



JASH Newsflash

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

Summer 2020

JASH Travel Update Webinar

On June 17, 2020, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) hosted a panel discussion webinar entitled, “*JASH Japan Travel Update.*” This was JASH’s first endeavor at virtual programming and we were very pleased to have 160+ people register to attend the program. Panelists addressed questions such as: What is Japanese sentiment in terms of travel to Hawaii and travel as a whole? What has the loss of the Japanese visitors meant in dollars to our economy? What will it take to attract Japanese visitors back to Hawaii?

Featured panelists were: Mr. Yoshikazu Kutara, General Manager, TTA Inc., Hawaii Branch; Mr. Mike McCartney, Director, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism—State of Hawaii; Mr. Eric Takahata, Managing Director, Hawaii Tourism Japan; and Mr. Steve Sombrero, JASH Board Chairman and President and Principal Owner of Cushman & Wakefield Chaney Brooks who served as our Moderator.

Mr. McCartney opened the discussion assuring the community that Hawaii will open for tourism when it is safe for both the people of Hawaii and visitors. He spoke about the State of Hawaii’s strong



(L-R) Mr. Yoshikazu Kutara; Mr. Steve Sombrero; Mr. Eric Takahata; Mr. Mike McCartney; and Ms. Reyna Kaneko.

relationship with the Japanese government and discussions regarding a possible travel corridor between the two countries by August 2020 or the beginning of the third quarter 2020.

Mr. Takahata spoke about how, like Hawaii, the COVID-19 per capita infectious rate in Japan is low. Knowing this statistic, Japanese tourists are ready to travel to Hawaii according to various surveys. But Japanese tourists will be expecting safety measures to be in place before they feel safe to travel.

Mr. Kutara expressed the frustration of Japanese tourists due to the 14-day

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President’s Message

Aloha JASH Ohana,

On March 4, 2020, Governor David Ige declared a State of Emergency regarding the COVID-19 virus. On March 9, 2020, JASH hosted our *Japan Currents* program at the Halekulani. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the U.S. declared a national emergency. On March 21, 2020, Governor Ige issued mandatory self-quarantine orders for the state.

JASH has had to cancel or postpone all of our previously scheduled in-person programs, fundraisers, and events since that time. However, it doesn’t mean that our efforts to work towards our mission of promoting friendship and understanding between the people of Japan and the U.S. through the unique perspective of Hawaii have come to a complete halt.

JASH staff and our volunteer-committees have been hard at work behind-the-scenes retooling plans, programs, and events to maintain social-distancing guidelines while taking advantage of existing technology. Our goal is to maintain contact with our JASH members and the general public while not losing focus of our mission in this ever-changing environment.

On April 2, 2020, we announced the establishment of our JASH Weekly Update series which gave us an opportunity to share information with you on a variety of topics.

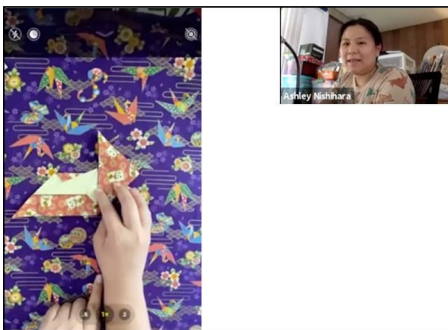
This Summer 2020 edition of the *JASH Newsflash* quarterly newsletter highlight our efforts. Our accomplishments, in turn, give us even more inspiration to try to do even more in this unprecedented time.

We humbly ask for your continued support as we work together to explore uncharted territory. Please be safe, remain flexible, and stay healthy.

We can, and will, get through this together!

With Aloha,
Reyna Kaneko

First Virtual Origami Tutorial with Ashley Nishihara



On Friday, June 19, 2020, JASH held our first virtual origami tutorial with Hawaii’s *Origami Swami*, Ashley Nishihara with attendees joining from the comfort of their homes on the Big Island, Maui and Oahu. *Origami* is a simple craft that doesn’t require any special equipment, yet it is very practical as you can utilize your paper creations as personalized gifts or to decorate your home.

Ashley has been doing *origami* since age six and taught *origami* at Le Jardin Academy’s

after school program for seven years. She is one of the organizers of the Hawaii Origami Club and volunteers at various events including JASH’s Japan Day and Japan Wizards Competition since 2014 to introduce the art of *origami* to Hawaii’s youth.

Ashley provided step-by-step instructions, which were easy to follow for both young and adult audiences, to make an awesome Aloha Shirt Card and Heart with Tie just in time for Father’s Day on June 21. Participants were also given an impromptu lesson on folding a playful bracelet and a simple lotus flower.

