



JAPAN-AMERICA JOURNAL

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JASH Chair and President Visit Japan to Promote Existing Ties



JASH "delegation" to Nagaoka Fireworks Festival, with members of Nagaoka Festival Committee at the welcome party.

In August, JASH Chair Sharon Weiner and JASH President Ed Hawkins visited both Nagaoka City in Niigata Prefecture and Uwajima City and Matsuyama City in Ehime Prefecture to promote sister city and sister state ties between Hawaii and Japan. The visits were in keeping with JASH's mission of promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of the U.S. and Japan through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii. The visit to Nagaoka City was at the invitation of its Committee for Developing a Bridge of Friendship between Japan and USA to view its world-famous fireworks festival, and the excursion to Ehime was at the invitation of Uwajima City to attend its first Hawaiian Festival. This trip was supported by Ms. Weiner and DFS Hawaii.

The Nagaoka City visit deepened the ever-growing ties with the City and County of Honolulu which signed a sister city relationship document this past March. Although the main purpose was to enjoy the fabulous fireworks festival, the visit was an opportunity to call on Nagaoka's Mayor Tamio Mori, visit the new City Hall patterned after the open architecture of Honolulu Hale, and engage in discussions about future educational and cultural exchanges between students of Nagaoka and Honolulu.

Following that visit, Ms. Weiner and Mr. Hawkins traveled to Ehime Prefecture where the first stop was to Honolulu's sister city Uwajima. At its inaugural Hawaiian Festival, Ms. Weiner read a letter of greeting and congratulations from the Mayor of Honolulu, Peter Carlisle. The two also visited Uwajima Fisheries High School, home school for the training ship *Ehime Maru*, the genesis of the current relationship between Uwajima and Honolulu. Afterwards the two paid a courtesy



YES, it's UWAJIMA!

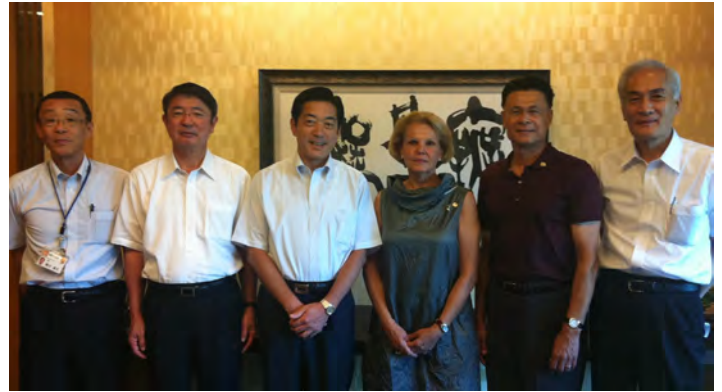
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Japan Visit...

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visit to Uwajima Minami Junior High School, the sister school for Kawananako Middle School that JASH had a hand in help creating.

The final stop was to Ehime’s capital city of Matsuyama where the visitors met with Ehime Prefectural International Center staff and the two interns from the University of Hawaii, Aurora Tsai and Manako Tanaka, who were completing their three-month internship (this program is a good-will measure put in place by the Ehime government following the *Ehime Maru* incident). At a lunch meeting with Ehime Governor Tokihiro




With Ehime Governor and staff (L-R): International Division Director Kunimoto, Board of Education Guidance Director Takemoto, Governor Tokihiro Nakamura, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Hawkins, Board of Education Superintendent Senba.




JASH Chair Sharon Weiner delivers a message from the Honolulu Mayor at the Ehime Hawaiian Festival.

Nakamura, the two discussed next year’s important 13th anniversary of the *Ehime Maru* incident in Hawaii, and areas of cultural, educational, and economic cooperation between Ehime and Hawaii. Reports of this visit were sent to Hawaii’s Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to provide inputs for next year’s 10th anniversary of marking Ehime-Hawaii sister state relationship.

Additional details of these visits can be found on the trip on our website at www.jashawaii.org. 



JASH Chair and EMMA President visit Uwajima’s Ehime Maru Memorial

Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) President Ed Hawkins accompanied by JASH Chair Sharon Weiner visited Uwajima Fishery High School, the home of the *Ehime Maru* training ship. While there, the two met with the school’s acting Principal and paid a visit to the Ehime Maru Memorial. Presenting a bouquet of flowers, the two paid their respects to the victims of the tragic accident. They were shown the Mandarin Orange tree that was planted last year to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the event. Similar trees were planted at Kakaako Waterfront Park in Honolulu on the same day. Later, they met with representatives of the bereaved families and city officials to discuss planning for next year’s 13th (by Buddhist tradition) anniversary in Hawaii. Ms. Weiner and Mr. Hawkins were in Uwajima to celebrate its Hawaiian Festival and promote ties between Uwajima City and Honolulu. 



