



JASH Newsflash

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

Winter 2021

2021 Bridge Awards Event and Silent Auction



Top L-R: Helena & James Barahal; Steve Sombbrero; Dep Consul General Shinichi Yamanaka; and Sen Brian Taniguchi. Seated L-R: Alex Jampel, Hiroshi Kuroda; and Kiyoto Morioka.

Each year, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) hosts an annual event during which we award an individual, company, or organization with the Bridge Award



for promoting understanding and friendship between Hawaii and Japan. In years past, the award has been a component of our Annual Dinner, or as in the case of 2020, our televised Annual Gala. In the spirit of building bridges and friendship, it was our pleasure to present **Dr. James Barahal**, President/CEO of the Honolulu Marathon, and **Japan Airlines (JAL)** as 2021 Bridge Award recipients.

For 2021, our Bridge Awards Event transformed yet again due to the coronavirus pandemic. With

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President's Message

As I recollect the JASH events of 2021, it was inspiring to see that although we faced many challenges brought on by the pandemic, JASH met them head-on as we brought back several in-person events throughout the year. We hosted these events while adhering to the State & C&C social distancing guidelines at the time, all for the enjoyment of our members.

Despite everyone's best efforts statewide, nationwide, and worldwide, it appears that we took "two-steps forward" in the fight to overcome the pandemic last Fall, but we currently find ourselves "one-step back" as the Omicron variant plays havoc with our case numbers once

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And The Winners Are....



Category: Ono Kine Grindz, 1st Place
Photo By: Curt Hasegawa
Ahi Salad; Ruscello-Nordstrom Ala Moana Center, Honolulu, HI

Thank you to everyone who participated in our JASH 45th Anniversary Photo Contest! Although we haven't been able to travel to Japan, it was exciting to join everyone on their past travels through their photo memories. For

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Category: Oishii Tabemono, 1st Place
Photo By: Maile Hirota
Cream Puff; Tolo Coffee & Bakery, Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan

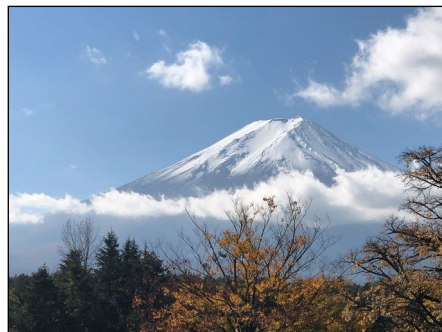
2019-2021

JASH Chair's Message

OTSUKARESAMA DESHITA! A few years ago, at the conclusion of a bumpy flight from Los Angeles to Tokyo, I was standing patiently in line to disembark from the plane. In front of me was an anxious, middle-aged American woman, all prettied up for the last remaining steps off the plane. I very politely told her "Otsukaresama Deshita".

Because she did not understand Japanese, I gave her the literal translation and said "you look very tired." As soon as those words left my lips, it was as if the entire plane went quiet and the passengers and flight attendants all looked at me in horror and pity. I don't recall exactly what the nice lady said, but I believe that I may have experienced my first out of body phenomena. That is why to this day, I very rarely use the phrase *Otsukaresama Deshita*.

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Category: Japan Explorations, 1st Place
Photo By: Matthew Kellar
Mt. Fuji; Fujiyoshida, Japan

President's Message

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again. It has become apparent that our war with this pandemic is not over. However, the JASH staff remains committed to facing the challenging battles that we must face to see this situation to the end.

We are more committed than ever to produce quality educational and member programming throughout 2022 and beyond. While we continue with virtual programs, we are doing much behind the scenes planning for refreshed in-person events, so we are ready when the time comes for us to safely gather and to resume student exchange and travel between Hawaii and Japan.

Happy New Year of the Tiger! Let us face this New Year with a roar, not a whimper!

With Aloha,
Reyna

Chair's Message

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It has certainly been an honor and privilege for me to serve as your Chair of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii. The last three years, although extremely bumpy, were filled with some of the most memorable moments in JASH history. In spite of the pandemic crisis, we managed to pivot and dance in order to pursue and fulfill our great JASH Mission.

JASH is today, financially sound, very relevant and poised to remain the most important Bilateral Bridge between Japan and Hawaii. In fact, long lines have formed on both sides of our Bridge, as we patiently await the reopening of our borders.

OKAGESAMADE, because of your tremendous commitment and support, the future of JASH remains

brighter than ever before. We continue to foster friendship and goodwill between our countries, our schools, our military and our businesses. And through it all, we grow and equip future leaders who will navigate and lead the world as Nichibei Leaders.

For all these reasons, *Otsukaresama Deshita* need not be said at the conclusion of my term as JASH Chair. In fact, our journey has just begun. Together, we can make the world a better place.

