



JAPAN-AMERICA JOURNAL

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii

Volume 31 • Number 1 • Winter 2013

JASH helps bring Symposium on 3/11 Tsunami Debris to Honolulu

Experts in ocean debris management gathered in Honolulu on Saturday, March 2, 2013 for a symposium to discuss the tsunami debris created as a result of the Great East Asia Earthquake in March 2011 and what is being done about the debris that is now arriving on the West Coast of the U.S. and in the Hawaiian Islands. The Symposium was sponsored by the Honolulu Festival

Foundation and JTB Hawaii as part of its annual festival designed to bring various cultures around the Pacific Rim together in Hawaii to promote understanding and friendship. The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) assisted with the overall planning and acted as the symposium emcee. The symposium was timely as reports and photos of tsunami debris, some positively identified as associated with the 3/11 Tsunami, have begun to appear in various news media at this second anniversary of the tragic event.

Titled “3/11 Tsunami Debris: Japan-U.S. Collaborative Effort,” the symposium’s purpose was to inform the public about what’s being done about the tsunami debris, who’s responsible for its management and disposal, what the



Symposium kicks off with the panel discussion.




The press and audience engaging in a question and answer session with panel members.

Experts from the Government of Japan included Mr. Tsuyoshi Saito, former Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary; Mr. Kazuhisa Ito, Cabinet Counselor, The Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, Cabinet Office; and Mr. Takashi Mori, Director, Office of Marine Environment, Ministry of Environment. Japan’s Consul General of Japan in Honolulu, Honorable Toyoei Shigeeda completed the Japanese

representation and delivered opening remarks thanking the people of Hawaii for providing donations to Japan and for assisting directly with the relief and recovery efforts. Mr. Saito followed by stating the Japanese Government has provided \$5 million to the U.S. through NOAA for cleanup and management of tsunami debris. A video message from Hawaii’s Senator Mazie Hirono, a native of Fukushima Prefecture, welcomed the panelists and guests to the symposium. U.S. representatives to the discussion panel included Ms. Carey Morishige, Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator for NOAA; Mr. Jono Blodgett, Aquatic Invasive Species Research Supervisor, Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources; Mr. Gary Gill, Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration, Hawaii State Department of Health; and Commander Martin Smith, Marine Environmental Response Specialist, 14th District—U.S. Coast Guard. The discussion panel was moderated by Dr. Jeffrey Hornung, Associate Professor at Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and a Japan expert.

Following each presentation, questions were fielded from the audience by the experts. After the symposium, the press was invited to remain and direct questions to the panel members.

JASH is pleased to have been a co-sponsor for this event designed to inform the public about 3/11 tsunami debris management and to promote greater understanding between the peoples of U.S. and Japan. Links to the presentations and symposium program are available at www.jashawaii.org. 

JASH Holds Annual New Year Reception



(L) Mahalo to Mr. Steve Sombrero (far right) and Aloha Beer Company for providing beer for our event. (R) Guests enjoyed a playful shi shi mai performance by Ryukyu Hawaii.


The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) rang in the New Year with a reception at historic Washington Place. Washington Place, built in 1847 as the home for American merchant John Dominis, was the refuge of Hawaii’s last monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, and the official residence for a dozen Hawaii Governors. It was named Washington Place by King Kamehameha III after the U.S. President.

The New Year Reception is an opportunity for our Society and supporters and friends to reflect on the accomplishments of last year and dedicate ourselves to the tasks of this New Year. Host Governor Neil Abercrombie pointed to many of those accomplishments and the important role JASH plays in maintaining the relationship with Japan as he welcomed the Society and its friends. Other guests included former Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, former Hawaii Governor George Ariyoshi and wife Jean, Deputy Commander of U.S. Army Pacific, Major General Richard Burr of the Australian Defence Force, Japanese Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda and Mrs. Michiko Shigeeda, Australian Consul General Scott Dewar, and Republic of Korea Consul General Young Kil Suh.

JASH Chair Sharon Weiner welcomed our special guests while JASH President Ed Hawkins spoke about the accomplishments of the previous year such as helping promote sister relationships with Ehime, Fukuoka, Hiroshima, and newest one with Nagaoka City through cultural and educational exchanges. JASH welcomed four members of the Nagaoka delegation to this event, led by the Vice Mayor of Nagaoka, Tatsunobu Isoda. JASH outlined its hallmark educational programs for students K-12 that reached over 7,000 students in 2012, and the continuing work with hosting Japanese

children from the 3/11 disaster in Japan through the Rainbow for Japan Kids project.

