



JASH Newsflash

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

Winter 2022



On Monday, October 10, 2022, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) held its annual Bridge Awards Dinner & Silent Auction, *An Evening in Japan*, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hawaii Ballroom. Each year, JASH honors individuals, companies, or organizations with the Bridge Award for promoting understanding and friendship between the people of Hawaii and Japan. JASH was honored to present 2022 Bridge Awards to the Halekulani Corporation and Mr. Jake Shimabukuro for their achievements and positive impacts on our community.



(L-R): Mr. Peter Shaindlin; Mr. Yoshinori Maeda; Ms. Patricia Tam; Mr. Shigeto Aoki; Mr. Nobuyuki Inada & Mr. Hiroyasu Nakamura of the Halekulani Corporation.

An exclusive Mahalo Reception took place prior to the dinner to thank our many partners and premium sponsors who make it possible for JASH to continue our important work fostering Hawaii-Japan relationships.

Over 400 guests captured the spirit and energy of our themed event – *An Evening in Japan*. With the announcement of the re-opening of Japan, the timing was perfect for guests to celebrate, enjoy each others company and partake in Japanese inspired dishes specially



(L-R): Mr. Alex Jampel, Mr. Jake Shimabukuro, Ms. Reyna Kaneko, & Mr. Keith Amemiya

curated for the dinner and revive our connection to Japan. The evening was filled with entertainment starting with an invigorating performance by Kenny Endo and the Taiko Center of the Pacific. Ms. Anju Madoka of Madoka no Kai's performance was stunning as she sang and played the shamisen.



Special thanks to our fantastic emcee duo: Ms. Barbara Tanabe, JASH Board Director and Ms. Jenna Nakagawa, JASH NexGen Member who kept the evening program on schedule.

The evening ended with a very special performance by Jake Shimabukuro and Governor David

President's Message

2023 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** **2023 is the year of the Water Rabbit,** starting from January 22nd, 2023 (Chinese New Year) and ending on February 9th, 2024 (Chinese New Year's Eve). The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. **2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.**

After a long, worldwide battle with COVID and the war in Ukraine, the characteristics of the sign of the Rabbit certainly do give us hope that we are going to move into a much better time.

As promised a year ago, the JASH staff has not missed a beat, as we had a very robust event schedule in 2022 and have successfully moved back into in-person programming. During our time behind the scenes, we have been planning and preparing for live member and education events and programs.

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Ige playing *Wipeout* on the ukulele together. This was a surprise performance for everyone!



Mahalo to Presenting Sponsor:



2023 APCC Applications Now Being Accepted!



The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in FUKUOKA

We are now seeking applicants for the 35th Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC)!

JASH's APCC Program combines in-person weekend preparatory workshops and local field trips that culminate in a summer international youth camp and homestay trip to Fukuoka, Japan where they will represent Hawaii as **JUNIOR AMBASSADORS**.

To be eligible for the 2023 program, keiki must be born between August 1, 2011 and July 31, 2012 (10-11 years old). This is the first time the APCC is convening in Fukuoka since the pandemic.

Applications are due (or postmarked) to JASH by 4:30PM on **Monday, February 6, 2023**. Applications may be mailed; faxed; or submitted online. For more information and to download this year's application, please visit jashawaii.org/apcc. If you have questions about the program, contact Christianne Ono, JASH Program Specialist at cono@jashawaii.org or 808-524-4450.

Lt. General Emerson Gardner 10/16/51 to 10/11/22



JASH Board Director, Lt. General Emerson Gardner passed away on October 11, 2022.

As Chair of JASH's Military Relations Committee, he kept the JASH Board apprised of recent happenings in the local military world and served as our key liaison with the United States Indo-Pacific Command. As an avid golfer and valuable member of our JASH Golf Committee, he played a pivotal role in the success of our annual Friendship Golf Tournament. We will miss his leadership and friendship dearly. We extend our sincere condolences to his family for their loss.

The following is a excerpt printed in the Star-Advertiser Obituaries on November 13, 2022.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL EMERSON N. GARDNER, "EMO" Age 70 is survived by his wife, Vivian Gardner; his four sons, Philip,

Christian, Nick and Marc; two grandchildren Deja and Tegan; sister Linda and brother Rick Gardner.

