



JASH Newsflash

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

Summer 2019

Japanese Cultural Activities at Spring 2019 Japan Day

On April 23, 2019, JASH held its Spring Japan Day program, sponsored by the McInerney Foundation and the Freeman Foundation. Over 200 students from Damien Memorial School, Hanalani Schools, Hawaii Preparatory Academy, Kaiser High School, Kalaheo High School, Kamehameha Schools Hawaii, Kauai High School and Maui High School gathered at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's (JCCH) Manoa Grand Ballroom to enjoy the day's activities. Held twice a year, Japan Day is JASH's longest running educational program which is offered free to Hawaii's middle and high schools. Since its inception in 1993, over 6,700 students from 65 different public and private schools have participated in this educational event.

Generous funding from the McInerney Foundation has enabled JASH to expand the Japan Day program to include more schools, thereby impacting more students. This year, additional funding from the Freeman Foundation allowed more neighbor island schools to participate as well.



The morning started out with a mesmerizing Taiko demonstration by Taiko Center of the Pacific, led by Kenny Endo. Following the Opening Ceremony, students attended four of the nine cultural sessions presented by more than 40 volunteer experts on Bon Dance, Calligraphy, Ikebana (flower arranging), Karate, Kimono/Yukata Wearing, Origami, Soroban (Japanese abacus), Tea Ceremony and a seminar on Life Skills and Personal Success.

Following the Japan Day program, neighbor island students from the Big Island, Kauai and Maui were given private gallery tours of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's (JCCH)

exhibit, *Okage Sama De: I am What I am Because of You*. Neighbor island teams also visited other areas on Oahu – such as the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Byodo-In Temple – before flying back to their respective islands.

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



Students carefully observing the steps in a Tea Ceremony.

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29th Annual JASH Friendship Golf Tournament

Thank you to everyone who made our 29th Annual Friendship Golf Classic possible on April 4, 2019 at the Hawaii Prince Golf Club. We have so many people to thank for making this tournament happen; all our generous Sponsors, Prize Donors, Food & Beverage Donors and friends of JASH. A special thank you to Pacific Guardian Life for generously being our Tournament Sponsor.

donated by the following: 7-Eleven Hawaii; Armstrong Produce; Calpico; Coca-Cola Hawaii; Day-Lee Pride; Gytaku; Hawaiian Springs; Hawaiian Sun; Hi-Chew; Ito En; Kirin Ichiban; la tour café; Liquid I.V.; lululemon; Manson Products; Sun Noodles; Sho Chiku Bai; Tanioka's and Yakult.

This year, each player received a JASH

on those teams were gifted with a pair of shorts (Men's) or a skirt (Women's).

The KC Waffle Dogs hosted by Servco Pacific, Inc. were a big hit, as well as the Spicy Tuna over Sushi Rice by Tanioka's Seafood to name a few dishes players enjoyed during the day. During the Dinner Banquet, everyone went home a winner! Each team was given a team prize.



Pacific Guardian Life Teams with JASH President, Reyna Kaneko.



The weather couldn't have been any more perfect with, clear blue skies throughout the day. Players enjoyed food and beverages

personalized Mophie powerstation mini. For our Premium & Titanium sponsors, we partnered with lululemon and each player

Upcoming Events

- Wed., Jul. 31 Hilton 5:01 at Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort
- Tue., Aug. 6 Taste of JASH—Ehime at Zigu Restaurant
- Tue., Sep. 17 Annual Dinner & Silent Auction at the Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Thu., Nov. 7 Taste of JASH—Hokkaido at Tonkatsu Tamafuji Restaurant

Spring 2019 Japan Day

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Students pose in yukata after learning the art of Kimono-Wearing.

different societies can influence and enhance people's lives, and how these cultural values are perpetuated by devotees of the arts.

JASH would like to thank the donors of Japan Day: McInerney Foundation and the Freeman Foundation. In addition, a big MAHALO to all the volunteer experts for their dedication to the program: Betty Dela Cuesta and members of Hawaii Shin Kobukai (Bon Dance); Calligraphy Master Setsuko Tokumine, her assistants Joyce Wong and Stanley Hashiro (Calligraphy); Dawn Kanno and her niece Karli Hamada of MOA Hawaii (Ikebana); Jean Sakihara and members of Kimono Project USA (Kimono/Yukata wearing); Ashley Nishihara and Scott Macri of Hawaii Origami Club (Origami); Hideaki and Yasuko Oshima from Araki Hiroya Soroban

School (Soroban); Earl Okawa, President Emeritus of JASH (Life Skills); Hitoshi Murata and members of the Urasenke Foundation (Tea Ceremony); and Jordan Silva and Randee Chang of Japan International Karate Center (Karate).

