

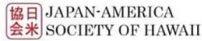


# JASH Newsflash

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

Winter 2019

## JASH NexGen Movers & Shakers Program: Let's Talk Story with Mr. Colbert Matsumoto



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

On October 15, 2019 the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) hosted the first of a three-part talk-story series with some of our local community leaders. The first program featured Mr. Colbert Matsumoto, Chairman and President of Island Holdings, Inc. at the Island Holdings, Inc. board room located in downtown Honolulu.

The goal of the "Movers & Shakers Let's Talk Story" series is to allow for deeper discussions about topics such as what leadership means, facing challenges and creatively addressing issues of the day and what leaders would like to see from the next generation, among other topics. This EXCLUSIVE event was purposely kept to a small group of 10-12 JASH NexGeners and their guests to encourage the opportunity for



Mr. Matsumoto taking a question from a member of the NexGen group.

an intimate and casual "talk story" session with established community leaders.

Mr. Matsumoto spoke about his life growing up on Lanai when it was a pineapple plantation and how he grew up to become an attorney, insurance company executive and business and community leader in Hawaii. Like many successful people, he had some misgivings and missteps along the way. But he spoke to the group about how those challenges shaped who he is today. The group continued their conversation while enjoying food and drinks generously sponsored by the Island Insurance Foundation.

## Japan Day—JASH's Longest-Running Educational Program

On October 24, 2019, JASH held its Fall Japan Day program, sponsored by the McInerney Foundation and the Freeman Foundation.

Approximately 200 students from Kailua High School, Kapaa High School, King Kekaulike High School, Konawaena High School, Lahainaluna High School, Maui Preparatory Academy, Molokai High School, Nanakuli High School, University Laboratory School and Washington Middle School gathered at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's 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 program.



Taiko Center of the Pacific performing at the Opening Ceremony.

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

## JASH Welcomes Students from Kansai University High School



On Monday, October 28, 2019, JASH welcomed 20 students from Kansai University Senior High School visiting Hawaii on their overseas study program. During their visit, students were introduced to JASH's activities through a presentation by President Reyna Kaneko, followed by discussion on their research topic, education in Japan and Hawaii.

JASH Director Yoshi Tsurumi also joined the discussion and shared his insight and wisdom about similarities and differences between youth in Hawaii and Japan. Another group of students visited JASH Chair Steve Sombrero's office the next day to learn about international business.

The morning started out with a vibrant taiko demonstration by Taiko Center of the Pacific. Following the Opening Ceremony, students attended four of the nine cultural sessions presented by more than 40 volunteer experts

Continued on Page 2

## Upcoming Events

- Thu., Jan. 16 New Year's Reception at Washington Place
- Wed., Jan. 29 NexGen Panel Discussion at Entrepreneurs Sandbox
- Mon., Mar. 9 Japan Currents Program at Halekulani Hau Terrace

## Japan Day—Fall 2020

Continued from Page 1

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.



Students trying on traditional Yukata.

Following the Japan Day program, neighbor island students from the Big Island, Kauai, Maui and Molokai 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 schools also visited other areas on Oahu – such as the University of Hawaii at Manoa, East-West Center 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 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 generous sponsors 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 Hiromi Peterson, also known as Toka and members of Toka Shodo Calligraphy (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, Lynn Masumoto 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 the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii for leading the tours of the Okage Sama De Gallery for the neighbor island students and the Taiko Center of the Pacific for their inspirational taiko performance and demonstration. Special thanks go to Consul General Koichi Ito and Mrs. Ito for attending. Finally, we appreciate volunteers, Christina Chun, Yuki Dames, Ayumi Jampel, Hisako MacQueen, Carrie Oda and Toyoko Okawa for helping us that day.



Students trying their hand at Shodo (Calligraphy.)

## Jimmy Choo—First Look at Cruise 2020 Collection

On November 7, 2019, JASH was proud to partner with JASH corporate member Nashimoto & Associates to present an exclusive event to view the Cruise 2020 Collection of Jimmy Choo at its Ala Moana Center location. JASH members enjoyed complimentary champagne and canapés and shopped the exquisite line of handmade shoes, hand-bags, and accessories from this

luxury designer. A portion of all sales made during the exclusive two-hour event will be made to JASH.