After a traditional *kagamiwari sake* barrel opening ceremony, the evening concluded with a traditional Okinawan-style lion dance, *shi shi mai*, presented by Jon Itomura and the Ryukyu Hawaii group. JASH would like to thank the overall sponsor, Mr. Stanford Carr and Stanford Carr Development for their donation and arranging for wine from Paradise Beverages. Thanks go to Dr. Michael Leinewer, Ms. Yumi Ozaki, and the rest of the Kokusai Sake Kai for providing the *sake* service; and to Mr. Steve Sombrero and Aloha Beer for providing the complimentary beer. Thanks also to Mr. Teru Kishii and The Cherry Company for providing the *kagamiwari* instruments and the *sake* for the *kampai*. Everyone had a great time!

For more photos from the evening please visit www.jashawaii.org. 



Japan's Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda toasts to the New Year with Hawaii's Governor Neil Abercrombie.



Ehime Maru “Jusankaiki” Held

February 9, 2013, was the important “Jusankaiki,” or 13th anniversary of the Ehime Maru incident according to Buddhist tradition. On this day, several hundred gathered at Kakaako Waterfront Park to pay tribute to the nine Japanese victims, including four students. Those gathered included bereaved family members, government officials from Ehime Prefecture and Uwajima City, and local Hawaii State and City representatives.

The ceremony began with a prayer by Reverend Irene Matsumoto of Palolo Kwannon Temple, and a moment of silence was observed at precisely 1:43 p.m., the time of the accident. Names of the lost were read out. Tributes followed from the Vice Governor of Ehime, the Governor of Hawaii, the Mayor of Uwajima City, and the Mayor of Honolulu. Both



Dignitaries, and guests gather for the Memorial Ceremony.

Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell pledged to do whatever necessary to keep such an accident from recurring, and to honor the memory of the lost by maintaining the memorial at Kakaako in perpetuity. They also pointed to the many good-will measures put in place following the incident that continue today. Afterwards, flower wreaths were presented by attending groups and organizations. Mr. Tatsuyoshi Mizuguchi, representing the bereaved, thanked all the volunteers for continuing to honor the lost by cleaning and maintaining the memorial.

The Ehime Maru Memorial Association, associated with the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, maintains the memorial, assists the bereaved with annual memorial services, and promotes Ehime-Hawaii relations through educational and cultural programs. More information can be found on JASH website www.jashawaii.org/emma.asp.



Bereaved families' representative Mr. Tatsuyoshi Mizuguchi thanks those gathered.

JASH Night Out: Movie and Dinner

The screening of the movie “Emperor” provided the perfect opportunity for a JASH Night Out on the town. “Emperor” is the story of post-War Japan and the issue of how to deal with Emperor Hirohito—whether to try him as a war criminal or not. The movie stars Tommy Lee Jones as General Douglas MacArthur sent to Japan to establish order, remove Japanese militarism, and deal with those determined to be war criminals, and Matthew Fox as General Fellers who is assigned the task of determining whether Hirohito should be charged with war crimes.

Following the movie, the JASH at-



tendees gathered at a local restaurant to carry on the discussions about the movie. Mr. Ken-ichi Ando of Hawaii’s Japan Airlines Office attended the evening’s program and donated a large poster of the movie and brought along a letter addressed to the JASH membership from the producers of the movie, Yoko Narahashi, Gary Foster, and Eugene Nomura (Mr. Ando is a good friend of one of the producers). The poster was offered as a gift to the winner of the movie trivia contest and JASH President Ed Hawkins read the letter to the gathered JASH attendees (see the text at www.jashawaii.org). It was an evening of learning and fun.

Japan Society of the UK Trustee Speaks about Freemasonry in Japan



Ms. Pauline Chakmakjian with former Tokyo Grand Master Fredric Collins and JASH President Ed Hawkins.

What is Freemasonry and how did it get to Japan? This question was answered on January 29th by a Trustee of the Japan Society of the UK who is an expert on this topic. Ms. Pauline Chakmakjian is a world traveler, history buff, and lecturer who comes to the U.S. periodically to visit family and friends. The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) took the opportunity during her visit to Hawaii to schedule a luncheon talk featuring Ms. Chakmakjian. Those who attended were not disappointed and were treated to a fascinating talk about the rise of Freemasonry in Europe, the spread of this fraternal organization

to the U.S. and the rest of the world, and its establishment in Japan. Throughout her talk, Ms. Chakmakjian tied in historical events and personages, keeping the audience interested and engaged. A lengthy Q&A session that followed showed the level of interest generated.