JASH would like to express a big MAHALO to Ashley for leading this fun and educational tutorial!

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NEXGEN

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

As you know, JASH’s mission is and continues to be promoting understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii. To ensure that this important work continues, one of JASH’s initiatives has been to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

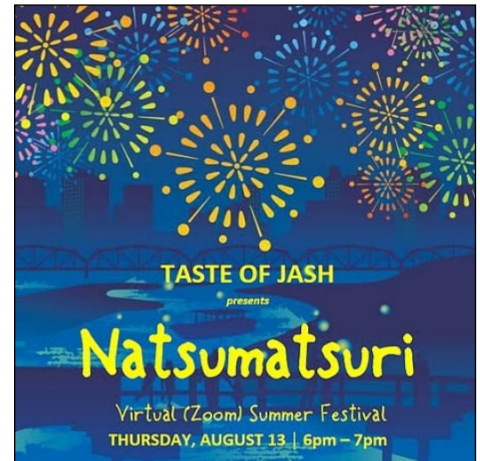
Over the past year, the JASH NexGen Advisory Board made up of JASH young leaders, have been hard at work planning and producing events such as the 2019 *Taste of JASH* regional cuisine food series featuring our sister state relationships with Japan; the upcoming inaugural JASH Virtual

Natsumatsuri on August 13, 2020 and participating in panel discussions and talk-story sessions to discuss topics such as leadership, character-building, generational gaps and other major topics of interest to this demographic group.

It has been a fruitful and fulfilling journey working with these young leaders and through the NexGen initiative, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. John Rankin and Mr. Tyler Hiranaka as JASH Board Directors.

CONGRATULATIONS John and Tyler!

Save the Date!



Travel Update

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quarantine in Hawaii as well as the restrictions on international travel by the Japanese government. He stated that Japanese are anxious to come to Hawaii and will follow safety protocols as long as there are not too many added costs factors involved.



The discussion was followed by a Q & A Session. JASH is grateful to our Moderator and expert line-up of panelists who provided their insights on Hawaii Tourism with a focus on the Japanese market.

Welcome New JASH Directors



Nominated February 2020



Tyler Hiranaka is the Owner of Le Jardin Royaux, a fine jewelry sales and design company specializing in brand creation and design which he started in 2017. Tyler is a member of JASH’s NexGen Advisory Board and continues to play an active role as a member of JCI Honolulu.



Alexander Jampel has been practicing law for over 30 years in Los Angeles, Tokyo, and Honolulu with a focus on real estate, finance, and corporate matters on domestic and cross-border transactions. Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, he has native-level fluency in both Japanese and English.



John Rankin is the Founder and President of Hapa Travel LLC, a boutique destination-management company specializing in group travel to Hawaii which he started in 2018. John is a member of JASH’s NexGen Advisory Board and the U.S.-Japan Council’s Emerging Leaders.



David Watanabe is a Senior Director of International Sales for Hilton Grand Vacations on both Oahu and the Big Island of Hawaii. In his role, David is responsible for leading Sales strategies and initiative to grow the Japan and Korea markets.



Nominated for Honorary Director—Ryoichi Okubo
President and Chief Operating Officer at Lighthouse Hawaii Magazine from 2015 until current. Mr. Okubo has been a link for JASH to various universities in Japan.

Upcoming Virtual Events

July 16, 4pm-5pm: *Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami: Devastation to Resilience*
Talk-Story Session w/ Ray Tabata

July 22, 4pm-5pm: *A Question of Loyalty: Five Inflection Points on the Road to Dignity*
Talk-Story Session w/ Michael Malaghan

July 30, 7pm-8pm: *An Introduction to Hachijojima and the Hachijo Language (final title TBA)*
Talk-Story Session w/ Dave Iannucci

Origami Swami

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If you are looking for fun family activities this summer or ways to express your creativity, please join us for the next two sessions of this FREE tutorial series on July 10 and 24, 2020.



We will be featuring “Storygami” where you learn *origami* while listening to entertaining stories.

32nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention JASH Virtual Workshops

May 2, May 16, June 6, June 27



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) is an annual homestay and summer camp in Fukuoka, Japan that welcomes delegations of 11-year-old Junior Ambassadors (JAs) from regions throughout Asia and the Pacific. JASH has had the honor of serving as the liaison office for the Hawaii Delegation, and we were excited to announce our 2020 Delegation and share their hard work during their preparatory workshops, during which they learned about Japanese dining etiquette and elementary school culture.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the APCC ultimately decided to cancel this year's trip. Even though the trip was no longer possible, our JAs were dedicated to spending their summer learning more about Japan and Japanese culture. Through collaboration with and support from the JAs, parents, chaperones, and Peace Ambassador, JASH transformed our remaining scheduled preparatory workshops into virtual lessons about various aspects of Japanese culture.

For our first virtual workshop, we revisited a fun topic that everyone can connect to: Food. We took a more in-depth look at Japanese food culture, from agricultural production to the mentality behind food preparation and nutrition. The JAs were surprised to learn about all of the hard work and care that goes into producing fruit like Miyazaki Prefecture's *Taiyo no Tamago* mangoes...and were even more surprised to hear how much they cost (According to The Japan Times, in 2019 a pair of mangoes sold for 500,000 yen equivalent to about \$4,647)!

Our second virtual workshop explored another topic with which the JAs were quite familiar: Sports! The JAs learned about typical physical education classes in elementary schools, Sports Day, and *rajio taiso* or radio calisthenics which is a common routine of exercises broadcasted on the radio every morning in Japan. They also learned about the history and perspectives behind traditional Japanese martial arts.



Chaperones Sandy Takeda and Rich Kiyabu, JASH staff, JAs Rhegen Villarimo, Jackie Furuta, and Loch Moorman, and PA Tierra Nakamura do *rajio taiso* during the second workshop.

During the third virtual workshop, JASH teamed up with professional manga artist Kazuo Maekawa-sensei to learn about Japanese *manga* (Japanese cartooning and comics). During the drawing lesson, Maekawa-sensei asked the JAs to introduce themselves through self-portraits, focusing on simplifying otherwise complex shapes. By combining basic elements, JAs learned



Kazuo Maekawa-sensei shows his self-introduction portrait to JASH staff, Chaperone Sandy Takeda, and JA Loch Moorman (not pictured: JAs Jackie Furuta and Rhegen Villarimo and PA Tierra Nakamura)

how to express different emotions and personalities in their drawings. Maekawa-sensei also taught them the importance of balance in achieving "cuteness" by teaching the JAs how to draw Pikachu!

Our last virtual workshop explored Japanese summer festivals and other ways to beat the heat. The lesson this time was led by 2020 Peace Ambassador and former JA Tierra Nakamura. Following the lesson, we were lucky to have the *Origami Swami* herself, Ashley Nishihara, teach the JAs how to fold a star box for *Tanabata* (also known as Star Festival, takes place on the 7th day of the 7th month of the year).

This year's APCC may not have gone as initially planned, but thanks to the support and dedication from our 2020 Delegation, parents, and chaperones, we at JASH were excited for the opportunity to learn virtually with our 2020 JAs. Our 2020 APCC Program will wrap up in July 2020 as our JAs participate in the APCC's BRIDGE Summer <WEB> Camp events.



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.

A Selection of JASH Weekly Updates

The following entries are summaries of articles of the JASH Weekly Update electronic messages sent to members via email. If you are a JASH member and have not been receiving these email messages, please contact the JASH office at: amindir@jashawaii.org.

Dear Members and Friends of JASH,

We hope this email finds you and your families safe and in good health. Social distancing has kept us from physically gathering, but we can still stay connected. JASH wants to keep you engaged with a Weekly JASH Update. Each week we will share information on various topics.

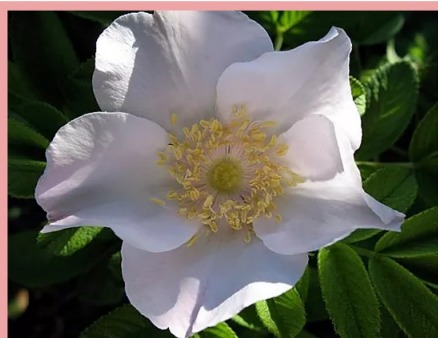
April 9, 2020

Roses in Japan Video

JASH Vice President – Marsha Yokomichi also serves as the Vice President–External of the Honolulu Rose Society (HRS). She has been growing roses for over 20 years and is part of the voluntary core-group of HRS members who maintain the University of Hawaii’s Urban Garden Center (UGC) Rose Garden in Pearl City. Her love of roses as well as her passion for traveling has allowed her to see some of the most beautiful rose gardens in the world through her personal travels as well as her attendance at triennial World Rose Conventions.