Paying their respects at Uwajima’s Ehime Maru Memorial; Mandarin Orange tree in the background.

Aloha Beer and NAI ChaneyBrooks holds 5:01 for JASH


Why isn't there a beer called "Aloha" in Hawaii? That was the question asked by new co-owner of Aloha Beer Company and President & CEO of NAI ChaneyBrooks Mr. Steve Sombbrero as the company opened up its facilities to the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH). Seventy-three JASH members and guests gathered on July 26 at the Aloha Beer Company on Nimitz Highway, next to Sam Choy's Restaurant. Hawaii 5:01's are for providing networking opportunities to JASH members and to introduce JASH to potential new members.

On hand to welcome JASH and its guests were Mr. Sombbrero, co-founder and partner Mr. James Lee, Brewmaster Mr. Dave Campbell, and Beer Hall Meister Mr. Stacey Santos. Executive Chef Aurelio prepared a sumptuous sampling of food which were more of a gourmet dinner items than pupus. The food was well-complemented by an endless supply of specialty beers



JASH President Ed Hawkins thanks Aloha Beer Company Co-owner and President of NAI ChaneyBrooks Steve Sombbrero for sponsoring this 5:01 event.

provided by Aloha Beer. Brewmaster Campbell conducted the guests on a tour of the factory. Aloha Beer Company Brewery and Beer Hall operates a spacious bar and restaurant, open to the public from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. They are usually closed on Mondays but will be open at 1 p.m. on Mondays and also 10 a.m. on Sundays during the NFL football season. Says co-founder Mr. Sombbrero: "One of the things is that our product sells itself, because we have such a great name, Aloha Beer. At the end of the day, we're not selling beer, we're selling Hawaii. People love Hawaii and because we care about Hawaii, I think we're the right people to make it happen." So go try it and see for yourself!

JASH would like to thank Mr. Steve Sombbrero, Mr. James Lee, and the rest of the Aloha Beer staff, as well as NAI ChaneyBrooks, for hosting this very unique Hawaii 5:01 event. 

DFS Hawaii Hosts Hawaii 5:01 at Pacific Aviation Museum

Over 50 JASH members and guests attended a "Hawaii 5:01" networking event at the refurbished and updated Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM) on Ford Island on September 26. The event, sponsored by DFS Hawaii, was an opportunity for JASH members and guests to get to know each other better and to enjoy the beautifully crafted exhibits of this world-class aviation museum in the Pacific region. This time, JASH invited members of the Consular Corps of Hawaii to experience this event and learn about the work the museum is doing to educate people about the patrio-

tism, heroism, and sacrifice made by Americans during the defense of freedom in the Pacific. JASH President Ed Hawkins welcomed the attendees, noting that the museum and JASH share a common goal—working to promote reconciliation between former enemies. As to press home this point, the PAM staff welcomed two visiting Japanese WWII naval aviators who were on hand to share their stories.

Admiral Ron Hays, PAM's Chairman of the Board of Directors made welcoming remarks and urged

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PAM 5:01...

the attendees to tour all the facilities, to include the new hangar 79 where the latest acquisitions are being displayed. PAM Executive Director Ken DeHoff and his staff then directed the guests to docents who were ready to conduct tours of the entire museum. Food and drinks catered by the museum provided snacks and refreshments to take in the displays set in historic context at a measured and leisurely pace. The museum staff also made available flight simulators for the enjoyment of the visitors.

JASH would like to thank the sponsor for the event, DFS Hawaii, who provided the funds for catered food and drinks for the attendees, and to the Pacific Aviation Museum for opening their facilities for an exclusive evening of seeing airplanes and aviation items presented in historic, real-life detail and dynamism. As PAM Executive Director Ken DeHoff said, “This is not a ‘park and plaque’ museum—it’s a learning museum.”



L-R: PAM Executive Director Ken DeHoff, Japanese Aviator Saburo Kawabe, PAM staff Gary Meyers, Acting Consul General Kazunari Tanaka, Japanese Aviator Shiro Wakita, JASH President Ed Hawkins, Honorary Consul of Finland Katja Silveraa.