Ms. Chakmakjian explained that Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that arose from obscure origins in the late 16th to early 17th century based on guilds. Though it has lost those identities, it still flourishes across the world keeping many of the symbols and practices originally established as hallmarks of this secret society, but it now engages in mostly charitable work. Ms. Chakmakjian lifted the veil of secrecy (it's not as secret as some might think) through her talk and pointed to the many positive charitable programs the organization started. Now Freemasonry's membership is estimated at about six million with lodges all over the world.

JASH would like to thank Ms. Chakmakjian for taking the time to speak to our Society members and friends about this interesting topic. 団員 団員



Those who attended now know what the elements of this symbol signify.

JASH Visits Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

On February 6, JASH was invited to tour the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) facilities at Hickam Air Force Base. JPAC conducts global search, recovery, and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted-for Americans from past conflicts in order to support Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts. The Command was activated October 1, 2003.

The laboratory portion of JPAC, referred to as the Central Identification Laboratory, is the largest and most diverse forensic skeletal laboratory in the world. JASH visitors were presented an overall briefing on JPAC and its mission, and were taken on a tour of its identification laboratory to see how the identification process is accomplished. Remains of several servicemen were being identified. It was a great opportunity for JASH members to learn about the important role this facility in Hawaii plays to account for Americans from past conflicts and how our country puts so much effort and




JASH members outside JPAC Central Identification Laboratory on Hickam AFB.

resources into this task to honor our servicemen and women and their families. 団員 団員

JASH Director Blair Odo Named JAIMS President

This past July, the JAIMS Board of Trustees appointed intercultural educator Dr. Blair M.T. Odo to JAIMS President. Dr. Odo is the eighth and the first female president of JAIMS, and she previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of JAIMS. She succeeds Ikujiro Nonaka.

With over 20 years with the school, Dr. Odo is credited with overseeing the institute’s academic programs, developing a flourishing network of international internship partners, and developing customized corporate training programs in Hawaii, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Bangladesh.

JASH congratulates Dr. Odo on this recent achievement. 



JAIMS President Dr. Blair Odo

JASH Helps Support 442nd RCT Anniversary Event

Many may not know or appreciate that the City of Bruyeres in France and Honolulu are sister cities...why the connection? It has to do with the liberation of Bruyeres in the Vosges Mountains of France from Nazi occupation by the Nikkei soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Battalion. On Saturday, March 23rd, the Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT held a memorial service at Waikiki’s Army Museum to remember all who served.

As a special feature of the memorial service, 442nd veterans and leaders of the community paid a tribute by placing folded paper cranes at either the photo of a departed Medal of Honor winner or a special memorial for all who had served. The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) was invited to be a participant in the service, and chose to have the Society represented by Junior Ambassadors for the Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention in Fukuoka. Eleven year olds Kiana Kawahara and Cole Ichikawa presented a paper crane


in memory of the 442nd veterans, but with a slight twist. JASH President Ed Hawkins had planned a private trip to Europe when he learned about this memorial service. He contacted the members of the Peace and Freedom Trail Association in Bruyeres, France to see if they could assist in having the children of Bruyeres fold a paper crane that Mr. Hawkins could bring back for this ceremony. Mr. Hawkins stopped by Bruyeres during his trip and received the paper crane from the President of the Peace and Freedom Trail Association, Mr. Martial Hillaire and Vice President Christian DeVile. This was the paper crane that Kiana and Cole presented on March 23rd.



APCC Junior Ambassadors Kiana Kawahara (L) and Cole Ichikawa (R) present the paper crane from Bruyeres at the Waikiki Memorial Service.



Students at Jeanne d'Arc School in Bruyeres and their teacher presenting the paper crane to Martial Hillaire.

The paper crane from Bruyeres was made by the students of Jeanne d'Arc school, sister school of Le Jardin Academy in Honolulu. JASH was pleased to assist in this symbolic act of friendship and respect from the people of Bruyeres to the people of Hawaii, and to honor the memory of the Nikkei soldiers. 

Four High School Teams Earn Trips to Japan through the Japan Wizards Competition

By 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 23, 135 students representing 26 schools from Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui were anxious to begin competing in the 10th annual Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) held at Kapiolani Community College (KCC). This marks the second year that Hawaiian Airlines graciously served as overall sponsor. Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda from the Consulate General of Japan at Honolulu welcomed the students and wished them success in this year’s competition.