GAMBARI MASHO. *Ei-Ei-Oh!*

By the way, I believe that lady on the plane was Karen from Torrance, California.

Aloha,
Steve

JASH 45th Anniversary Photo Contest

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this contest, we received 183 entries submitted across our three categories, and 963 votes were cast during our general and final voting periods. Plus, our photo galleries were viewed over

3,000 times! Thank you all for this incredible turnout!

Congratulations and OMEDETO to our six winners! First-place winners will receive a \$100 VISA or Mastercard gift card; second-place winners will each receive \$50 VISA or Mastercard gift

cards. ARIGATO to everyone who entered, voted, and viewed our photo contest. We're thrilled to have received all of your positive feedback for this contest, and we hope you all continue to take awesome photos during your adventures at home and abroad to share with us in the future!



Category: Ono Kine Grindz, 2nd Place
Photo By: Ray Tabata
Pupu Platter; KCC Concept
Kitchen—Waikiki; Honolulu, HI



Category: Oishii Tabemono, 2nd Place
Photo By: Ray Tabata
Sashimi Special; Boruberia Daguri,
Shibushi; Kagoshima, Japan



Category: Japan Explorations, 2nd Place
Photo By: Atsushi Takebayashi
Osaka Castle; Osaka, Japan

JASH Bridge Awards & Silent Auction

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everyone’s health and safety our top priority, on December 14, 2021 JASH held a small, intimate luncheon and dinner at the Halekulani Hotel’s Hau Terrace to celebrate Dr. Barahal and JAL. Although we saw only a fraction of our JASH friends and family at the day’s two events, it was wonderful to greet and catch up with new and familiar faces in person.

Revealed at our Bridge Awards events was the launch of our newly titled NICHIBEI LEADERS educational program. Linking our JASH educational, cultural, and young professional leadership and development programs together in a cohesive pipeline, it is our goal to cultivate the upcoming generations of NICHIBEI LEADERS to be thoughtful, innovative, and proactive global citizens, who will go on to fortify relationships between the U.S. and



L-R: Lt. Governor Josh Green, JASH Chair Steve Sombbrero; and JASH Chair-Elect Alex Jampel

Japan through the unique perspective of Hawaii.

To close the program, JASH Chair Steve Sombbrero shared a few of his memories from his time as chairman and introduced Chair-Elect and current Vice Chair, Mr. Alex Jampel. During his tenure as Chair, Mr. Sombbrero’s enthusiastic leadership guided JASH through all of the ups and downs brought by the coronavirus

pandemic. Domo Arigato Gozaimasu—Ippee Nifee Deebiru—A Big THANK YOU to Mr. Sombbrero for all you’ve done for JASH!

We also extend our warmest gratitude to all of our supporters who donated to and bid in the 2021 Silent Auction, which was again held online. Online auctions have their own kind of charm, and as the clock ticked down, we held our breath as we watched the last-second bids come flying into our system. The proceeds from this auction will go directly to JASH so we may continue providing educational, cultural, and business-minded programming for our community.

Mahalo to our Bridge Awards Event Presenting Sponsor:



Congratulations NexGen Officers & Committee Chairs



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

On behalf of JASH NexGen Committee Chair, David Watanabe of Hilton Grand Vacations Company LLC, we are pleased to announce the inaugural Officers and Committee Chairs of the 2022 NexGen Advisory Committee.

The NexGen committee’s mission is to cultivate the next generation of leaders by recommending programming that resonates with their demographic group and those who have an affinity for U.S.-Japan relations. The goal is to appeal to fellow peers and encourage them to attend NexGen programs while developing the next generation of leaders.

In addition, members of the committee will have opportunities to work with their peers as well as other community leaders to plan and execute events for



Delle Tanioka
Vice Chair

their target demographic group and beyond. Leadership and professional networking opportunities abound!



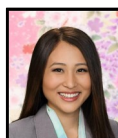
David Hayashida
Secretary

One of the committee’s projects is the annual Natsumatsuri event which was held virtually in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our JASH NexGen group, please contact Taylor Date, NexGen Recruitment Committee Chair at taylorliliadate@gmail.com.



Kristian Lipumano
Program Committee
Chair



Taylor Date
Recruitment Committee
Chair

Workshops with 'Akahiao Nature Institute



During Fall 2021, JASH co-hosted two virtual workshops themed around the “Edible World” with the ‘Akahiao Nature Institute (ANI).

Back in July 2021, JASH’s 33rd Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Junior Ambassadors (JAs) travelled to ANI’s Hu‘ehu‘e Ranch in Kona for an overnight retreat to learn about the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, the project theme for this year’s APCC Bridge Virtual Summer Camp.



(L-R): Loch Moorman, Rhegen Villarimo, Willa Stack, and Jackie Furuta

While immersed in nature, the JAs learned about Hawaiian culture and mālama ‘āina (environmental sustainability), which they would go on to share with other students in Fukuoka, Japan and from around the Asia-Pacific region during the APCC’s virtual workshops.