Lieutenant General Gardner had an illustrious career serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. Following retirement from the Marine Corps, Lieutenant General Gardner started his own strategic advisory firm providing U.S. companies with differentiated geo-strategic insights. He served as a Strategic Advisor to Franklin Templeton, the Chertoff Group and to Hedgeye Risk Management. He was on the Board of Directors for the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, the United States Army Science Board and was the Director of the Olmsted Foundation.

For all who knew Emerson Gardner, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and sibling who took great delight in time with family and dear friends. He loved Hawaii, golf and a good policy debate. He demanded the

President's Message

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Our biggest endeavor in 2023 will be producing the Hawaii-Japan Sister State & Sister City Summit to be held July 27-28, 2023 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Elected officials and leaders in business, education, tourism and sustainability will be invited to convene in Honolulu as a working group to share best practices and ideas and form collaborations between Japan and Hawaii. The magnitude and impact of this Summit will reinvigorate long standing Sister relationships and provide a venue to start new ones. Exciting times for JASH!

We wish you all the best as we all move together into a new year full of hope, good health, and excitement for new beginnings!

Shinnen Omedetoo Gozaimasu!

With Aloha,
Reyna

highest standards of excellence for himself and others, had a fierce passion and love of family, Marine Corps and country. He will be sorely missed and thought of warmly because of the enthusiasm and gusto with which he met life, his sense of humor and kind heart.

A memorial service to honor the life of Lieutenant General Emerson Gardner was held on November 18, 2022 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that desired donations be made in honor of Lieutenant General Emerson Gardner to the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation: <https://www.mc-lef.org/how-to-donate> or to the Japan-America Society of Hawaii: <https://www.jashawaii.org/donate>.

EPIC Cultural Exchange

From September 30 – October 4, 2022, eight students from various Ehime high schools traveled to Hawaii to participate in a cultural exchange hosted by the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC). EPIC promotes cultural understanding and international cooperation through various programs and exchanges. Since 2013, EPIC has organized this exchange program that annually sends students from Ehime to Hawaii, but it was transformed into online meetings via Zoom for the past couple of years due to the pandemic.

JASH was beyond excited to welcome back students from Ehime for the first time in three years.



The Ehime students participated in a two-day home visit program with students from Punahou and St. Louis Schools over the weekend. On their last full day in Hawaii, they visited Punahou School to experience school life in Hawaii and give presentations about their hometowns, culture and school activities. In the afternoon, they had an exchange meeting with Moanalua High School Japanese Club members led by Jaimelynn Tateyama Sensei, who is a former EPIC intern.



EPIC students arrive at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

Mr. Minoru Tomita, Executive Director and Ms. Yukari Niiyama from EPIC, Mr. Kensuke Takamura from the Ehime Prefectural Government as well as Mr. Yasuo Yamaji from Matsuyama South High School accompanied the students as they visited various sights on Oahu, such as the Ehime Maru Memorial, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Honolulu Hale.



EPIC student participant giving a presentation about taiko.

Sadako Peace Projects—Peace Building Initiatives

On November 19, 2022, JASH and Pacific Historic Parks (PHP) hosted high school and college volunteers at the Sadako Peace Projects (SPP) at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial. This is the first time the SPP have been held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is also the first time JASH has had the honor of running the projects since becoming their administrator in 2020.

JASH and PHP welcomed volunteers from Punahou School, led by Academy Japanese language faculty Junko Ady, as well as volunteers from the Peace Sustainability and Advocacy student club and Matsunaga Institute of Peace at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, led by Educational Specialist José Barzola. We were also honored to have in attendance project co-founders Hiromi Peterson and Naomi Hirano-Omizo, former Japanese language faculty at Punahou School, and co-authors of the *Adventures in Japanese* language textbook.



Volunteers from Punahou School and UH Mānoa

Additionally, Peterson-sensei is a recipient of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan's Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2022 for her dedication and achievements in the fields of language pedagogy and peace education. Peterson-sensei and Omizo-sensei are also co-founders of the Hiroshima Peace Scholarship for high school juniors, which is launching its first cohort under the administration of JASH for summer 2023 (learn more at jashawaii.org/hps).

The Sadako Peace Projects include two peacebuilding initiatives held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial: The Sadako Project, founded in 2014, and the Sadako Peace Cranes Project, founded in 2016.

