



JASH Newsflash

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

Winter 2020

JASH Annual Gala & Silent Auction

In a remarkable showing of resilience during challenging times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, JASH transformed our usual in-person Annual Dinner and Silent Auction into a virtual Annual Gala on November 14, 2020. We also ran a multiple-day on-line Silent Auction from November 12-16, 2020.

The virtual presentation of our Annual Gala was appropriately themed *Mirai* "Our Future" as we faced unprecedented challenges to find ways to remain relevant in our community and beyond.



With renown Hawaii veteran Radio and Television personality "Billy V." serving as our MC, we partnered with Hawaii News Now and televised the event on KHNL while live-streaming it on HawaiiNewsNow.com. We were thrilled to be able to expand our audience outside the boundaries of a normal ballroom reaching people far beyond our own shores.

Our prestigious 2020 JASH Bridge Award was presented to the Sony Corporation for their work with Hawaii's women, children, youth and impoverished over the past 21 years through the Sony Open in Hawaii and the



related Friends of Hawaii Charities. Accepting the award on behalf of the Sony Corporation in Tokyo was Mr. Hiroshi Kawano, Senior Vice President and Representative Director and Deputy President and President of the Consumer & Professional Business Sector of Sony Imaging Products & Solutions Inc.

We were also honored to welcome Mr. Corbett Kalama as our keynote speaker. Mr. Kalama serves as the Executive Vice President of the Weinberg Foundation's Hawaii office and President of Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc.

We are grateful to the Central Pacific Bank Foundation for serving as our title sponsor for our first-ever virtual Annual Gala.

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President's Message

As 2020 comes to a close, I have been reflecting on the things I am grateful for at the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) and I think of you. Every one of you who have joined us at our in-person and virtual programs. All of you who read our newsletters and our posts on our social media sites. Our students that have participated in our educational programs and every one of you who support our mission of strengthening the ties between the U.S. and Japan. It is with deep gratitude and humility that I send this message to you today.

Like many, 2020 was not an easy year for us but the thought of you, our members, has kept us going and we not only survived 2020 but even progressed by adding new programs and challenging ourselves in new virtual platforms.

I would like to thank you for without you, our members, friends and family, we would not have been able to do this very important work that we do.

Thank you for being part of our journey in 2020! It is with great optimism that I wish all good things for you in 2021!

Mahalo,
Reyna

30th Annual JASH Friendship Golf Classic



Due to COVID-19 social-distancing guidelines, JASH cancelled or postponed all of our in-person events from mid-March 2020. After eight long months and several reschedules, we held our 30th Annual Friendship Golf Classic at the Mid-Pacific Country Club in beautiful Lanikai – Kailua on November 2, 2020.

Under the leadership and guidance of our JASH Golf Committee and the management

at Mid-Pacific CC, we enacted strict social-distancing protocols throughout the tournament to keep our golfers safe. Each player was assigned their own cart, the total player-count for the tournament was restricted, and our normal post-tournament award dinner banquet was replaced with a grab-and-go dinner bento. The JASH Pau Hana Awards Ceremony was also done virtually via Zoom three days later on November 5, 2020.

These restrictions did not damper the spirit of the golfers in our tournament and we were so happy to see so many smiling faces on the course. All who attended truly enjoyed being outdoors with their teammates in the breathtaking setting of the beautiful Mid-Pacific golf course.

A special Mahalo to our generous Tournament Sponsor, Pacific Guardian Life.

Prior to our tournament start, we featured an exciting Golf Ball Drop activity courtesy of Mauna Kea Helicopters. In this activity, 1,000 numbered golf balls were dropped from a helicopter over Hole #9. The closest five golf balls that either went into the hole or got closest to it were deemed winners. There were no hole-in-ones but the top winner, Mr. Hongping Zhang, won a trip for two to Kauai and two nights stay at Timbers Kauai – Luxury Vacation Rentals.

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Annual Gala & Silent Auction

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We'd also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all other sponsors, dinner patrons, silent auction patrons, donors, and volunteers who made our event a great success. In appreciation to Sony Corporation and Friends of Hawaii Charities, Inc., JASH was pleased to donate 10% of the net proceeds from the 2020 JASH Silent Auction to Sutter Health Kahi Mohala.

If you missed the event, please view the full program on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RzBldE2oCI>.

Please join JASH in continuing our important work of promoting understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and Hawaii.

Now more than ever, it is critical for organizations such as JASH to build and maintain bridges between the U.S. and Japan through the unique perspective of Hawaii. In supporting international and cross-cultural understanding and friendship, our organization promotes diversity and contributes to building a peaceful and harmonious world.