After completing half a dozen JASH workshops, exploring nature and sustainability in Kona, and collaborating for three-months with other 10-12 year-old children from over 20 countries and regions throughout Asia and the Pacific to discuss sustainability in their hometowns, our four Junior Ambassadors (JAs) have officially completed the 2021 Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention (APCC)!

To celebrate the end of their program, our JAs and chaperones

Inspired by our JAs’ memorable weekend on Hawaii Island, JASH was thrilled to collaborate on virtual



Jeff introduces viewers to tree spinach in the October workshop.

workshops with ANI’s program team, including Julie Rogers, Jeff Fuchs, and Liana Macdonald-Kainoa.

On October 9, 2021, the first workshop “Edible World: Nature that Connects Us,” Julie, Jeff, and Liana took attendees on an exclusive virtual tour of their māla food garden, introducing the wide variety of plants growing at Hu‘ehu‘e Ranch and their perspectives on sustainable, environmentally-conscious agriculture.

Walking through the lush garden forest at the Ranch, attendees from Oahu, New Mexico, and even Tokyo learned about tamarillo tree tomatoes, māmaki, chaya tree spinach, chayote squash, and other uncommon fruits and vegetables. The workshop wrapped up with a brief question and answer session, including a discussion on tea from expert Jeff Fuchs. [Click here](#) to watch the recording of the October workshop.

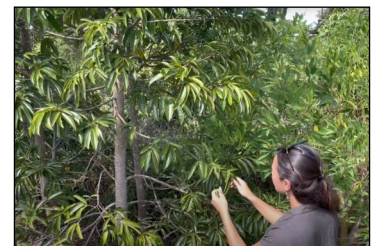
APCC Picnic with Bridge Club Hawaii

were joined by members of Bridge Club Hawaii (BCH), our APCC alumni group, at a small potluck picnic at Kapiolani Park on November 6, 2021. JAs from our 2021, 2019, 2018, and 2009 delegations enjoyed the sun and cool tradewinds from their socially distanced picnic blankets. They ate, chatted, and ran around the park playing games like red light green light, frisbee golf, and a ball-and-spoon race.

Due to the pandemic, this potluck picnic was the first in-person event

The second workshop, “Edible World: Nature that Nurtures Us,” took place via Zoom on November 13, 2021. During this workshop, Jeff and Liana guided us through one of Hu‘ehu‘e’s most prominent features, ‘Akahipu‘u, and shared how it has served as an outdoor classroom where students have the space and freedom in nature to ask big questions, tackle difficult conversations, and heal physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Liana also took us through a tour of another part of their garden, teaching the audience about the lā‘au lapa‘au or medicinal herbs and plants that grow on the property. To end, viewers participated in a hands-on workshop to learn how to make their



Liana collects soursop leaves which can be made into a herbal tea.

own ti leaf lei. [Click here](#) to watch the recording of the November workshop. To learn more about ANI, visit their website at akahiao.org. Their team is passionate about connecting people of all ages back to the 'āina, and they host a number of programs at Hu‘ehu‘e Ranch in Kona throughout the year.

where we could have both our current delegates and past program participants together.

Although we had to keep the gathering small, we are thankful that we were finally able to bring our newest program alumni together with the rest of our APCC ‘Ohana!

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Taste of JASH Nomu Edition

VIRTUAL TOURS & TASTINGS FEAT. LOCAL DISTILLERS



We kicked off our Taste of JASH: Nomu Edition virtual pau hana series with Kō Hana Distillers on November 4, 2021 via Zoom. For those who attended our recent Friendship Golf Classic, you may remember enjoying their popular KOKOLEKA Cacao + Honey Hawaiian Agricole Rum out on the course!

Live streamed from the distillery's barrel room, General Manager Kyle Reutner and Brand Manager Teves Freitas shared the history of heirloom kō sugarcane in Hawaii, introduced Kō Hana's exclusive koa barrel aging process, and discussed how their rum is uniquely "Made in Hawaii." In sharing the story behind the brand, they also talked about how their products, tours, and tastings have been popular with the Japanese market, and how they've been working on expanding their distribution overseas.

For the virtual tasting, attendees pre-ordered bottles of Kō Hana's signature KEA White Hawaiian Agricole Rum and picked them up at the JASH Office before the event. Teves taught attendees techniques for tasting rum and other hard spirits, demonstrated how to make a foolproof daiquiri from scratch, and gave a sneak peek of Kō Hana's new line of bottled cocktails, just in time for the holiday season.

If you missed the program, you may watch the recording on our JASH YouTube by [clicking HERE](#). To learn more about Kō Hana, order their spirits, or book a tour and tasting at their Kunia distillery, visit kohanarum.com.