JASH would also like to thank JCCH for leading the tours of the *Okage Sama De* Gallery for the neighbor island students, and Kenny Endo and the Taiko Center of the Pacific for their inspirational Taiko performance and demonstration.

Special thanks go to Consul General for attending. Finally, we appreciated the help of our JASH volunteers, Colleen LaClair, Ray Tabata, Yukiko Takaishi and Sandy Takeda for assisting us that day.

Taste of JASH Fukuoka

Tonkotsu Ramen, Mentaiko Omuretsu and Gyoza were some of the dishes served at the third Taste of JASH featuring Fukuoka cuisine at Minori Craft Japanese Tavern on May 21, 2019. NEXT STOP... Ehime at ZIGU Restaurant in Waikiki—August 6th! SAVE THE DATE and stay tuned for more details.



The evening began with a friendly game of Jan Ken Po Acchi Muite Hoi led by John Rankin, JASH NexGen Advisory Committee Member. The NexGen Advisory Committee consists of 13 professionals who meet monthly to discuss, plan and implement programs and events for JASH. Guests met old friends and made new ones.



(L-R): Alissa Carson, Jonathan Murai, Izumi and Nathaniel Kinney

2019 APCC Delegates Venture Off to Camp Erdman

The JASH Junior Ambassadors (JAs) stayed at Camp Erdman from Saturday, May 4th to Sunday, May 5th, 2019 for an overnight retreat to build teamwork amongst the group and to prepare for their trip to Japan. Although the poor weather threatened to ruin the fun of camp, the JAs exhibited an amazing level of positivity, and the weather cleared towards the end of their experience, making their stay exciting and pleasant. At camp, the JAs practiced for the cultural performance which they will perform at the Global Bridge Festival in Fukuoka, Japan in July.

In order to test their teamwork, the JAs attempted the YMCA's Team Development



Chaperone Colby Takeda with JAs (L-R): Caleb Kagawa, Anuhea Kealoha, Kristen Barrera, Ella Bosworth, Carter Nobuhara, and Jalen Matsuura.

Course in which JAs were tasked with a variety of challenges and puzzles designed by Camp Erdman staff to encourage participants to work together and trust the other members of their team.

Prior to their stay, the JAs researched different contemporary issues in Hawaii such as GMO, marine preservation, traffic, recycling, pollution, and global warming. The purpose of these reports is to enable the JAs to learn about issues in their communities and their possible solutions. Understanding that a great representative understands their home, the JAs shared these presentations with their peers and shared their research in order to build a greater collection of knowledge to take with them to Japan.

Overall, the overnight experience brought the six JAs together to form a more cohesive group, ready to take on the challenges they will face in Japan and with the confidence in their fellow JAs to support them.

Visitor Industry Charity Walk

On May 18, the JASH APCC Junior Ambassadors (JAs) and their families participated in the 2019 Visitor Industry Charity Walk. The team began their walk at Magic Island and ventured into Waikiki and back for a total of 5.2 miles.

The calm walk through Waikiki provided the JAs and parents the opportunity to build upon their friendships and to grow closer as a group before their trip to Fukuoka, Japan in the summer.

Along the way, the JAs stopped by a number of checkpoints where they were given various snacks and gifts from the charity walk sponsors. Eager to finish, the 2019 APCC delegation set a new JASH record for the fastest Charity Walk time of all the former delegations at 2 hours and 47 minutes.



Despite the long walk, the JAs had energy to spare and spent time after the walk practicing their Aloha Performance for their trip to Japan. The Visitor Industry Charity Walk raises money for various charities on the island of O’ahu and the money that the Junior Ambassadors raised will help fund future APCC programs.

2019 JUMP Event at the Japanese Consulate



JAPAN US MILITARY PROGRAM

In partnership with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, JASH hosted the third-annual Japan U.S. Military Program (JUMP) at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.



JUMP brings together the local community of Americans who have served in Japan, and we were fortunate to have join us 100 newly commissioned officers of the Japan Training Squadron, who sailed into Honolulu on the JS Kashima and JS Inazuma.

