



JASH Newsflash

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

Summer 2023

APCC Junior Ambassadors Preparing for Fukuoka



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA

Our four Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Junior Ambassadors (JAs), chaperone Sandy Takeda, and Bridge Club Hawaii President Betsy Wo were busy from April-June preparing for their trip to Fukuoka, Japan!

They met twice a month at the JASH Office to learn about Japanese food, culture, daily life, and homestay expectations. These preparatory workshops, led by JASH, included a scavenger food hunt at Don Quijote; presentation on Japanese school life by our Japan-In-A-Suitcase volunteers; a weekend of team-building activities at YMCA Camp Erdman; and other hands-on activities!

For each workshop, JAs prepared "Cross-Cultural Reports" to share about the different countries and regions participating in this year's APCC. They taught their peers about the Cook Islands; Taiwan; Republic of Kiribati; Malaysia; and many more, altogether exploring over 20 new cultures.



Sano doing his presentation on *Holidays* in Vietnamese culture.

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President's Message

The Maui wildfires and the victims of the tragedy are top of mind for all of us in Hawaii, and our hearts go out to our friends and family on Maui. The fires not only annihilated the town of Lahaina but they have left thousands without homes and businesses. The livelihood of Maui is in jeopardy as the number of visitors to the island has decreased dramatically. We pray for Maui's recovery and want to spread word that Maui is still welcoming visitors to enjoy other parts of the Valley Isle—please visit Maui and support its economy! A portion of the proceeds from our JASH Bridge Awards Dinner & Silent Auction will be given to victims of the disaster.

These last few months, JASH has held a variety of programs focused

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Combination JASH 5:01 and Movers & Shakers Event



On Tuesday, April 25, 2023, J A S H resurrected our NexGen *Movers & Shakers* Talk

Story Series in-person at Central Pacific Bank's *Oceans 20* Room.

Thanks to the generosity of co-sponsors Noguchi & Associates an Ori-gen Family Company and the Central Pacific Bank, over 40 guests had the opportunity to listen to a meaningful and candid conversation featuring Mitch Noguchi, President and CEO of Noguchi & Associates.



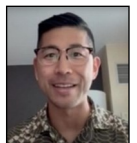
(L-R): Mitch Noguchi, Amanda Corby-Noguchi, and JASH President Reyna Kaneko.

The talk-story event was moderated by Amanda Corby-Noguchi, sister-in-law to Mr. Noguchi, of *Under My Umbrella*, a public relations and marketing firm.

Mr. Noguchi spoke about what it's like to take over and run a legacy family business built by his father, Hideo Noguchi, 40 years ago and the recent partnership with Ori-gen.

Ori-gen, like Noguchi & Associates, is a legacy insurance company based in Los Angeles.

The 43-year old company, now under the leadership of Chairperson Joshua Morey, is determined to amplify its operations for future generations. Although Mr. Morey could not attend the event in-person, he sent a video message regarding his perspectives on taking over a family business and what it means to him.



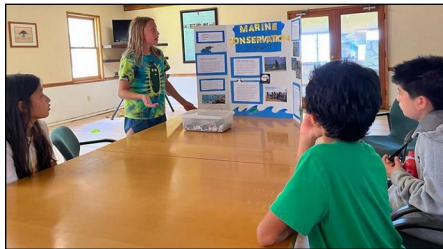
Mr. Noguchi shared about his challenges as a CEO of an insurance company during the pandemic. His values of being responsible and doing the right thing helped him get through the pandemic without laying off any of his 70+ employees. He spoke about the lessons from his father, about

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APCC Delegates Prepare for Their Trip

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As part of this assignment, JAs were also challenged to compare their findings to their own culture and daily life here in Hawaii. Although they were familiar with certain aspects of Pacific and East Asian culture, they can't wait to meet their peers in Fukuoka to learn about what other kids their age did for fun.



Vaiva presenting her Global BRIDGE Leader Report on *Marine Conservation in Hawaii*.

Our JAs also researched how some of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being addressed in Hawaii. During the weekend at Camp Erdman, they presented their findings on recycling in Hawaii; marine conservation in Hawaii; pollution in Hawaii; and



(L-R) Vaiva, Sandy, Kyrie, Sano, and Rylen making s'mores at Camp Erdman. Photo by JASH NexGen camp chaperone Sean Takehara

global warming and its effects on Hawaii. JASH includes this "Global BRIDGE Leader Report" to encourage our JAs to learn more about important issues facing our community and brainstorm ways they can make a difference.