On November 18, 2021, JASH hosted our second Taste of JASH: Nomu Edition virtual pau hana series with Hawaiian Shochu Company. Hawaiian Shochu Company Founder and Owner Ken Hirata and his wife Yumiko produce small-batch Honkaku Shochu in Hale'iwa using locally-sourced sweet potatoes (imo) through traditional, old-style techniques. The program was moderated by John Rankin, JASH Board Director and founding member of the JASH NexGen Committee.

Live from his distillery, Ken shared his journey with us, starting from his friendship with students from Hawaii during his university study abroad in Oregon, to his career change when he convinced Mr. Toshihiro Manzen of Manzen Shuzo Co. to take him as an apprentice in Kagoshima. Through his hard work and passion for shochu, Ken would open Hawaiian Shochu Company in Haleiwa and is currently in the process of producing Nami Hana #18 with as many local ingredients as he is able to source. Attendees were also treated to a tour of the Nami Hana distillation process filmed specially for JASH, which you may view [HERE](#).

Usually, the only way to get Hawaiian Shochu Company's small batch products is to visit them in the North Shore. However, for this program, attendees had the opportunity to order their products for pick up at the JASH Office. The JASH pau hana timed perfectly with the release of Hawaiian Shochu Company's brand new product Haleiwa Rainbow, Hawaii's very first locally distilled gin.

If you missed the program, you may watch the recording on our JASH YouTube by [clicking HERE](#). To learn more about Hawaiian Shochu Company and keep up-to-date with their latest batches, visit their Facebook Page [HERE](#).

APCC / BCH Picnic

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2021 Delegation (L-R): Willa Stack, Jackie Furuta, Chaperone Sandy Takeda, Loch Moorman, and Rhegen Villarimo

The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention is an annual international two-week camp for 10-11 year-old children held in Fukuoka, Japan during the summer. We expect to have more information regarding the Summer 2022 program in early '22. For more information or to be added to our APCC listserv, please contact Program Coordinator Christianne Ono at cono@jashhawaii.org.



Mahalo to everyone for joining us!



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA

Japan Day Fall 2021

JASH held its Fall Japan Day program sponsored by the McNerny Foundation and the Freeman Foundation during the month of December 2021. The program was shared via interactive video tutorials featuring karate, manga, Peace Studies/Sadako Sasaki Story, soroban, calligraphy, taiko, and tea ceremony.

Approximately 330 students from Baldwin High School, Kapaa High School, Konawaena High School, Lahainaluna High School, Le Jardin Academy, Leilehua High School, Roosevelt High School, St. Joseph High School, and St. Louis School participated in the virtual Japan Day program in Fall 2021.

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 7,400 students from 65 different public and private schools have participated in this educational event.

With the inability to hold in-person programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JASH transformed the conventional Japan Day program to a virtual offering so that students can experience Japanese culture and art remotely from their homes or classrooms. Thanks to our volunteer instructors, we were able to expand the selection of Japanese cultural activities to include calligraphy, taiko, and tea ceremony this time in addition to four video segments on karate, manga, Peace Studies/Sadako Sasaki Story, and soroban (Japanese abacus) we previously produced.



Instructor Kenny Endo and members of the Taiko Center of Pacific demonstrate taiko drumming;

The links for these video segments were shared with the schools invited to participate in the Japan Day program. Generous funding from the McNerny Foundation has enabled JASH to produce high-quality videos of select Japanese cultural activities and 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 virtually as well.

Through virtual Japan Day, students are encouraged to follow the video lessons and get hands-on experience in Japanese arts and culture by participating in the activities while they watch.



Chibi characters St. Joseph High School students drew on display in their 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. A student from Leilehua High School commented in the post-program survey, "I think that this was overall an incredibly fun experience. I got to

learn so much more about the Japanese Culture and now I can share it with others!

JASH would like to thank the generous sponsors of Japan Day: The McNerny Foundation and the Freeman Foundation. In addition, a big MAHALO to the volunteer experts for their dedication to the program: Mr. Jordan Silva from the Japan International Karate Center for the karate session, Mr. Kazuo Maekawa, professional manga artist for his manga drawing lesson, Mr. Hideaki Oshima from the Araki Hiroya Soroban School for the soroban tutorial, Mrs. Naomi Hirano-Omizo for Peace

Studies/Sadako Sasaki Story segment, Mrs. Hiromi Peterson, Toka for the calligraphy lesson, Mr. Kenny Endo and the Taiko Center of the Pacific for their taiko demonstrations, and Mr. Hitoshi Murata from the Urasenke Foundation for the tea ceremony session.



Instructor Hiromi Peterson offers step-by-step calligraphy instructions.



Instructor Hitoshi Murata introduces the Way of Tea.

JASH Newsflash

JASH 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.