

JASH Celebrates the Season of Giving at Holiday Gala & Auction



Benefit Auctioneer, Ms. Sherry Truhlar, facilitates an exciting bidding war.

On December 8, 2016, a sold-out crowd of nearly 250 JASH members and guests attended the annual JASH Holiday Gala and Auction at the Pōmaika'i Ballrooms at Dole Cannery Iwilei.

This festive event featured a night of fun and fabulous finds, including vacation packages to New York City and West Korea/Seoul; Honolulu Fish Auction tour and breakfast at Nico's at Pier 38; a round of golf and lunch at the exclusive Waialae Country Club; a wide array of restaurant gift cards; impressive holiday décor, and rare experiences such as a weekend getaway to Maui, which included airfare, rental car, and an exclusive tour of the Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm.



The evening opened with a Silent Auction with over 120 items. JASH Junior Ambassadors – 11-year-olds who participated in the July 2016 Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention – greeted guests and shared about JASH’s work in the community and the impact JASH has had on them.


For the second year in a row, the evening’s Live Auction, facilitated by professional benefit auctioneer, Sherry Truhlar, sparked lively bidding wars among guests who rapidly raised numbered bid cards.

All proceeds from the Gala will help JASH fulfill its mission of promoting understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States.



Participants from several of JASH’s Educational Programs gather at the JASH ‘Photo Spot’.

For the first time in JASH’s history, all of the items, from both the Silent and Live Auctions, were sold! JASH would like to thank Sherry Truhlar, Vernon Bates, JASH Vice Chair Steve Sombrero and the staff at Pōmaika‘i Ballrooms.

To our guests, donors, and volunteers, many thanks for your continued support of JASH. 

JASH Holds Fall 2016 Japan Day

The Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) held its bi-annual Japan Day, sponsored by JASH Board Director Jean Rolles, on October 27, 2016 at the Pacific Beach Hotel.

The Japan Day program, now in its 24th year, is the Society's longest running educational program that brings together – in a single location, numerous experts in traditional Japanese arts and culture to provide students with hand-on experiences to make their study of Japan come alive. Nearly 150 students representing Damien Memorial School, Kapolei High School, Nanakuli High School, St. Joseph High School and University Laboratory School took part in the various cultural classes



Taiko performance during the Welcome Ceremony.

Members of the Taiko Center of the Pacific invigorated the atmosphere with their *taiko* demonstration during the Welcome Ceremony. As one student wrote, “You could feel the beat going around you; it was such an amazing thing to experience. The performances were absolutely amazing and beautiful.”

Following the Ceremony, students then completed a rotation of cultural classes presented by 30 volunteer experts on bon dance, calligraphy, *ikebana* (flower arranging), kimono/*yukata* wear, *origami*, *soroban* (Japanese abacus), and “Life Skills and Personal Success: Attributes of a Global Citizen.” Each student had the opportunity to participate in four different cultural sessions.

After Japan Day, the students shared their thoughts on the various sessions.


One student said, “Calligraphy is something really nice. It makes me feel closer to my culture.” Another commented, “The history behind the bon dance was very interesting. My teammates and I very much enjoyed dancing and having a fun time.”

For others, the Japan Day sessions allowed students to reflect on their own lives. A student from Damien Memorial said that *ikebana* “was very interesting, and the values taught through the rules we’re inspiring.”



Students practice calligraphy.

Since 1993, over 5,800 students from 59 different schools have participated in Japan Day. This unique program is one of two programs offered by JASH to Hawaii's high school students, with the other being the Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition. 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 different societies can influence and enhance people's lives, and how these cultural values are perpetuated by devotees of the arts.

JASH thanks all the volunteer experts for sharing their respective crafts. A big mahalo to the Pacific Beach Hotel for the use of their facilities, and Chizuko Endo and the Taiko Center of the Pacific for their inspirational *taiko* performance and demonstration. 

Tomodachi: Sharing Memories of Pearl Harbor Through the Eyes of Kama'aina Citizens, 75 Years Ago



(L-R) Mr. Seikichi "Chick" Takara, Mrs. Shirley Miyamoto, Mr. Herbert Kiyoto Yanamura

The Tomodachi committee presented *Sharing Memories of Pearl Harbor – Through the Eyes of Kama'aina Citizens, 75 Years Ago* at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center on November 3, 2016. Stunning first-hand accounts surprised and enlightened event attendees, many of whom expressed hope that the younger generation will also delve into such personal stories to obtain a more thorough understanding of this momentous world event.