Crown Prince Akihito Scholars Rewarded with an Audience with the Emperor and Empress

Two Crown Prince Akihito Scholars were given a rare personal audience with the Emperor and Empress of Japan. Akihito Scholar Ms. Michelle Daigle of the University of Hawaii and new Akihito Scholar Ms. Ikuyo Takara of Tokyo University met with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan at their official residence at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on July 2, 2012. They were accompanied by Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation (CPASF) Trustee Joichi Saito and Nippon Keidanren Director General Yoshio Nakamura. Mr. Nakamura heads the Japan Committee of the Foundation.

Their Majesties took time to learn about the



(L-R) Akihito Scholars Michelle Daigle and Ikuyo Takara, Trustee Joichi Saito, Keidanren Director General Yoshio Nakamura, Their Majesties.

Scholars’ interest and work, asking detailed questions on their individual research. Ms. Daigle is researching the social effects of Minamata disease and Ms. Takara will research American higher education.

Each year, the CPASF selects one University of Hawaii graduate level scholar to study in Japan and one Japanese scholar to study

at the University of Hawaii. Since inception, 138 scholars have received this prestigious award intended to promote relations between U.S. and Japan. Their Majesties take personal interest in the scholars and have met with them in audiences in Tokyo and during their visit to Hawaii in 2009 to celebrate the Scholarship’s 50th Anniversary.

JASH Members visit Japanese Ships Participating in RIMPAC 2012

Japan's Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) visited Hawaii again this year to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise with 21 other countries. The Japanese forces were represented with three ships and a squadron of EP-3 anti-submarine patrol aircraft. Members of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) were given a rare opportunity to tour the command ship, JS *Shirane*. Commissioned in March 1980, JS *Shirane* is the largest DDH (helicopter-carrying destroyer) in the JMSDF. Primarily for anti-submarine warfare, the ship carries two SH-60 helicopters as well as rocket launchers, torpedoes, 5-inch rapid fire guns, and medium



JASH members with JS *Shirane*'s Captain Osamu Takeuchi in front of the ship.

and close-in anti-aircraft weapons. Twenty-three JASH members, guests, and family members were given a thorough tour of the ship. JDS *Myoko*, an AEGIS air defense and anti-missile defense ship was moored alongside and its crew welcomed the JASH visitors for a tour of its awesome capabilities.

JASH would like to thank the Japanese liaison officers at U.S. Pacific Fleet who arranged this tour and the Captain and crew of JS *Shirane* and JDS *Myoko* for this precious opportunity.

Additional photos can be viewed at www.PHOTOGRAPH.us. JASH would like to thank Wes Young for taking these photos and making them available. 日本

Hawaii Community Bids Farewell to Japan's Consul General

Over 300 people from the community gathered at the Japanese Cultural Center's Manoa Grand Ballroom on August 23rd to bid a fond farewell to Japan's Consul General in Honolulu, Honorable Yoshihiko Kamo and Mrs. Etsuko Kamo. The farewell luncheon was organized by the Kizuna group (meaning

bonds), composed of the many Japanese-American and Japan friendship organizations in Hawaii. JASH is a key member of Kizuna.

The program included performances by community artists and groups, including a hula performance by Kristin Alm, Sakura Hawaii Alumnae. Co-emcees David Arakawa of United Japanese Society and Christine Kubota of Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce conducted the program with representatives of all the Kizuna group making an introduction or presentation. JASH President Ed Hawkins presented the farewell gifts to Consul General and Mrs. Kamo. The gift to Mrs. Kamo was an engraved glass bowl, while the gift to CG Kamo was a Hawaiian ukulele, made by and donated by KoAloha Ukulele on which was written the inscription, He Hoa o Hawai'i, Hawaiian for "Friend of the People" and "Aloha and Mahalo from the Kizuna Group of Hawaii."

JASH wishes Consul General and Mrs. Kamo well as they depart for the new posting as Ambassador to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. 日本



JASH President Ed Hawkins presents the engraved Ukulele to Consul General Kamo.

Japanese Children from Disaster Region Visit Hawaii for Summer Program

Twenty Japanese junior high school boys and girls visited Hawaii in July as participants in the Rainbow for Japan Kids (RFJK) program. The students ranging from 12-14 were from the three affected prefectures in Japan – Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. This is the fourth group of Japanese children to visit Hawaii under this program and brings the total to nearly 100.