Hawaiian Airlines Executive Ms. Monisa Cline told the gathered high school students that the qualities of personal responsibility, team work, and the rewards that accrue from hard work as exemplified in the JWC are the same ones valued by Hawaiian Airlines, and that is one of the reasons for its strong support. We again thank Hawaiian Airlines and other major supporters – ABC Stores, Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, International Cultural and Friendship Association, JTB Hawaii, The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles – who make the competition one which high school students across the state look forward to each year.

This year, a total of 45 teams competed in two skill levels. The teams were tested on their knowledge of Japanese art,

culture and tradition, food, geography, history, Japan-Hawaii ties, literature, politics and government, sports, contemporary Japan, and of course the Japanese language. Study guides were provided to registered teams in the fall to aid them in their preparation and studies.

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii awarded plaques to the three top scoring teams in each level. In Level A, these were Pearl City High School (1st place), Mililani High School (2nd place), and Punahou School (3rd place). The Level B winners were Punahou School (1st place), Kamehameha Schools – Kapalama (2nd place), and Mililani High School (3rd place).

The top scoring public schools to receive the Japan trip award were Pearl City High School from Level A and Mililani High School for the Level B division. Levels A and B from Punahou School were the recipients from the private school division. These teams (three students and an advisor each) will travel to Japan this summer to experience firsthand what they studied in the classroom and through independent research. This year’s Atsuhiko Tateuchi Memorial Award for Outstanding Scholarship went to overall top scoring team Punahou School, Level B.

Continued on next page



JASH President Ed Hawkins with Hawaiian Airlines’ Ms. Monisa Cline and JTB Hawaii’s Mr. Keiichi Tsujino and the winning teams.

Japan Wizards...


Continued from previous page



(L) Students enjoy a friendly game of karuta in the Activity Center; (R) Volunteers assist students playing Pictionary.

Between competition rounds, students were kept busy with the numerous activity stations in the Activity Center. These included calligraphy, *gyotaku* fish printing, *karuta*, origami, a tea ceremony demonstration, and Jeopardy to name a few. The University of Hawaii at Manoa (UH Manoa) Department of Theatre and Dance provided a *rakugo* demonstration.

JASH would like to thank Hawaiian Airlines for sponsoring the Competition, and all the major supporters including ABC Stores, Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation, Friends of Hawaii Charities, Hawaii Hotel Industry Foundation, International Cultural and Friendship

Association, JTB Hawaii, The America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo, and The Freeman Foundation. JASH would also like to thank all the contributors who provided prizes, snacks, drinks, and other donations that assisted with the competition. Many thanks and recognition goes to the 78 volunteers representing the JET Alumni Association of Hawaii, UH Manoa, KCC, Alaka'i Young Professionals, and Hawaii Tokai International College to name a few. Without this tremendous support, the competition would not have been possible. Finally, our gratitude to the President, Chancellor and staff of Kapiolani Community College for the generous use of their facilities and for their support of the Japan Wizards Competition. 

2013 APCC Junior Ambassadors Selected

JASH has selected six 11-year-old students (three boys and three girls) from across the state to represent Hawaii as Junior Ambassadors (JAs) at the 25th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC), which will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from July 12- 24, 2013. Hosted by the Fukuoka based NPO by the same name and supported by the Fukuoka government, the APCC promotes international relationships between children with the goal of them becoming adults with a strong social responsibility for the world. A total of 232 children from 45 countries and cities throughout the Asia-Pacific region have been invited to participate this year. The students will travel to Japan with a JASH chaperone, Daniel Hwang, a Kahuku High School teacher. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the APCC and the 10th year that JASH has been involved in selecting and training the Junior Ambassadors.

This year, JASH received a total of 29 applicants from Oahu and Kauai. After a day of interviews and group workshops held at the JASH office, the six JAs were selected: Brett Castro (Mililani Ike Elementary), Cole Ichikawa (Iolani



The 2013 Junior Ambassadors with chaperone Daniel Hwang.

School), Wesley Yamada (Ma'ema'e Elementary), Kate Helbush (Moanalua Elementary), Kiana Kawahara (Pearl Ridge Elementary) and Megan Oshiro (Aina Haina Elementary).

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Mahalo!

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii wishes to thank its many generous and dedicated sponsors and contributors for their support of the Japan Wizards Competition.

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Mahalo!

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii wishes to thank Kapiolani Community College for the generous use of its facilities and for their support of the Japan Wizards Competition.

APCC...