JASH is honored to have served as the Liaison Office for the Hawaii delegation since 2003. If you wish to know more about the APCC program, please visit the JASH website at jashawaii.org/apcc or contact Program Specialist Christianne Ono at cono@jashawaii.org.

JASH 5:01: Movers & Shakers

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his obligations, and about honoring the legacy and morals that were built before him, all while still finding ways to adapt and doing so harmoniously. Intergenerational conflict has been a challenge, but Mr. Noguchi says both generations have so much to give. He believes there is a need to be openminded, embrace working together with each other and as a community, and to be respectful and receptive.



Special thanks to the Central Pacific Bank Client Experience Team for their aloha and hospitality!

The goal of the JASH NexGen Movers and Shakers Talk Story Series is to allow for deeper discussions about topics such as: the meaning of leadership; how to face challenges and creatively address current-day issues; what current leaders would like to see from the next generation; and other topics.

After the program, the guests mingled together and enjoyed the warm camaraderie, beautiful view, and ono food from the Pig and the Lady.

If you are interested in hosting a future Movers & Shakers event, please contact Director of Events and Programs Lila Frisbie at lfrisbie@jashawaii.org.

President's Message

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around business and leadership (JASH Movers & Shakers Event), cultural and arts (Ogasawara-ryu Program), and educational exchange programs (APCC and Hiroshima Peace Scholar Program). Through the articles in this issue, you will see how our APCC Junior Ambassadors and Hiroshima Peace Scholars prepared for their summer trips—more to come on these outstanding programs and life-changing opportunities for Hawaii students!

We also had fun getting together with our Japan-in-a-Suitcase volunteers for a delicious lunch! It was great to talk-story and see each other after a long absence.

As always, we are ever grateful to you, our JASH Ohana, for your ongoing support which enables us to do all the programs and events we do to be the bridge of friendship and understanding between Hawaii and Japan and the U.S. and Japan.

With Aloha, Reyna

HOKKAIDO SNOW CAMP



JASH is partnering with Japan's **Soshi Educational Group** on an Educational and Cultural Exchange

program to introduce Hawaii's high school students to educational opportunities in Japan after completing high school. The inaugural program includes a six-day trip to Hokkaido from January 13-19, 2024!

Deadline for Applications
Friday, September 8th

More Info

<https://www.jashawaii.org/hsc>

Questions? Please Contact:
cono@jashawaii.org

Ogasawara-ryu Program



JASH President Reyna Kaneko presenting a lei to Kiyomoto Ogasawara.

On Friday, June 30, 2023, JASH was honored to host an art workshop on *Traditional Knot Tying* featuring Kiyomoto Ogasawara, 32nd generation of the Ogasawara-ryu school of archery, mounted archery, and *Reiho* (etiquette) of Japan. The Ogasawara family served as instructors to Samurai in these three disciplines for generations.

Many thanks to JASH Lifetime Member, Ms. Hiroko Dewitz for organizing and helping coordinate this very special workshop which was one of a series of community events featuring Kiyomoto Ogasawara from June 30 to July 1.

Ogasawara Sensei opened the program with a presentation about his background and the Ogasawara-ryu school in Japan.

He first visited Hawaii in 1996 at the age of 15 years old when he performed an exhibition on mounted archery.

His focus for this visit to Hawaii was to teach *Reiho* or etiquette, which dates back over 830 years! For our June 30th program held at Makiki



Ms. Ayumi Adachi in foreground assisting students, Ms. Hiroko Dewitz standing in background also assisting students.

Christian Church, he taught attendees how to tie several traditional knots. Back in history, the way a knot was tied would tell a person what was in a package.

After the program, attendees chatted with Ogasawara Sensei and assistant, Ms. Ayumi Adachi while enjoying light refreshments. Some students happily left the program with autographed Ogasawara-ryu books they purchased and had personalized by Ogasawara Sensei.

Visitor Industry

Charity Walk

Four of JASH staff members were up early on Saturday, May 6th as we reported to Magic Island at 5:30am for the 2023 Visitor Industry Charity Walk.