The program does not include home stays with host families; rather, it relies on building friendships with local children of roughly the same ages through stays in camps and other outdoor activities. As in previous visits, the children stayed several days at YMCA's

Camp Erdman on the north shore of Oahu, followed by a visit to the Big Island for several days at Kilauea Military Camp where they engaged in hiking, nature tours, and stargazing.

A highlight of the visit includes a water activity. This time, the staff of Hilton Grand Vacations prepared stand-up paddle-boarding and kayak races at Hilton's new lagoon next to Waikiki Beach. Afterwards, the children moved to the Hale Koa military hotel where they watched fireworks while enjoying a BBQ dinner.

Through these activities, the program aims to free the students from their day-to-day existence in Japan briefly, focus on their own lives and dreams, create friendships with local people, and




Camp activities with local children form bonds of friendship.



Kids enjoy canoeing and other water activities at the Hilton's Waikiki Lagoon, courtesy of Hilton Grand Vacations.

return them to Japan refreshed and dedicated to bettering their lives and their communities.

This program is possible only because of the generosity of companies and groups who provide in-kind donations of hotel rooms, meals, local transportation, and activities. Halekulani Hotel prepared a welcome dinner, KoAloha Ukulele donated material and staff time for the children to make their own personal ukulele, and Pagoda Hotel provided rooms.

RFJK is a proud partner with TOMODACHI, a private-public partnership led by the U.S. Embassy and the U.S.-Japan Council. More information on these programs can be found on JASH website at www.jashawaii.org, or by calling JASH at (808) 524-4450 and also on the U.S. Embassy website at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>. 



2012 Japan Wizards Japan Trip Awards Fulfill Dreams

This summer, four teams from Kauai High School, Maryknoll School, Saint Andrew’s Priory, and Waiakea High School were able to put their knowledge of Japan and language skills to the test in Japan after winning the Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC), held in February and hosted by the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH). The students enjoyed their time in Japan by exploring the culture and practicing the traditions they learned about in the classroom. Alyssa Braun from Kauai High School wrote in her trip essay, “Visiting Japan was the experience of a lifetime. I was able to use all of the skills I learned in my Japanese language classes. I was also able to learn more about the places and people I studied in the Japan Wizards Contest. It was amazing to see the things that I studied in person. Going to Japan through JASH also taught me a lot about the true values of culture, tradition, language, and hospitality.”



JWC Kauai High School team members waiting for their train.

From the 5th to 12th of June, Level A 1st place winners Heather Acidera, Justin Higa, Andrew Ines, and chaperone Charlene Martin from Maryknoll School explored Tokyo, Hakone, Mt. Fuji, and Nikko. Overlapping Maryknoll School’s trip from the 9th to the 16th of June, Level B 1st place winners Alyssa Braun, Dylan Hernandez, Matthew Kanna, and chaperone Kathy Morishige from Kauai High School visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Nara. As part of the Japan trip award for each winning team, an all-day educational experience was arranged by JASH in partnership with our contacts

in Japan. The educational experiences for Maryknoll School and Kauai High School were provided by the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo, JASH’s sister society. The staff from the Tama Tokyo Society graciously escorted the students to the Edo-Tokyo Museum and Oedo Onsen Monogatari (a popular hot springs theme park in Odaiba, Tokyo) where they were able to learn about the history of Japan, embrace the beauty of nature, and interact with locals. Justin Higa from Maryknoll School learned about “a different part of Japan that can’t be felt by watching television, or reading books... Japan is best experienced by visiting, and taking in as much of the sights, language, and culture as you can.” This trip furthered his “views and understanding of Japan and its similarities and differences from those of Hawaii.”

From June 27 to July 6, Level A 3rd place winners Yan Ying Huang, Isaiah Jumila, Gavin Sako, and advisor Jaimelynn Gusman from Waiakea High School traveled to Osaka, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Ehime. Ms. Noriko Omori from the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) kindly arranged a wonderful educational program for them, including a cultural presentation at a local elementary school, a visit to a local high school, a courtesy call with the Governor of Ehime Mr. Tokihiro Nakamura, and sightseeing in Matsuyama. According to Isaiah Jumila, “Interactions are far more important than sightseeing; to build international friendships is one of the best feelings in the world. I will never forget



JWC Waiakea High School team members (front row) join the Kendo Club at a local Ehime high school.