# JIMMY CHOO



## Taste of JASH: Hokkaido



On November 19, 2020, JASH members filled Tonkatsu Tamafuji restaurant for a special dinner EXCLUSIVE to our members and their guests. Delicious variations of tonkatsu, deep fried dishes, and unlimited servings of special Hokkaido rice and condiments were served at the final Taste of JASH event for 2019 featuring Hokkaido cuisine.



Mr. Taiji Nakanishi, President of Dokyu USA Inc. which is the parent company of Tonkatsu Tamafuji, was here from Hokkaido and attended the event. JASH members and their guests enjoyed Mr. Nakanishi's and his staff's warm hospitality and customer service.



Many guests commented that the tonkatsu that they were served that night is some of the best that they have ever tasted!

Jimmy Choo traces its roots to a shoemaker named Jimmy Choo, based in the East End of London in the early 1990s, who catered to the global jet set, including Princess Diana. The Jimmy Choo company was founded in 1996, with Mr. Choo's niece, Sandra Choi, as Creative Director.

Located in Mall Level 2 in the Ewa Wing of Ala Moana Center.



**JASH NexGen Movers & Shakers Program:  
Let's Talk Story with Ms. Barbara Tanabe  
and Mr. Bob Harrison**

JASH hosted the second and third of a three part "talk story" series with local community leaders and JASH NexGen members. These "by invitation-only" sessions are small group discussions on leadership and the path to leadership for the NexGen of leaders in Hawaii.



On November 13, 2019, we featured Ms. Barbara Tanabe, JASH Board Director, Bank of Hawaii Director and Owner of Hoakea Communications. The program was held at the Bank of Hawaii board room in downtown Honolulu.

Ms. Tanabe opened the discussion by sharing her story about growing up as a Japanese American woman and how from a very early age she learned the importance of being self-confident and to be able to stand up for what you believe in. The NexGeners in attendance brought up thoughts and questions such as when they are advised by senior leaders to "lead" and they try to exert their style of leadership, how confusing it is when they meet resistance.

Ms. Tanabe's advice to the group about "acceptance" in taking ownership and responsibility as a leader is to think about how their actions will affect the community and not just oneself. What is the end result that you want? Listening and being open to other perspectives while maintaining your beliefs is an important skill in leading.

On December 17, 2019, Our last program featured JASH Board Director Mr. Bob Harrison, who is Chairman and CEO of First Hawaiian Bank (FHB). Our program was held at the exclusive First Hawaiian Bankers Club in downtown Honolulu.

Mr. Harrison opened the conversation by giving us some information regarding his background. He joined FHB in 1996 as Vice President of the Main Banking Center and thus, he is a 23-year veteran of the company and has 29-years of experience in the finance industry. From there, he climbed the ranks to become Vice President and Chief Risk Officer in 2006; President and Chief Operating Officer in 2009; CEO in 2012, and Chairman in 2014.

Mr. Harrison then turned the tables and asked the group why the average length of employment by the younger generation, in particular Millennials, is so much shorter than generations before them. The group discussed the reasons why the younger generation of workers "jump ship" so often, and how that negatively impacts the continuity of work and long-term planning for companies.



Mr. Harrison spoke of his involvement in the [Hawai'i CHANGE Initiative](#) and the importance of the NexGen's involvement in this project. He spoke of how the Baby Boomers are laying the groundwork but may not necessarily be around to implement it, so it's up to NexGeners to lead CHANGE for the world in which they will live and their children will live.

JASH NexGen member Toby Tamaye commented, "What a great opportunity it was to have a one-on-one conversation with Hawaii's largest bank CEO!" Thank you to Bob Harrison for his time and for sharing his story and his insight with the JASH NexGen members. Also, thank you to Island Insurance Foundation for their sponsorship of the JASH NexGen Movers & Shakers Talk Story Series.

**Tomodachi Holiday Tea  
With Ms. Jun Ariake**



(L) Tomodachi Committee Chair, Ms. Kazuko Love and Ms. Ariake.

On December 11, 2019, JASH hosted a Holiday Tea for our JASH members and their guests at the Waioli Kitchen and Bake Shop located in Manoa Valley. The highlight of the afternoon was a performance by Ms. Jun Ariake a former Takarazuka Revue entertainer.

