jun Ariake, and Ms. Reyna Kaneko.

Hinamatsuri (Doll Festival) also known as *Momo-no-sekku* (Peach Festival) is traditionally celebrated 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.

Continued on Page 5

Japan Currents Program—Sister State and Sister City Relationships

Thank you to all those who attended JASH's *Japan Currents Program: Sister State and Sister City Relationships: Exploring Current Possibilities for Collaboration*, on March 9, 2020 at the Halekulani Hotel. We were honored to feature two prominent speakers: Mr. Shin Koyamada and Mr. Paul Yonamine.

This program was made possible by the generous support of the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. and the National Association of Japan America Societies (NAJAS).

This topic of Sister Relationships was of extreme significance to JASH as we build the groundwork leading up to the *JASH Sister Summit: A Hawaii-Japan Project*, scheduled for May 14, 2021.

Some of the objectives of that summit are:

- Understanding of opportunities created by sister relationships
- Strengthen Commitment
- Provide networking and brainstorming opportunities

Mr. Koyamada provided his involvement in sister relationships both nationally and internationally. Mr. Paul Yonamine provided his insights on focus points for successful sister relationships



(L-R) Ms. Kim Haruki; Mr. Gregg Yamanaka; Ms. Lynda Yonamine; Mr. Paul Yonamine; Ms. Ashley Yonamine; Mr. Mufi Hanneman; and Mr. Alex Jampel.



(L-R): Mr. Shin Koyamada; Consul General Ito; Governor David Ige; Mrs. Misako Ito; Governor George Ariyoshi; Mrs. Jean Ariyoshi; Mr. Paul Yonamine; Ms. Reyna Kaneko; Ms. Lynda Yonamine; Mayor Kirk Caldwell; Mr. Peter Kelley; and Mr. Steve Sombrero.

32nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention

Preparatory Workshops



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA

Starting in January 2020, JASH has conducted monthly workshops for the four 11-year old Junior Ambassadors (JAs) who were selected to represent the Hawaii Delegation at the 32nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan. Through the workshops, the students are exposed to various aspects of Japanese culture; do research and presentations on the other international delegations; and are challenged to critically examine and compare their culture to others.

The first workshop held on January 11, 2020 was an introduction and orientation to the APCC program and the JASH office. The group was very fortunate that our kumu for hula, Kumu Blaine Kia of KIA Enterprises LLC attended the workshop and introduced the JAs to the dance they will be performing at



(L-R) Sandy Takeda-2020 Chaperone; Jalen Matsuura-2019 JA; Carter Nobuhara-2019 JA; Rhegen Villarimo-2020 JA; Anuhea Kealoha-2019 JA; Loch Moorman-2020 JA; Rain Young-2020 JA; Jackie Furuta-2020 JA; Caleb Kagawa-2019 JA; Colby Takeda-2019 Chaperone; and Ella Bosworth-2019 JA. Not pictured: Kristen Barrera-2019 JA who now resides in New Jersey.

the APCC's BRIDGE Festival. During the Festival, each of the delegations from over 40 regions throughout the Pacific will share their culture by performing a local song or dance. In addition to the 2020 JAs and parents meeting one another for the first time, they were also introduced to Bridge Club Hawaii, the APCC Alumni Group as the 2019 JAs shared their trip experiences and tips.

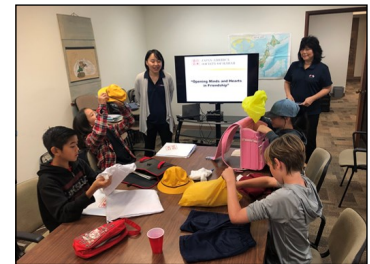
The second workshop on February 15, 2020 introduced the JAs to a variety of Japanese food that many of them had never tried before this meeting. The JAs ventured with 2020 chaperone Sandy Takeda, 2021 chaperone Rich Kiyabu, and JASH staff to a local Japanese supermarket where the JAs had a scavenger hunt. The purpose of the scavenger hunt was to find Japanese food items that the JAs will potentially eat in



(L-R) Rich Kiyabu-2021 Chaperone; Jackie Furuta; Loch Moorman; Rhegen Villarimo; Sandy Takeda; and Rain Young share their supermarket purchases.

Fukuoka. Besides popular dishes like *onigiri* and *karaage*, the JAs tried different items such as *konbu*, *kabocha*, and even *natto*.

The third workshop on March 7, 2020 was unfortunately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Usually, our office takes the JAs to the annual Honolulu Festival so they can experience aspects of Japanese culture such as calligraphy and classic children's games. As the Festival was cancelled, chaperones and staff instead took the opportunity to teach the JAs about homestay etiquette and prepare them for their school visit. Using materials from the JASH Japan-in-a-Suitcase Program, the JAs were able to have hands-on experience exploring a typical Japanese elementary school student's school supplies. They were particularly impressed to learn about the amount of cleaning Japanese elementary school students do to maintain their schools.



(L-R Standing) Takako Miyazawa-JASH Educational Program Director and Sandy Takeda lead the JIAS program for the JAs.

The 2020 Junior Ambassadors have come very far in the last few months and are ready to take on the upcoming challenges that face them. It has been wonderful to see the newly forged friendships, the strengthening of these bonds, and the transformation of these students into global citizens.

Hinamatsuri

Continued from Page 4

Mrs. Ito shared heart-warming and joyful stories of celebrating *Hinamatsuri* as a young child. A beautiful display of *hina ningyo* were displayed throughout the Consulate.

Mr. William Watson, a lecturer and PhD Candidate in Music Composition at the University of Hawaii-Manoa and Ms. Jun Ariake, a retired *Takarazuka* Revue performer originally from Tokyo provided entertainment. Mr. Watson performed soothing sounds on his *shakuhachi* and later,

Ms. Ariake provided a lively and powerful performance of songs that put everyone in a festive spring mood.

JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Consul General Ito and Mrs. Ito for hosting our event and providing us with delicious refreshments. Mahalo also to Tomodachi Committee members who donated additional food-items for our event and to Mr. Watson and Ms. Ariake for providing our entertainment.

Upcoming Events

Summer 2020	Natsumatsuri at IBM Courtyard
October 20	JASH Annual Dinner & Silent Auction at Sheraton Waikiki
November 2	JASH Golf Tournament Mid-Pacific Country Club