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JWC Japan Trips...

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everyone who went out of their way to show me true Japanese hospitality and compassion. To know that thousands of miles away, there is a person who appreciates you for your culture and vice versa is amazing and just shows how it is human nature to be curious of other’s cultures.” The student testimonials illustrate the importance of incorporating an educational experience into the Japan trip awards in order to give the students person-to-person experiences.



JWC St. Andrew's Priory team members with Ms. Harada of KJAS and staff of Takagi Company.

From June 30 to July 8, Level B 2nd place winners Ellie Miyashiro, Courtney Nomiya, Jennifer Takahashi, and advisor Aiko Gojo from Saint Andrew's Priory School experienced Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Tokyo, and Osaka. Mr. Motoyuki Murahashi from the Japan-America Society of Fukuoka (JASF) and Ms. Miho Harada from the Kitakyushu Japan-America Society (KJAS) graciously guided the team to the Takagi Company and the Yaskawa Electric Corporation in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka. Courtney Nomiya stated, “Visiting those two companies truly opened my eyes to how technologically driven our world is becoming and how much our lives will be shaped by such devices in the future. The opportunity to have an insider’s look at Kitakyushu’s thriving industries is a valuable experience that will forever impact my intellectual thoughts on the modern world.” Ms. Harada also escorted the team to the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagasaki Peace Park, Dejima, and Glover Garden, where, as a history



JWC St. Andrew's Priory team members enjoy their last meal at the airport with Mr. Murabashi (JASF) and Ms. Harada (KJAS).

buff, Courtney “just loved that feeling of experiencing another time period in person rather than simply absorbing words off a page. Being able to visit both the historical and modern side of Nagasaki in one day was a priceless educational lesson that no school lecture could compare to... The lesson that always resonated within me was: experience is key.” Nagasaki was the only seaport where trade with foreign countries was allowed during Japan’s closed-door policy which lasted over 200 years. The students were fortunate to witness this foreign influence throughout the prefecture.

JASH would like to send a big *Arigatougozaimashita* to supporters from the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo, EPIC, JASF, and KJAS, for their warm welcome and care of our JWC teams. Matthew Kanna of Kauai High School said it perfectly: “I wish that hopefully someday, I can be like (the Japanese people); have good aspirations, morals, and be very personable. I hope that the Japan-America Society of Hawaii keeps doing this program because it is such an amazing experience and something that every student should strive for. The hard work pays off and not only do you have an amazing time, but you learn so much more about Japan—even more than you studied.” We would be remiss without thanking the Competition’s overall sponsor Hawaiian Airlines for the generous donation of international airfare, and to all of the other supporters who made the Competition possible. Thank you also to the Wizards who truly were ambassadors of Hawaii! 感謝

Junior Ambassadors travel to the Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention in Fukuoka

After six months of attending workshops to prepare for their trip, Hawaii’s six Junior Ambassadors, (Christian Bonilla, Kurt Naguwa, Gabriel Tom, Kiana Favela, Lauryn Sameshima and Ava Williams) along with Peace Ambassador Korie Lum and chaperone Cheryl Parker departed for Fukuoka on July 13, 2012. They spent ten days there taking part in the 24th Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention, which was held from July 13 – 24, 2012.

Hosted by the Fukuoka government, the APCC promotes international relationships between children so that they will become adults with a strong social responsibility for the world. The Hawaii delegates spent the first three nights at Marine House Camp with 218 children from 42 countries and cities throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The delegates then had the unique opportunity to take part in an APCC pilot project of an “Environmental Summit” at Hirao Elementary School. Together, the Hawaii delegates and the 5th grade students at Hirao



The Junior Ambassadors perform their oli and hula at the “We are the Bridge” Festival in Fukuoka.

took part in a discussion period at a local elementary school to talk about how to make the world a better place.

Following the one day visit at Hirao Elementary, the delegates all went home with their Japanese host families where they stayed for the next six nights. They did not meet again un-

til July 21, when all of the 218 delegates again reunited for the APCC “We Are the Bridge” cultural exchange festival at Tenjin Central Park in Fukuoka City. There, the Hawaii delegates performed two oli (chants) and danced the hula to the song *Ulupalakua*, which they had learned from Makua Dori Kim, a Hawaiian studies teacher at Aina Haina Elementary.