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The students will spend one Saturday each month from now until July preparing for their trip to Fukuoka. The workshops are designed to develop teamwork skills and build students' knowledge about Japan, Hawaii-Japan ties, cultural etiquette and the 44 other countries and cities that will be sending delegates to the Convention. Each delegation is required to give a cultural performance unique to that country or region. The Hawaii delegation will be performing a hula to the song *E Ku'u Tutu* sung by Raiatea Helm, taught by Makua Dori Kim, a Hawaiian studies teacher at Aina Haina Elementary.

In addition to the six Junior Ambassadors, an additional delegate will be attending the APCC this summer. David Nakanishi, an 11th grader at Hawaii Baptist Academy, will be serving as a “Peace Ambassador” at the Convention. He will be joining 30 other Peace Ambassadors who have been selected worldwide. While at the APCC this summer, David will share the activities of Bridge Club Hawaii with other Peace Ambassadors from around the world in order to promote understanding and friendship and expand the network of worldwide Junior Ambassadors through the local Bridge Clubs. 

The 2013 APCC Mission Project in Hawaii



Mission Project delegates are welcomed to Hawaii by their host families.

On Sunday, March 31, 2013, fifteen Japanese students and three chaperones from Fukuoka, Japan left Honolulu. The Mission Project delegation had been in Honolulu for five nights (from March 26 – 31) staying with host families as part of the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Mission Project program. This is the fourth time JASH has hosted a Mission Project delegation from Fukuoka. In addition to Hawaii, other Mission Project delegates from Fukuoka were sent to Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Tonga.

Established in 1994 by the APCC in Fukuoka, the goal of the Mission Project is to enhance the Japanese children's understanding of their Asian-Pacific neighbors by learning about their lifestyles, culture and customs through first-hand experiences. They do this by sending delegates to various Asian-Pacific countries. Here in Hawaii, the students

ages 9-16 stayed with host families selected by JASH and were able to experience local culture, food, excursions to the beach, sightseeing and many other fun activities. A highlight of the visit was the opportunity for Japanese students to attend school with their American host brother or sister. JASH would like to extend a warm Mahalo to all of the principals of hosting schools for opening their doors and classrooms and welcoming the Japanese students.

Each summer, the APCC generously sponsors Hawaii's Junior Ambassadors (JAs) for a global youth camp and home stay with host families in Fukuoka. JASH selects those JAs and spends six months preparing them for their trip to Fukuoka in July. The Mission Project allows JASH to reciprocate the hospitality that our own JAs experience in Japan.

Continued on next page

Mission Project...

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Excitement was in the air on the morning of March 26, as the host families gathered at a JASH sponsored Welcome Ceremony at the Honolulu International Airport Conference Center where they met each other and waited for the delegates to arrive from Japan. Many of the delegates had been in contact for a few weeks with their host families and so everyone was anxious to finally meet face to face. The Welcome Ceremony was also attended by Japanese Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda who gave welcoming remarks to the delegates.

JASH also hosted an Appreciation Party for the host families and Japanese students at the Oahu Veterans Center on March 29. In addition to the host families and delegates about 20 members of Bridge Club Hawaii (APCC Alumni Association) and the 2013 JAs were in attendance. It was an evening of good food and laughter as the Japanese delegates shared their talents with the audience. The speeches they made were especially memorable for everyone who attended that night. The evening ended with the whole group (over 100 people) in a circle and singing the “We Are the Bridge” song. The visiting students from Fukuoka received once in a lifetime

experiences because of the generosity and warm Aloha of the host families. The program would not have been possible without them, and both JASH and the visiting students owe them a debt of gratitude. 日本



Aoi Yoshida enjoying time at the beach with host family the Bonillas.

Hinamatsuri Celebration at the Japanese Consulate

On Tuesday, February 26, Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda and Mrs. Michiko Shigeeda graciously opened their residence to the Japan-America Society of Hawaii’s annual Tomodachi Hinamatsuri celebration in honor of Girl’s Day. Also known as the Doll Festival, Hinamatsuri is traditionally celebrated on March 3rd by Japanese families to ensure their daughter’s future happiness.

Guests were able to enjoy the Consulate’s beautiful seven-tiered *hinanogyo* doll display. As Tomodachi co-chair Shirley Miyamoto explained, the dolls are handed down from generation to generation and only displayed in late February. They are put away the night of Hinamatsuri to ensure that the family will

have no trouble in marrying off their daughters.