Established in 1913, Takarazuka Revue is a renowned Japanese all-female musical theater troupe based in Takarazuka City, Hyōgo Prefecture, Japan. Women play all roles in lavish, Broadway-style productions of Western-style musicals as well as traditional Japanese classics.

Ms. Ariake is a retired Takarazuka performer originally from Tokyo, Japan and currently resides in Hawaii. She debuted in 1969 and was a member of the Moon Troupe from 1970-1986.

Guests were moved by Ms. Ariake's performance and later enjoyed delicious finger-sandwiches, delectable pastries and warm camaraderie



## JASH Selects 2020 APCC Junior Ambassadors

A total of 33 students applied to be one of four delegates to represent JASH and Hawaii at the 32nd Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Fukuoka, Japan in summer 2020. Interviews for the APCC program were held on Sunday, December 15, 2019 and it was very difficult to limit our selection to only four students because there were so many great applicants this year.

The 2020 Junior Ambassadors are:

**Jacqueline Furuta** from 'Iolani School; **Loch Moorman** from Kainalu Elementary School; **Rhegen Villarimo** from Aina Haina Elementary School; and **Rain Young** from Kapalama Elementary School

The APCC is a cultural exchange program that deepens participant's appreciation for the



(L-R): Rhegen Villarimo; Jackie Furuta; Loch Moorman; Rain Young; and Sandy Takeda.

cultures of other nations and regions, and promotes mutual understanding and friendship, nurtures international awareness in young people, and works towards world peace and co-existence. It is hoped that the JAs will build an international network of friends.

For the next several months, the four Junior Ambassadors -- two boys and two girls, all age eleven at the time of travel -- will participate in a JASH-designed training program for their Japan experience this July.

In Fukuoka, the students will meet over 200 fellow Junior Ambassadors from 40 countries and cities in the Asia-Pacific region in a global youth camp. This will be followed by a



homestay where they will live with a Japanese host family. It is our hope that our Ambassadors will mature into adults with a strong sense of social responsibility.

They will be accompanied by chaperone Sandy Takeda, who has been actively involved with the APCC since two of her children also participated in the program as JAs.



The USA-Hawaii Delegation also has the honor of sending an APCC alumna to join the delegation as a Peace Ambassador. Selected through a rigorous application process conducted by the APCC's BRIDGE Club International Organization, our 2020 Peace Ambassador is 2015 APCC Junior Ambassador Tierra Nakamura from 'Iolani School.

If you wish to know more about the APCC program, please visit the JASH website at <http://jashawaii.org/education/>, or contact Takako Miyazawa, JASH Education Program Director, at (808) 524-4450 or via [tmiyazawa@jashawaii.org](mailto:tmiyazawa@jashawaii.org).

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## 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](http://www.jashawaii.org) for more information.

## Background Info on APCC

The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) is a non-profit organization based in Fukuoka, Japan. The APCC's mission is to promote peace and co-existence in the world under the theme, "We are the Bridge: We connect dreams around the world." The APCC's highlighted-event is their annual summer convention held in July where more than 300 children from Asian-Pacific countries and cities are invited to Fukuoka. The APCC was established in November 1988 and held its first convention as part of the 1989 Asia-Pacific Expo, "Yokatopia" to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Fukuoka City. The APCC has held a summer convention every year for APCC delegates since that time.

### Bridge Challenge Trip

The Bridge Challenge Trip, formerly known as the APCC Mission Project, is a program where children from Japan visit other APCC member countries to experience different cultures and experiences. Arrangements are made with home-stay families, some of which are previous APCC participants' families, in the hosting-country and the delegates have a chance to make new friendships and strengthen old ones.

Hawaii served as an APCC Mission Project destination and hosted Mission Project programs in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2017.

### Bridge Club Hawaii

In 1998, at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the APCC, the Bridge Club International Organization was formed to establish a worldwide network of APCC participants. Alumni of the APCC program were encouraged to return to their homes and establish their own local Bridge Clubs. Bridge Club Hawaii was established in 2008. The main objectives of Bridge Club organizations are to foster leaders with a global perspective; to build a network of Global Citizens; and to expand the network across the world to work towards creating a peaceful society.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian\\_Pacific\\_Children%27s\\_Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_Pacific_Children%27s_Convention)