This year, Ryan, Cindy, Lila, and Marsha served as volunteer Course Marshalls guiding the thousands of walkers to stay on-course near the Ala Wai Canal walkway. Christianne was on a camping trip with the 2023 Asian-Pacific Children's Convention Junior Ambassadors and Reyna was tied up meeting the Ehime Prefectural International Center Interns so they were unable to join us.

This was the second-year that the Visitor Industry Charity Walk was held in person since taking a hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. The Charity Walk was held separately on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island, and in total raised over \$2.6 million dollars for local charities like JASH.

JIAS Volunteer Appreciation Lunch



On May 24, 2023, an appreciation luncheon was held at Kanoya Sushi Grill and Bar for Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JIAS) volunteers. Thanks to their help, 49 presentations were given to 1,116 students during the 2022-2023 school year.

Japan-in-a-Suitcase is a program that gives students in kindergarten through 5th grade the opportunity to learn about the concept of *Different Perspectives* through interactive



Some of the JIAS Volunteers and JASH Staff enjoy lunch at Kanoya

activities comparing local and Japanese cultures. This was the first year since the pandemic that we were able to fully resume the program with in-person classes.

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

We are currently seeking more volunteers for JIAS. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Cindy Oshima at coshima@jashawaii.org.

Peace Scholars Prepare for Hiroshima

Since their selection this Spring, our 2023 Hiroshima Peace Scholarship (HPS) scholars Yuuka Brown (Kalani High School) and Reina Gammarino (Punahou School) have been busily preparing for their 10-day trip to Hiroshima.

As part of their preparations for their summer study trip, HPS scholars have been attending monthly educational workshops. They have been learning about the history of World War II in the U.S. and Japan; practicing how to share their perspectives to the media; and working on research projects that they will present in Hiroshima.



As part of their preparations, our HPS Scholars participated in JASH and Pacific Historic Parks' Sadako Peace Projects.

Volunteers from the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Matsunaga Institute, University of Hawaii at West Oahu, Hawaii Baptist Academy, Farrington High School, Kalani High School, and Punahou School assisted in our April project day.

Our volunteers share with visitors the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who was a victim of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and passed away due to the effects of irradiation at the age of twelve, and emphasize her message for world peace. In sharing Sadako's story, our volunteers teach visitors how to fold their own peace cranes and encourage them to take home cranes with handwritten messages of peace, which were folded and donated by students in Japan.



In May, HPS scholars learned about peace through different perspectives. They watched a testimony by Ms. Keiko Ogura, a *hibakusha* atomic bombing survivor, who the scholars will have the opportunity to meet when they visit Hiroshima in August. They shared their perspectives and discussed what they have learned from her story with Ms. Naomi Hirano-Omizo, one of the founders of this scholarship.

The scholars also had the opportunity to receive media training from Ms. Jocelyn Collado from Becker Communications. Ms. Collado has taught many people about effective communication through the news media.



They learned how to eloquently manage their verbal responses and non-verbal poise for interviews they may be asked to do as representatives of this scholarship. In this media training, the HPS scholars had hands-on experiences being interviewed by a reporter, watched back their recorded interviews, and received useful feedback for improvement. Mahalo to Ms. Collado for the special coaching!

For June's workshops, our HPS scholars worked diligently on their many projects that they will be doing in Hiroshima. The scholars, along with their friends and family, have been busily folding and organizing their cranes for their *senbazuru* 1,000 paper crane garland.

They also prepared and practiced their joint self-introduction presentation and their individual family war story interview presentations, which they will present to other high school students and other community members while in Hiroshima to share about past and current experiences in Hawaii and the U.S.



(L-R): Yuuka and Reina preparing cranes for their *senbazuru* to hang in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

To learn more about the Hiroshima Peace Scholarship, its sister program the Hawaii Heiwa Scholarship, and our Sadako Peace Projects, please contact Program Specialist **Christianne Ono** at cono@jashawaii.org.

Upcoming Events



Sep 8, 2023 Deadline for Applications
See Page 2 for more information

JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF HAWAII
BRIDGE AWARDS DINNER & SILENT AUCTION
Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach

Japan Day

Nov 2, 2023 Fall Japan Day—This will be the first in-person Japan Day since 2019.

The *JASH Newsflash* newsletter is published quarterly. Visit our website at www.jashawaii.org for more information.