The students returned to Honolulu on July 24, excited to share all they had did on their trip. Two days after their return, the delegates were featured on Hawaii News Now’s Sunrise Program on July 26. Visit the JASH website at www.jashawaii.org for a link to the Sunrise segment.

On August 4, the delegates and their parents met for one last workshop at the JASH office where they discussed their experiences being a part of the APCC program this year. Everyone who attended the last workshop was pleased to hear about all that the children had learned while in Fukuoka. JASH would like to thank all of the families and friends who helped to prepare the delegation for their trip.

If you know of anyone interested in taking part in the Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention next year, the application will be available on-line at <http://www.jashawaii.org/edu2.asp> after December 1, 2012. The deadline to submit the application to the JASH office will be January 22, 2013. Applicants for the 25th APCC will need to be born between September 1, 2001 and August 31, 2002 in order to apply. 関



Hawaii Junior Ambassadors meet their APCC roommates from China.

Tomodachi Honouliuli Excursion

History came alive for JASH members and guests who became completely “en-gulched” on Thursday, July 19, when they took the tour of the former site of the Honouliuli internment camp.



Attendees explore the former site of a shower and bathroom area.

Honouliuli, often referred to as “*jigoku dani*” (hell valley) is completely isolated by its high gulch walls that trapped in the internees as well as the heat and humidity. This

was the first time to do a walkabout of the site with the University of Hawaii Archaeology class field students.

The Honouliuli internment camp opened on March 1, 1943. It is the largest and longest lived of the Hawaii internment sites. By 1948 most of the buildings were bulldozed and only concrete slabs remain. Floods have washed over many of the slabs in the 160 acre gulch. Maps, sketches, and archive photos have been used to identify the site. The group was able to tour a few of the slabs that the Archaeology students have uncovered including the shower area for enlisted military and officers, the laundry area, and the mess hall area.

Many people did not know that Hawaii had camps or internees. Archaeology is helping to verify the history of the internees. Internees at Honouliuli were more fortunate than those sent to mainland camps because their families could still visit and bring them things. Families lost their primary income. The internees committed no crime—they were only guilty for looking like the enemy.

At the end of the tour, Betsy Fujii Young from

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Tomodachi Let's Talk - *Ganbappe Tohoku!*

On Thursday, September 20, Tomodachi members and their guests gathered at the exclusive Waialae Country Club for the seventh annual “Let's Talk Luncheon.” Our featured guest speaker was incoming Tomodachi co-chair Ray Tabata.

Ray Tabata retired from the University of Hawaii in 2011 where he worked for over 30 years as an extension specialist for Hawaii Sea Grant and an educational program specialist at the UH medical school. For the one-year anniversary of the great Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, Ray was able to visit several places in Aomori, Iwate, and Miyagi prefectures to learn about volunteer activities and photo document his journey.

Ray described the damages of the tsunami. Sea walls which were over 30 feet high offered a false sense of security as they were not enough to protect the coast. His overall impression of the affected areas was that people still have positive spirits despite their circumstances. He noted that you can see a lot of *kizuna* (bonds) among the victims. Ray is already planning his trip for



Outgoing Tomodachi co-chair Hiroko Dewitz, incoming co-chair and guest speaker Ray Tabata, and co-chair Shirley Miyamoto. Ray's shirt says “*ganbappe*” which is Tohoku dialect for “*ganbare*” (do your best).


the second anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami. He envisions getting a group together to contribute to the volunteer efforts continuously taking place. Currently there is a lot of conflict on how to rebuild areas, with older

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Ganbappe Tohoku!...

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people wanting to return and younger people wanting to build in new areas. Ray is particularly interested in this thanks to his background in urban planning. He encouraged guests to continue to help the Tohoku area in any way that they can. Volunteers are needed not only for rebuilding housing but also for food preparation and distribution, especially to seniors.

JASH would like to thank Ray Tabata for sharing his story of his firsthand experience in the Tohoku area. Thank you also to Tomodachi co-chair Shirley Miyamoto who made all the arrangements for Waialae Country Club. Also a big *otsukaresama* to outgoing co-chair Hiroko Dewitz for her two years of hard work. 




A volunteer group works to rebuild the community center in Ofunato, Iwate.

Is Japan “Going, Going, Gone?”

On Wednesday, August 8, Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) Director and Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation Trustee, Ms. Merle Aiko Okawara, spoke to JASH members about the current social trends in Japan and how they will affect the country’s future. Ms. Okawara is the chairman of JC-Comsa Corp. and pioneered the pizza and ethnic foods industry in Japan.