Speakers Mrs. Shirley Miyamoto, Mr. Seikichi "Chick" Takara, and Mr. Herbert Kiyoto Yanamura shared personal experiences and memories of December 7, 1941, and its aftermath with the 21 JASH members and guests in attendance.

Panelists recalled the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, and said they first dismissed the bombs as target practice. Mr. Takara described how his neighborhood — including his house near the intersection of King and McCully Streets — was destroyed by projectiles.

Mrs. Miyamoto, who had been staying overnight at a friend's house, remembered her father being delayed in picking her up because no cars were allowed on the street until later in the afternoon. She also noticed that the car's headlights had been painted black and the windows of her home had been covered.


Mr. Yanamura, who was on the Big Island, explained that the family's shortwave radio that provided Japanese-language broadcast from Tokyo was prohibited. Consequently, *Issei* immigrants who did not speak English could not get any information because Japanese-language radio broadcasts and newspapers were banned.

Further, schools shut down for one week after the bombing. Japanese community leaders such as Buddhist priests, school principals, and prominent businessmen were arrested and sent to internment camps. Many families crowded in a single room to sleep. Also, the government required everyone to obtain fingerprint ID cards by January 1942 and to carry gas masks until the war ended.



Panelists recount their daily life after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941.

Thank you to Mrs. Miyamoto, Mr. Takara, and Mr. Yanamura for sharing their experiences, and for bringing related memorabilia to display.

Thanks also to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument for allowing JASH to use its Center. Mahalo to Tomodachi Committee members for providing refreshments, and special thanks to volunteer Mr. Ray Tabata for his photography. 

Nagaoka City Students Exchange Perspectives on Peace with University of Hawaii at Manoa Students



Nagaoka students meet with University of Hawaii Students at the East-West Center.

On Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 27 students from Nagaoka City and the University of Hawaii at Manoa met at the East-West Center for a discussion on peace and its meaning to today's generation. The 12 university and high school students from Japan were participants in Nagaoka City's Peace Exchange Program. The 15 UHM students were enrolled in Gladys Nakahara Sensei's Fourth-year Japanese for Advanced Speakers course. Over lunch, the students enjoyed the exchange of ideas about peace.

The Nagaoka City students visited Honolulu with a full 4-day itinerary that included visits to the USS Missouri, Pacific Aviation Museum, and Arizona Memorial, and attendance at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony on December 7. The students also paid their

respects at the Ehime Maru Memorial and Punchbowl Cemetery. In addition to meeting with UHM students, they also visited the Kamehameha Schools.

JASH is pleased to partner with the Nagaoka International Exchange Association in helping to foster cross-cultural learning and understanding through the exchange of perspectives between younger generations of Japan and Hawaii. 

Tomodachi – Holiday Tea

On Thursday, December 15, 2016, the annual Tomodachi Holiday Tea at the Outrigger Canoe Club in Waikiki brought together JASH members and guests for an afternoon of singing, merriment, and beautiful ocean views.



(L-R) Mrs. Yoko Misawa and Former Tomodachi Chair Kazuko Love.

Special guests included Yoko Misawa, wife of the Honorable Yasushi Misawa, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu. Bobby Moderow, Jr., of Maunaloa -- the Na Hoku Hanohano Award-winning trio – began the festivities with his slack key guitar artistry and falsetto voice.

As attendees enjoyed finger sandwiches, scones, *petit fours*, and a selection of tea, Preston Kauwe and David Nakanishi of Scarlet Cord performed holiday music that encouraged a fun sing-a-long.

In the spirit of holidays, attendees brought items that are *mottainai* (too good to throw away) for a clever gift-exchange game called Lucky Me. Lillian Yajima and her students performed a special holiday hula, with Mrs. Misawa joining in to dance “Mele Kalikimaka Hula.”



Lillian Yajima and her students perform a special holiday hula.

The Tomodachi Co-Chairs, Hiroko Dewitz and Chikako Lobley, organized the Holiday Tea, and volunteer photographer Ray Tabata captured the event in pictures. 



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