Local slack key guitarist Bobby Moderow Jr. of the band Maunalua gave an energetic performance and even explained the stories behind the music. He performed old favorites such as the song “Sanoe” originally written by Queen Liliuokalani about an affair in the royal court, and “Koke’e” written by Reverend Dennis Kamakahi on the roadside as he made his way through Waimea Canyon.

Following a taste of local music, guests were able to partake in special refreshments prepared by the Consul General’s personal chef. Of note was the *hishi* cake, a tri-colored cake instead of the tri-colored diamond shaped *hishi-mochi*

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Mr. Bobby Moderow Jr. with Tomodachi Planning Committee members in front of the Consulate’s hinanogyo display.

Beyond ‘Just a Trip to Japan’

By Korie Lum

In honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan, the Japan–America Society of Hawaii (JASH) held an essay contest asking former Junior Ambassadors to write, in 500 words or less, how the APCC and/or JASH has affected your life. Four winning essays were selected, which will be printed in this and the next three Japan–America Journals. Korie Lum, a Junior Ambassador in 2006 is currently a senior at Moanalua High School. Read her winning essay below. JASH is proud to have served as the Liaison Office representing Hawaii in selecting and training our delegation to prepare them for their Fukuoka trip since 2003.

As an 11-year-old I traveled to a Japanese elementary school, became close friends with a Sri Lankan, and lived in a Japanese home- all in a span of two weeks. Yet, the influence of the Asian Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC) didn’t stop there. The experiences introduced to me by the APCC sparked my interest in pursuing and sharing their mission beyond their program.


This convention brought me to two very varied, but enriching experiences. The international camp brought me close to my Fijian, Sri Lankan, and Japanese roommates. Our room was filled with multiple languages, laughter, and, of course, creative hand gestures. I was also welcomed into a family’s home; this invaluable period of time stretched me as a person and as a learner. I was put into situations where I needed to use my Japanese; no matter how limited my knowledge was, in order to communicate. Being immersed in the everyday culture of Japan showed me the first-hand similarities and differences between my lifestyle and theirs.

Back in Hawaii, my family participated in two of the APCC’s Mission Projects, extending our home to students from Japan. The incredible part was to be on the other side of the home stay, giving me another perspective of interacting with someone who doesn’t speak my language. From experiencing my home stay in Fukuoka, I could empathize with people who had a harder time with English- helping

me to develop myself into a more compassionate and patient person.

I’ve found many opportunities to actively correspond and communicate with people of different cultures- especially Japanese. In high school, I opted to take Japanese as my foreign language because I found more opportunities to apply it. Our school hosts Kokotaiji, our Japanese sister school, and I have been able to use everything that I’ve learned, to the test. I continue to practice; in hopes that I will be able to sustain a casual conversation in Japanese with someone my age.

Bridge Club Hawaii (BCH) brings former Junior Ambassadors and people from the community together through service events. We correspond with other clubs, making a “bridge” across cultures. Together, we help the Japan–America Society of Hawaii in events like the Rainbow for Japan Kids Project, Mission Project, and Beach Clean Up. What’s neat about BCH is it brings a wide cross-section of people together, unique by age, schools, and interests. But what brings us together is our natural mindset of community service and globally open minds.

In 2012, I had the honor of representing Hawaii as Peace Ambassador. I was able to see my Sri Lankan friend I met as a JA in 2006, stay with a host family, and personally get to know representatives from many Asian-Pacific countries. Having all these opportunities has inspired me to maintain and share my global and open mindset through environments like school and BCH. Making connections are not limited to participants of the APCC, and I believe anyone can adopt global awareness and cultural understanding. 



Korie Lum as a Junior Ambassador in 2006.



Korie Lum as a Peace Ambassador in 2012.

Hinamatsuri...

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that is traditionally served on Girl's Day. Tomodachi Planning Committee members also generously donated items such as *mochi*, *barazushi*, and *namasu*. The Japan-America Society of Hawaii and Tomodachi would like to send a big mahalo to Consul General and Mrs. Shigeeda for hosting this special event. We also send out our special thanks to Mrs. Shigeeda for giving opening remarks and being such a generous hostess. Mahalo to Bobby Moderow Jr. for sharing his aloha with us through Hawaiian music. Thank you again to Tomodachi co-chair Ray Tabata for being the official photographer for this event.

To view all of the photos from Hinamatsuri at the Consulate, please visit www.jashawaii.org/program_tomodachi.asp. 



Tomodachi co-chair Shirley Miyamoto presents a gift to Mrs. Michiko Shigeeda.

Aloha Tofu Tour



Though special machinery from Japan is used in the tofu making process, most of the work is still done manually.