JUMP connects past and present service members, families, and government civilians

who have served in Japan. The program provides a powerful foundation for sustaining the solid alliance and relationship that exists between the U.S. and Japan.

The Japan Training Squadron Band and the Pacific Fleet Band joined together to entertain the crowd with a mix of Japanese and American songs. A truly great example of the collaborative spirit and friendship between our nations.

Special thanks to Consul General Koichi Ito and Mrs. Ito for graciously hosting the event at their residence; Peter Kelley, President of NAJAS; and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation for making this event possible.



(L-R): Peter Kelley, Reyna Kaneko, CG Ito, and Mrs. Ito.

Japanese for Travelers

Summer Language Classes



Meeting People; Ordering Food; Asking for Directions; and Shopping were the exciting topics covered in our FIRST “Japanese for Travelers” Summer language classes. In an exclusive offer for JASH members and their guests, JASH was pleased to have partnered with Academia Language School to offer discounted rates for attendees participating in this four-part educational series.

Each 90-minute class, conducted on Wednesday evenings from June 5th to 26th, 2019, focused on the fore-mentioned topics and aimed to prepare those traveling to Japan with enough Japanese language skill to converse with Japan natives during their trip.

The 2019 Summer session recently concluded on June 26, 2019. However, if you are interested in signing up for a future Japanese language session or would like more information, please contact Lila Frisbie – JASH Director of Membership and Programs at lfrisbie@jashawaii.org or (808) 524-4450.



David Hayashida and Noreen Kawachika learn about *Meeting People*.



Brittany Ushijima and Kristian Lupimano converse with each other.



Rejuvenation at Daihonzan Chozen-ji



On Sunday, June 9, 2019, Sayama Daian, Abbot of Daihonzan Chozen-ji/International Zen Dojo and volunteers Mike Hodges and Cristina Moon led the group on a half-day immersion in Zen and the art of leadership.

Chozen-ji is the only Daihonzan, or central temple, outside of Japan and was established in 1972. People from all over the world come to Chozen-ji to learn how to transcend their limitations through rigorous Zen training.

During our half-day training, the group had the opportunity to learn about the benefits of meditation; optimal mechanics of the body such as breath, posture and concentration and four principles of Zen leadership. A delicious, healthy lunch was also served.



At Chozen-ji, students are pushed to refine their breath, posture and awareness in every activity. The various practices, especially zazen (meditation), grow this state of concentration and relaxation in which one is fully present, moment by moment.

By deeply pursuing the Way, students can ultimately develop the wisdom and compassion often associated with old age at any point in life so they can use it to benefit the world. Participants felt refreshed and rejuvenated at the end of the training.

There have been requests for follow up sessions. Stay tuned for more programs in the near future.



Gengō and New Era with Mrs. Misako Ito

On Friday, June 28, 2019, the Tomodachi Committee of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii held a special luncheon titled *Gengō and New Era* in commemoration of the dawn of the new era “Reiwa” in Japan. That new era officially started on May 1, 2019 as Emperor Naruhito succeeded his father, Emperor Emeritus Akihito, who abdicated on April 30, 2019.



Our guest speaker, Mrs. Misako Ito, wife of Consul General Koichi Ito of the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu, explained what Gengō (Japanese era name) means from her unique perspective with some background history and interesting facts. For example, it

was not until 1868 that a “one reign, one era name” system, meaning only one name could be applied to the reign of each Emperor, was adopted. Before that, era names were subjected to frequent change due to calamities such as earthquakes, famine and epidemics.

When asked a question about when to use the *Gengō* and the Western calendar, Mrs. Ito answered with her personal experiences that Japanese have been accustomed to switching between the two depending on the situation, i.e. when talking to older people, writing letters to friends, filling out official documents, etc.

Following the talk, JASH members and guests were able to catch up with each other and to make new friends over a special lunch at Restaurant Suntory featuring the seasonal ingredients reflecting this time of the year in Japan.

JASH would like to express a big Mahalo to Mrs. Misako Ito for sharing new insights of Japan.

JIAS Appreciation Lunch

On June 18, 2019, an Appreciation Luncheon was held at Shokudo restaurant for Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JIAS) volunteers. Thanks to their help, 100 presentations were given to 2,142 students during the 2018-2019 school year.

Mahalo to the all of the JIAS volunteers for their dedication and support to the JASH JIAS program.



JASH Newsflash

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.