Marsha put together a video of unusual ways she saw roses growing in Japan as well as several beautiful rose garden she visited in Japan. View the video at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10GGv9exnKB1u9JYrZOLZg2tf8LTqTMD/view>.



"Rosa Rugosa Alba" or "Hamanashi" Rose

April 16, 2020

In today’s update, we’d like to highlight our academic corporate members and partners who include colleges and universities located in both Hawaii and Japan. Now that we find ourselves at home, what a perfect time for your future college student to explore local and international study abroad opportunities!

In a rapidly globalized society, the opportunity to engage in active collaboration and exchanges, and further studies with international institutions is fundamental to the education of our students. JASH is collaborating with local and Japanese colleges and universities to help bridge high school students interested in studying abroad.

We held our first College Fair during JASH’s Annual Japan Wizards Competition (JWC) on February 29, 2020. The JWC is a statewide academic team competition that tests high school students on different aspects of Japan. Participants also gain an understanding of the concept of Different Perspectives by studying and preparing for the competition.

We’d like to welcome and introduce our academic corporate members and partners:

Hawaii Tokai International College—Kapolei, HI and Tokyo; <https://www.htic.edu/>

Hosei University—Tokyo; <https://www.hosei.ac.jp/english/>

International Christian University—Tokyo; <https://www.icu.ac.jp/>

International Pacific University—Okayama; <https://ipu-japan.ac.jp/english/>

License Academy of Hawaii LLC—Resource for finding colleges/universities in Japan; <https://www.facebook.com/ryugakuforjapan/>

Temple University—Japan Campus—Tokyo and Osaka; <https://www.tui.ac.jp/>

Tokyo Management College—Tokyo; <https://www.tokyo-keitan.ac.jp/>

University of Hawaii, College of Social Sciences—Resource for international opportunities; <http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/global-college/international/index.html>

University of Hawaii, Shidler College of Business—Resource for international opportunities; <http://shidler.hawaii.edu/>

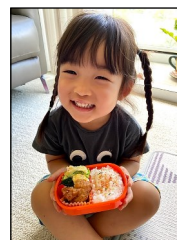
April 23, 2020



In today’s update, we would like to share a useful and free online educational program that you can enjoy during the stay-at-home orders. If you are looking for a unique educational program for your children during school closure or interested in learning how to eat healthy and prepare Japanese food, this is the resource that you won’t want to miss!

Table for TWO is now offering their Japanese-inspired food education online course “Wa-Shokuiku - Learn. Cook. Eat Japanese!” for students of all ages for free through July 7, 2020. Through this course, you will learn the principles of Japanese cuisine and food culture and gain the skills to prepare healthy, nutritious foods to strengthen the body and mind! Learn more about the free course at: www.wa-shokuiku.org/online-course.

Personally, I have tried this course with my 3-year-old daughter and she’s been loving it! We get bored eating the same food at the same place every day but putting it in a bento box has provided a good change of pace and brought a big smile to her face.



She even made this colorful bento with *origami* and has learned that eating a rainbow of fruits and vegetables is good for our health!

Mahalo,
Takako Miyazawa,
JASH Educational Program Director

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April 30, 2020

On April 22nd, JASH Board Chairman, Mr. Steve Sombrero hosted a webinar entitled, “Japanese COVID Panel Discussion—What’s Happening in Hawaii.” The webinar, presented all in Japanese, featured Steve Sombrero and guest experts discussing an overview of the situation to help navigate business and investments for success amidst the pandemic.

You may access a recorded version of the webinar here: <https://youtu.be/Ni7mVJPPGt8>.



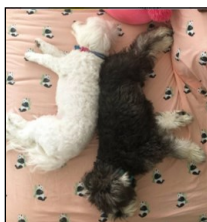
The following are a few of the featured favorite photos contributed by members.



Autumn in Japan. Reyna K.



Looking for the sun while cruising in a zodiac. Barbara T.



The pup on the right is only 6 months old, but he's already outgrown his big brother! Christianne O.



Pukele Stream on a rainy day. Matt F.

Spring brings new hope.



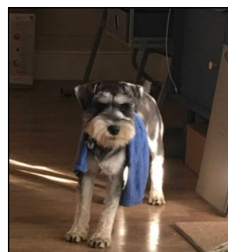
2020 brings new challenges to the world, our countries, our communities, our families, and friends nearby and afar.

A new virus has changed our lives forever and requires that we adjust to new lifestyles at home, at work, and outdoors. How long this will last is uncertain, but we will survive together somehow.

Spring offers us hope that we will start anew and rebuild our lives together with people from all walks of life sharing a common experience and learning to live together more harmoniously.

