



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

2018 Keizai Koho Business Speaker Luncheon

On May 8, 2018, JASH was honored to feature Mr. Koji Nagashima, Executive Vice President of Aioi Nissay Dowa based in Tokyo, Japan. The event was made possible through a grant from the Keizai Koho speaker series that we received through the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS).

Ms. Michele Saito from Dtric Insurance Hawaii agreed to partner with JASH to bring a senior executive from it's parent company, Aioi Nissay Dowa to be our featured speaker. Mr. Nagashima spoke about the acquisition of Dtric in July 2017 as well as Aioi Nissay Dowa's local and global strategy.

Mr. Peter Kelley, President of JASH's parent organization the "National Association of Japan-America Societies" based in Washington, D.C. flew in to Honolulu to attend the event.

JASH Director, **Mr. Steve Sombrero**, was featured as our Japan-expert at the program. We had a total of 66 attendees and several were non-JASH members from the insurance and banking field. We received a lot of good feedback regarding the program. After the



(L-R) Mr. Nagashima; Mr. Kelley; Ms. Saito; JASH President, Ms. Reyna Kaneko; and Mr. Sombrero at Wolfgang's Steakhouse for the event.

event, we also held an Executive-level dinner with Mr. Nagashima for about 12 people.

This was the third time in four years that JASH has been the recipient of this grant. We also hosted speakers from TOTO, U.S.A, Inc. in March 2016 and Hitachi America, Ltd. in March 2015.

Mahalo to the Keizai Koho Center for funding this Business Speaker Luncheon and to NAJAS for promoting the grant to bring high-level business speakers to Hawaii.

Gannenmono Symposium

On June 7, 2018, the Kizuna group (a consortium of 21 Japan-related organizations) hosted the "Gannenmono Symposium" at the Sheraton Waikiki to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants from Japan.



Several descendants of the Gannenmono were invited to speak at the event.

The event was held in conjunction with the 59th annual convention of the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad on June 6th and featured a visit by Prince and Princess Akishino who traveled to Honolulu especially for the festivities.

JASH proudly serves as the fiscal-agent of the Kizuna group.

Photo by Ray Tabata

APCC 30th Anniversary & JASH/BCH 10th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, August 12, 2018, JASH and Bridge Club Hawaii (BCH) celebrated two significant milestones: The 30th Anniversary of the APCC (Asian-Pacific Children's Convention program in Fukuoka) as well as the 10th Anniversary of the partnership between BCH and JASH.

Over 100 people which included former participants and chaperones, parents, JASH administrators, and guests attended the event at the New Town Recreation Center in Aiea. A wonderful time was had by all as we shared stories and reminisced about past experiences while part of the APCC program in Fukuoka.



(L): Consul General Ito, JASH Chair Mr. Sal Miwa, JASH Director Mr. Hiro Nakamura; JASH President Emeritus Mr. Earl Okawa and Mrs. Okawa. R): Mrs. Misako Ito and JASH President Ms. Reyna Kaneko.

JASH staff in attendance at the event marveled at how many of the once 11-year old APCC Junior Ambassadors had grown up to be taller than them! It was also very gratifying to see that these former JAs had matured into fine young men and women who continue to represent JASH and the APCC very well.

Several participants from the very first APCC held in 1989 as well as Consul General Koichi Ito and Mrs. Ito were in attendance as were several JASH Board members.

Mahalo to "Aloha for Hawaii Charities" for providing a grant to help fund our event.

Thank you also to the many BCH members and parents who came early to set up and stayed late to clean up after the party.

We sincerely appreciate the support of everyone who has been involved with the APCC program over the years. The relationships that we built as part of this program continue today and are the essence of what makes this program so special. Together, "We Are the BRIDGE!"

Photos by Colby Takeda



Tomodachi—Let's Talk Story Luncheon

On Tuesday, August 28, 2018, the Tomodachi Committee of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii held its annual "Let's Talk Story" Luncheon with a special guest speaker, **Mrs. Misako Ito** at the Willows.

Mrs. Ito, wife of **Consul General Koichi Ito** of the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, shared her fascinating cross-cultural experiences and captivating stories during the time she lived in Guangzhou and Beijing. She lived in China for five years while her husband,



Consul General Ito was stationed there.

One of her most memorable experiences in Guangzhou was hiring a Japanese chef at the Consulate in Guangzhou for the first time, which happened to take place around the same time anti-Japanese demonstrations were held with the escalation of the islands dispute between China and Japan. Through

her experience living in China and outside of Japan she learned to be more neutral and to build deeper relationships with people from different backgrounds without bias. When asked about her impression of Hawaii, she expressed gratitude to communities throughout Hawaii for preserving traditional Japanese customs and values.

Following the talk, JASH members and guests were able to catch up with each other and to make new friends over a delicious buffet lunch at The Willows.

JASH would like to express a big Mahalo to **Mrs. Misako Ito** for sharing her inspiring stories with our guests. Special thanks also go to volunteer photographer **Ray Tabata**.



Bridging the Cross Cultural Relationship Gap

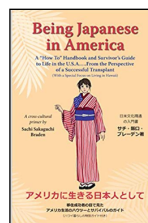


JASH held a successful Sheraton 5:01 Pau Hana Event, "Bridging the Cross Cultural Relationship Gap" at the Sheraton Waikiki, Honolulu Room on August 30, 2018.

Four distinguished couples discussed the joys and challenges of mixed marriages by competing in the first JASH original Mixed Marriage Game. Themed after the popular Newlywed Game, gameshow host extraordinaire, **Steve Sombrero**, Vice Chairman of JASH quizzed the four couples on their cross cultural marriages.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the four distinguished couples: **Sadao Takahashi** and **Christine Kubota**; **Eliot** and **Tomoyo Honda**; **Nathaniel** and **Izumi Kinney**; and winners **Anthony** and **Yuko Provenzano**.

After the game, **Sachi Braden**, JASH Board Director, shared her book "Being Japanese in America-A How to Handbook and Survivor's Guide to Life in the USA" and spoke about her life experiences living in America.



Sales from her book during the event were donated to JASH. MAHALO **Sachi!**

Photos by Ray Tabata

Visitor Industry Charity Walk



On May 19, 2018, JASH Asian-Pacific Children's Convention Junior Ambassadors were up bright and early to represent JASH in the 40th Annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk.

Upcoming Events:

JASH Annual Dinner
Sheraton Waikiki
October 23, 2018

JASH will be celebrating its 42nd Anniversary this year in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the Gannenmono - the arrival



of the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii. To commemorate this historic year, we will be honoring **Ms. Carole Hayashino/Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii** and **Dr.**

Dennis Ogawa, both of whom were instrumental in the planning and coordination of the *Gannenmono Symposium* held in June. Please call the JASH Office at (808) 524-4450 for more information or to sign up to attend.



JASH Talk with Paul Yonamine
The Pacific Club
October 24, 2018



Join us as we present our Fall JASH Talk lunch program "Product of Japan and Hawaii" featuring **Mr. Paul Yonamine**,

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, GCA Corporation Japan. Learn about his ties to Hawaii and what Hawaii and Japan can mutually capitalize on with their very strong ties to each other. Please call the JASH Office at (808) 524-4450 for more information or to sign up to attend. **Early-bird pricing until October 5, 2018.**