Japan has a large elderly population with a declining birthrate (1.3%) which is leading to a declining economy. Many people are choosing to postpone marriage or not marry at all so that they can have a free and comfortable lifestyle. More women are seeking higher education leading to later marriage. Many “parasite singles” choose to live off of their parents, using their own earnings as a disposable income. Despite the downward social trend, Ms. Okawara expressed many options for Japan to work to overcome this. For starters, Japan will need to continue to relax immigration laws. Ms. Okawara currently uses Brazilian workers in some of her factories. Increased female population in the workplace would help to expand the workforce and

change the current Confucius way of thinking. Most men still feel that a Japanese woman’s place is in the home and it is still difficult for a woman’s opinion to be heard in a boardroom or the workplace. Ms. Okawara also noted that if the government gave more incentives to have children, more people might oblige. However, if the population of Japan did decrease, perhaps it would decrease the density (currently greater than China) and lead to a better quality of life for many. Attendees were also curious about the 100-200 year business plan for Japan and if Ms. Okawara would consider moving her company to save cost. She replied that Japan has more resources so her company will stay in Japan but also look at expansion to other areas of Asia. Her reputation is also strong in Japan which makes it easier to do business as a minority female in the corporate world.

JASH would like to thank Ms. Okawara for taking time out of her Hawaii visit to give a presentation to our members. We would also like to thank former Tomodachi co-chair Kazuko Love for introducing Ms. Okawara and being the MC for the afternoon. 




Ms. Okawara with guest Ms. Robin Midkiff and MC Ms. Kazuko Love.

Honouliuli...

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the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) shared the translation of the “Internment Camp Song” that was sung by many internees. All attendees participated in a remembrance ceremony by throwing rose petals into the gulch while Aloha Oe played in the background.

JASH would like to thank JCCH for arranging the tour as well as bus transportation for the group. It is the hope of JCCH to continue to preserve the history of Japanese in Hawaii and one day open an educational center at Honouliuli. We would also like to thank the students of the University of Hawaii West Oahu’s Anthropology’s Field Archaeology class and their professor Suzanne Falgout for their hard work in uncovering new artifacts and areas on the site. Also thank you to National Park Service internment camp experts Jeff Burton and Mary Farrell. 




Betsy Fujii Young of the JCCH shares the “Internment Camp Song” that was sung by many attendees. Consul General and Mrs. Kamo also attended the tour.

New Corporate Member

Harlow’s Consultancy LLC

Harlow’s Consultancy LLC mainly provides marketing, consultant and agency contract services between America, Europe and Japan utilizing its worldwide network, and uses its best efforts to help each and every client. Harlow’s Consultancy has also established the Preserved Flower Association of America, which sells preserved flowers to be used at weddings, as gifts and at other events. Orders for Preserved Flowers may be placed for a single flower, as original arrangements, or to be used for PR and for novelty items.

Megumi Kurachi, President of Harlow’s Consultancy, ran a company in Tokyo for 15 years doing business between Tokyo and Europe, before selling the shares of her company to a major apparel company in Japan. We would very much appreciate your sincere advice and your kind cooperation as we have been doing business in Hawaii for only a year.

Please visit our websites for more information: www.harlowsconsultancy.com and <http://pfaamerica.org>. 



Membership Updates

July- September 2012

New Corporate Member

Harlow’s Consultancy LLC
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Entrepreneur
Donor

New General Members

Dr. & Mrs. Craig Castillo
Col. (Ret) & Mrs. Ross Roley
Ms. Ikuyo Takara
Ms. Charlotte Teruya

Family
Family
Student
Individual

General Member Upgrade

Mr. Randall Steverson

Sustaining



*Mahalo to those who generously donated to
JASH through Foodland’s
2012 Give Aloha Annual Community
Matching Gifts Program!*

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 25 Annual General Membership Meeting & Annual Dinner, Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

NOVEMBER

- 7 Fall Japan Day, Hawaii Tokai International College
15 Japan in a Suitcase, Naalehu Elementary, Big Island

DECEMBER

- 5 Christmas 5:01 & Silent Auction, Halekulani
17 Tomodachi Christmas Tea, Waioli Tea Room
23-31 Rainbow for Japan Kids Project

JANUARY

- 23 New Year's Reception, Washington Place
26 Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition Volunteer Orientation, KCC

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