Ever wonder how soybeans are turned into tofu? On Tuesday, March 19, JASH Tomodachi members and guests had a chance to tour the Aloha Tofu Factory in Kalihi to get a taste of how it's made. Guests were personally greeted by Mr. Paul Uyehara, grandson of Kamesaburo and Tsuruko Uyehara, who began the factory in 1950 when they took over the running of a friend's tofu factory. The first generation only ran the factory to provide for their family. Now they are the largest tofu manufacturer in Hawaii, producing 3,000 to 5,000 blocks of tofu a day!

Paul showed guests a video filmed years ago where he took Chef Sam Choy on a tour of the factory. Guests were then able to watch the tofu production in action from the second floor. After the video, Paul's wife Misa treated guests to sample some of the tofu products she created, including their *mamegohan* which uses the *natto* beans instead of regular soybeans.

All of the soybeans used in Aloha Tofu products are non-GMO soybeans grown in North America. The *nigari* (magnesium chloride) that is added to the soymilk to create tofu comes from the minerals of sea water off the Big Island. The machinery used to produce the tofu is from Japan but much of the process is still done manually.

Aloha Tofu has all of their products for sale at the factory. A little known secret is that if you bring your own jug or container, you can also purchase freshly made soymilk. This same soymilk is what is used to produce tofu. The soymilk can also be added to *dasbi* to make a soymilk *nabe* (hot pot).

A special thanks to Paul Uyehara for helping us to arrange this tour and answering all of our questions about the tofu making process. More information about Aloha Tofu, as well as recipes, is available on their website at <http://aloha-tofu.com/>.

Tomodachi Committee members and new friends gathered at a nearby restaurant for lunch following the tour. Coincidentally this restaurant uses fresh Aloha Tofu that was just picked up that morning! 



Mrs. Misa Uyehara explains her special tofu creations.

Japanese Students from Tohoku Visit Hawaii under Rainbow for Japan Kids Project

Two years after the tragic events of March 11, 2011, 23 Japanese junior high school students ages 12-14 visited Hawaii under the Rainbow for Japan Kids (RFJK) program. This was the sixth group of Japanese students to visit Hawaii under this program, bringing 120 students from the three affected prefectures—Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima—who have visited Hawaii.

The Hawaii RFJK Committee composed of Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH), Japan Airlines Hawaii Office, First Hawaiian Bank, Studio Rim Hawaii, Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association and its Nadeshiko

Club, Lighthouse Hawaii, and other supporters welcomed the Japanese students on March 25th for an eight-day stay that took the students to locations on Oahu and the Island of Hawaii. As in previous programs, the students spent several days at North Shore’s YMCA Camp Erdman with local students from the Bridge Club of Hawaii engaging in outdoor activities specifically designed to forge teamwork and create friendships with local students, a major goal of this program. Following activities on Oahu, the students traveled to the Island of Hawaii to experience its incredible natural beauty. In Kona, the students learned about ancient Hawaiian culture and customs and then moved to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park for a

stay at Kilauea Military Camp. There, through hiking tours, story-telling sessions, and night-time stargazing, the students learned about Hawaii’s volcanic origin and how Polynesians first colonized Hawaii. Through these activities, the program aims to free the students from their day-to-day lives in Japan under less-than-ideal conditions, focus on their own lives and dreams, create friendships with local people, and return to

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


Back on Oahu, the students engaged in water activities at Hilton Hawaiian Village’s lagoon where the Hilton Grand Vacations staff and Waikiki Beach Activities



At the farewell dinner and reception at Pagoda Hotel Ballroom after performing on their hand-made ukulele.

prepared kayak races and stand-up paddle-boarding lessons. Several days were spent dedicated to making personal ukuleles, courtesy of KoAloha Ukulele. The students took the ukuleles back to Japan as a reminder of their visit. Other organizations provided in-kind donations of hotel rooms, meals, and local transportation to include Pagoda Hotel, Suntory Restaurant, Beijing Restaurant, Nishimoto Trading, Lawson, Warabeya, Waikiki Trolley, Iyasume, and Ito-En. Hawaiian Airlines provided discounted and complimentary airfares for travel to the Big Island.

This group included three students from Onagawa City in Miyagi Prefecture. Last year, Mrs. Susie Roos, wife of U.S. Ambassador John Roos, donated funds from the sales of her cook book to this project after visiting Onagawa City and seeing the devastation and visiting with the children. Several students from Onagawa visited last year also.