Wishing you a healthy and peaceful future,

Ray Tabata & Family



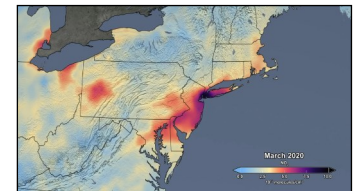
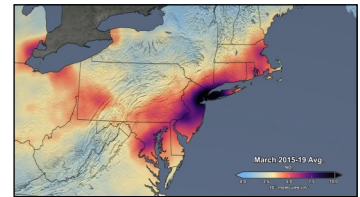
Otto, fresh from the onsen and looking for a bottle of milk. Lynn L.

May 7, 2020

Ryan Matsuzaki, JASH Admin Coordinator

Amidst all the various negative news that has come about due to the COVID-19 outbreak there is a bright side to all of this at least. Studies have shown that air quality has been improved approximately 20-40%. The World Health Organization provided statistics that estimate more than 4 million annual premature deaths annually due to complications involving poor air quality. This vast improvement in air quality is excellent news and can be thought of as the silver-lining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The below image shows the average concentration of air pollution of the Northeast U.S. in March 2015-2019:



The image above shows average concentration of air pollution measured in March 2020. Photos courtesy of NASA.

May 21, 2020

Music is a Cultural Bridge. The language of music is universal. Collaborative musical projects can bridge political, ethnic, and religious divides. In today’s update, we’d like to feature two individuals and an organization who embody “being the bridge” through music.

The first video features JASH supporter Ms. Anju Madoka. Anju, who is currently in Japan, shares her rendition of Hawai`i Aloha.

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Select JASH Weekly Updates—Continued

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Many of you have had the pleasure of seeing her perform during her stay in Hawaii.

She sends a special message to all us. "Thank you for watching my video! To everyone in the world. Please stay safe and stay strong. I'm looking forward to meeting YOU somewhere in this world."

みなさんに会える日を楽しみにしています

Access the video at: <https://youtu.be/t3NGLOnU05k>



Next up is Mr. Rich Kiyabu performing Umi No Koe. Rich plays an active role as a NexGen Advisory Board Member and is very involved as a volunteer for our Educational Programs. He also assists JASH with many of our audio needs through his business, Iris Elements.

Access the video at: https://youtu.be/9lpZ1NA_fl4



May 28, 2020

This week, we'd like to feature Tonkatsu Tamafuji Restaurant where JASH hosted the



80 guests enjoyed popular delicious variations of tonkatsu, deep fried dishes, and unlimited servings of special Hokkaido rice and condiments. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Monday, 11am-8pm and take out is also available. Ph: (808) 922-1212.

Taste of JASH – Hokkaido event last November. This regional cuisine event was extremely popular and over

June 4, 2020

This week, we'd like to feature Zigu Restaurant where JASH hosted the Taste of JASH – Ehime event last August. Jakoten (fishcake), Imodaki (hotpot), Wasabi Shrimp and Poke Roll were some of the dishes served and prepared especially for our JASH guests. The restaurant is open daily from 11:30am to 8:00pm and offer curbside pick-up. Ph: (808) 212-9252



JASH 30th Annual Friendship Golf Classic

Monday, November 2, 2020, 11:30am

Act Now to Reserve Your Spot!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Includes Lunch and Banquet Dinner

Contact: Lila Frisbie at lfrisbie@jashawaii.org or Ph. (808) 524-4450

CELEBRITY SPONSOR

TWO 3-Player Teams (including one celebrity), Tee or Green Signage, Celebrity Sponsor Team Gift, Player Gift, Deluxe Recognition Package, Entry into On-Course Games, Ticket Package Per Team

* Please contact Justin George at (808) 778-2747 for more information

Varies*

PREMIUM SPONSOR

TWO 3-Player Teams, Tee or Green Signage, Premium Sponsor Team Gift, Player Gift, Deluxe Recognition Package, Entry into On-Course Games, Ticket Package Per Team

\$4,000

TITANIUM SPONSOR

ONE 3-Player Team, Tee or Green Signage, Titanium Sponsor Team Gift, Player Gift, Recognition in the Program, Entry into On-Course Games, Ticket Package

\$3,000

GRAPHITE SPONSOR

ONE 3-Player Team, Tee or Green Signage, Player Gift, Recognition in the Program, Ticket Package

\$2,000

TEAM ENTRY

ONE 3-Player Team, Player Gift, Lucky Drawing Tickets

\$1,000