Friendship Golf Tournament



Corporate Sponsor
Cushman Wakefield ChaneyBrooks team

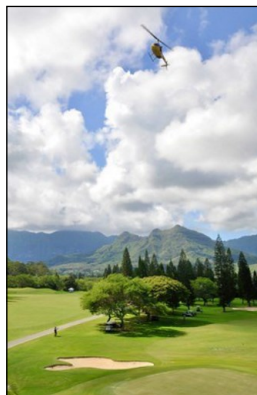


JASH Chair, Mr. Steve Sombrero
greeting the golfers

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JASH also wishes to thank the following food and beverage sponsors: Aloha Beer; Anheuser-Busch-Kirin; Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii; Menehune Water; Murphy's Bar & Grill; MW Restaurant; Ono-ya Ramen; Seven-Eleven Hawaii; Sun Noodle Hawaii; The Cherry Company; and Yakult USA, Inc.; Move4Japan; and Servco Lexus.

Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped us man holes and tables; pass out cold towels; and distribute snacks and drinks to our golfers.



Helicopter—Golf Ball Drop



To mark the start of our tournament, golfers experienced the thunderous beat of Taiko drums performed by Dragon Beat Taiko as they drove by enroute to their starting holes.



Rika Hirata of First Hawaiian Bank's team and JASH President Reyna Kaneko

Annual General Membership Meeting



JASH held our Annual General Membership Meeting virtually via Zoom on October 7, 2020. The main item on the agenda was the voting of nominees to the 2021-2023 JASH Director-class.

Congratulations to the following JASH Directors who are part of the new class: Mr. David Asanuma; Ms. Betty Brow; Mr. Gerard Gibson; Mr. Howard Hamamoto; Mr. Nobuyuki Inada; Mr. Duane Kawamoto; Mr. Hiroyuki Kitagawa; Mr. Lawrence Okinaga; Ms. Barbara Tanabe; Mr. Tsuyoshi Tsurumi; and Ms. Sharon Weiner.

Mahalo to everyone who signed up to attend our meeting via Zoom!



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.

Women Who Lead—Strengthening Our Spirit



Top L: Ms. Look; Top R: Ms. Moon; and
Bottom: Mr. Takeda

On October 15, 2020, JASH hosted the second installment in our “Women Who Lead” talk-story series entitled *Strengthening Our Spirit*. Our panelists for this webinar were Ms. Cristina Moon, Marketing Director and Resident Priest at Daihonzan Chozen-Ji International Zen Dojo, and Ms. Phyllis Look, Owner, Certified Guide, and Trail Certification Consultant at Forest Bathing Hawaii, with moderator Mr. Colby Takeda, longtime JASH member and Senior Manager at Blue Zones Project - Hawaii.

Participants from Hawaii as well as those from out-of-state learned about how connecting

with our spirit and mind and focusing on the present can aid us through the difficulties and challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the webinar, participants learned about what these connections entail and how they are practiced from *shinrin-yoku* 'forest bathing' and Zen Buddhism perspectives.

JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Cristina Moon, Phyllis Look and to Colby Takeda for making the program possible.

To view the full webinar, please check out our JASH YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YB9UXYHetPE>

For more info on Forest Bathing Hawaii, please see: <https://www.forestbathinghi.com/>

To learn more about Daihonzan Chozen-Ji International Zen Dojo, please see: <https://www.chozen-ji.org/>

Perpetuating Japanese Culture and Enriching The Lives Of Young Women

On December 10, 2020, JASH hosted the third-installment in our “Women Who Lead” talk-story series entitled *Serving the Community Through the Cherry Blossom Festival*.

Our panelists for the webinar were Cherry Blossom Festival Court Advisor Kim Takata Endo and the 68th Cherry Blossom Festival Court: Queen and Miss Congeniality Jewel Kahiwalani Miyuki Mahoe; First Princess and Miss Popularity Sophia Aiko Teruya; Princess Alyssa Mika Nakamoto; Princess Kelsey Toshie Uyeda; and Princess Lauren Elizabeth Holt.

From the Cherry Blossom Festival website, <http://cbfhawaii.com/>, having been established in 1953, the festival is one of the longest running ethnic festivals in the State of Hawaii. The purpose of the Festival continues to be the perpetuation of Japanese culture, and to enrich the lives of young women of Japanese ancestry.

Contestants learn about their Japanese heritage, improve their poise and public-



Top L: Ms. Takata Endo; Queen Jewel Mahoe; and Ms. Nakamoto. Middle L: Ms. Teruya; Ms. Uyeda; and Ms. Holt. Bottom: Ms. Reyna Kaneko, JASH President

speaking and develop leadership skills through numerous cultural and training classes.

Webinar attendees learned about the 68th Cherry Blossom Festival Court’s journey serving the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The contestants also shared some lessons they have learned through their experience on the Cherry Blossom Festival Court. They also reflected on leadership roles for Japanese-American women.

Upcoming Event



[Free Virtual Event—Click here to Register](#)

Save the Date



Virtual Event

JASH would like to express our sincere appreciation to Kim Takata Endo and the 68th Cherry Blossom Festival Court for making this program possible.

If you missed the webinar, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llyx0FMfihQ> to view the program on our JASH YouTube channel.