RFJK is a proud partner with TOMODACHI, a private-public partnership led by the U.S. Embassy and the U.S.-Japan Council that aims to invest in the next generation of Japanese and Americans in ways that strengthen cultural and economic ties, and deepen the friendship between U.S. and Japan over the long term. More information on these programs can be found on the JASH website at www.jashawaii.org/jpnaid1.asp, or by calling JASH at (808) 524-4450, and on the U.S. Embassy website at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>. 



Enjoying kayaking and stand-up paddling in Hilton’s Duke Kahanamoku Lagoon, Waikiki Beach.

Inouye Legacy Fund

Replica of the peace bell in Nagasaki presented to Senator Inouye and a memento given to Senator Inouye by JASH in 1991 are two gifts presented to JASH by the Daniel K. Inouye Legacy Fund. Accompanying the gifts is a letter signed by Senator Inouye’s widow Irene Hirano Inouye with the following note: “This gift is a small token of his friendship and support for the Japan America Society



of Hawaii over the years. As appropriate, I hope you will display it proudly and fondly in Dan’s memory. His life’s work can be captured in two simple words—freedom and fairness. Through this gift, I hope his legacy of leadership and an unwavering hope for the future will

be carried forward.” The items will be displayed in the JASH office. Members are welcome to visit and see these gifts. 協賛

JASH Donor Recognition

January - March 2013

Counselor \$1,000 - \$4,999

International Cultural and Friendship Association

Diplomat \$250 - \$999

Allen Uyeda
Beatrice Yamasaki

Colleague \$1 - \$249

Hiroko Dewitz
Howard & Audrey Karr
Clyde Matsumoto
Nisshodo
Iris Okawa
Ina Tateuchi
Edward Yamasaki



New Corporate Member

Stellmacher & Sadoyama

Stellmacher & Sadoyama, Ltd. was founded 29 years ago in 1984 and has steadily grown into one of the state’s largest real estate appraisal and consulting firms with a staff of 12 professional appraisers. Residential appraisers specialize in specific geographic areas, giving our clients a competitive edge with in-depth market knowledge. Other services beyond residential appraisal assignments include commercial valuations, arbitrations, market studies, highest and best use analysis, real estate consultation, and commercial appraisal reviews.

Some notable properties appraised by our firm include Hawaii Convention Center, Sea Life Park, Waianae Shopping Center, Executive Center, Queen Kapiolani Hotel, Windward Mall, Kahala Beach Apartments – Arbitration, and Kaiser Estate – Arbitration.

We have built a strong reputation of providing quality service to a wide base of customers, such as Commercial Banks, Savings & Loans, Credit Unions, Accounting and Law Firms, Mortgage Bankers, Trust Companies, Estates, Realtors, and Investors. 協賛

Membership Updates

January - March 2013

New Corporate Member

Shirokiya	Regular
Stellmacher & Sadoyama	Regular
Ward Research	Regular

New General Members

Ms. Jasmine Lai	Student
Mr. Raymond Parnell	K-12 Educator
Ms. Rachel Tamashiro	Student
Ms. Eri Tanaka	Individual

General Member Upgrades

Mr. Tepei Hata	Individual
Ms. Grace Shinohara	Individual

More RFJK Photos

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 3 Spring Japan Day, Hawaii Tokai International College
- 13 APCC workshop, JASH office
- 24 23rd Annual Friendship Golf Classic, Pearl Country Club

MAY

- 4-5 APCC overnight camp, Camp Erdman
- 18 APCC workshop, JASH office
- 18 Visitor Industry Charity Walk, Ala Moana Park

JUNE

- 7 Hilton Hawaii 5:01, Hilton Hawaiian Village
- 8 Waikiki Beach Clean Up, Waikiki Beach
- 22 APCC workshop, JASH office

JULY

- 12-24 Asian-Pacific Children's Convention, Fukuoka, Japan
- 29-8/6 Rainbow for Japan Kids Project



Clockwise from above: Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday; Setting out in Nakoa Foundation's Polynesian Canoe in Keauhou Bay; Rainbow for Japan Kids and local Bridge Club Hawaii kids gather around an evening camp fire at North Shore's Camp Erdman; Bottom: Making faces while making ukuleles at KoaAloha with one of the staff members.

*More photos available on the Rainbow for Japan Kids Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Rainbowforjapankids>*

Japan-America Society of Hawaii

Promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii

PO Box 1412, Honolulu HI 96806 • Tel: (808) 524-4450 • Fax: (808) 524-4451 • Email: admindir@jashawaii.org • <http://www.jashawaii.org>