Through the Sadako Project, volunteers teach visitors to Pearl Harbor about the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who was a victim of the Hiroshima atomic bombing and who would pass away from the effects of irradiation when she was twelve years old. In memory of Sadako's thousand paper cranes, visitors are invited to fold peace cranes bearing their own hopes for world peace.

In the Sadako Peace Cranes Project, teachers in Japan are invited to share the story of Sadako, World War II, and the importance of peace with their students. As part of the lesson, Japanese students fold peace cranes containing their messages of peace. Our local volunteers share these



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cranes with visitors to Pearl Harbor, letting the cranes “spread their wings” and share their messages of

JASH held its Fall 2022 Japan Day program sponsored by the McInerny Foundation and the Freeman Foundation during the months of November through December via interactive video tutorials. We featured bon dance, calligraphy, hanafuda, ikebana, karate, manga, minyo/shamisen, Peace Studies/Sadako Sasaki Story, soroban, and tea ceremony.

Approximately 550 students from Aiea High School, Hilo High School, Kalaheo High School, Nanakuli High School, McKinley High School, Mid-Pacific Institute, and St. Andrew's Schools participated in the virtual Japan Day program in fall 2022. 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 8,100 students from 67 different public and private schools have participated in this educational event.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Japan Day program has been offered virtually since Fall 2020 so that students can experience Japanese culture and art remotely from their classrooms. Thanks to our volunteer instructors, we were able to expand the selection of Japanese cultural activities to include an introduction to manga, minyo/shamisen, and hanafuda this time in addition to eight video segments on bon dance,

Sadako Peace Projects

peace across the world. During this project day, cranes were shared with many visitors from around the U.S., ranging from California all the way to New York. We also shared Sadako's story with visitors from Canada as well as travelers all the way from Spain!

Through the Sadako Peace Projects, we hope to connect the people of Hawaii, Japan, and around the world to establish friendships and cross-cultural understanding, raise awareness of the consequences of

war, and build a more peaceful future.

We'd love to have your class, club, or organization volunteer for the Sadako Peace Projects! Individual volunteers are also welcome. Volunteers must be at least of high school age; volunteers under 18 must receive parent/guardian permission. The projects run semi-monthly during the academic year. Please contact JASH Program Specialist Christianne Ono at cono@jashawaii.org or visit jashawaii.org/sadako-projects for more details.

Fall 2022

Japan Day



calligraphy, ikebana, karate, manga, Peace Studies/Sadako Sasaki Story, soroban (Japanese abacus), and tea ceremony we previously produced.

The links for these video segments were shared with the schools invited to participate in the Japan Day program. Generous funding from the McInerny Foundation and the Freeman 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.

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. 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 Aiea High School wrote in the post-program survey, “Learning about the different topics was really enlightening and I was constantly engaged with all the videos because all the presenters did a good job presenting.”

JASH would like to thank the generous sponsors of Japan Day: The McInerny 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 the Peace Studies/Sadako Sasaki Story segment; Mrs. Hiromi Peterson, Toka for the calligraphy lesson; Mr. Hitoshi Murata from the Urasenke Foundation for the tea ceremony session; Ms. Betty Dela Cuesta, Ms. Lynette Morikawa, and members of the Hawaii Shin Kobukai for the bon dance instructions; Mr. Roy Goshi-Otaguro of MOA Hawaii for the ikebana workshop; Ms. Anju Madoka for the minyo/shamisen demonstration; Mr. Shuhei Sekimoto of Bunsei University of Art for the introduction to manga session; and Mrs. Helen Nakano and members of the Hanafuda Hawaii for the

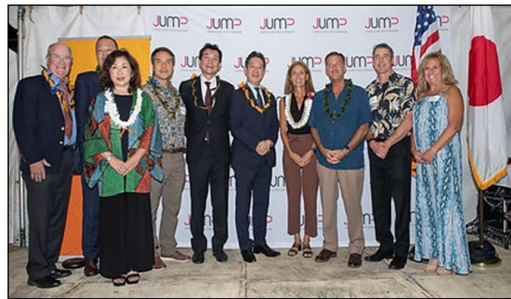
2022 JUMP Program—Strengthening U.S. & Japan Bonds



JAPAN US MILITARY PROGRAM

On November 14, 2022, JASH had the honor of hosting the Japan-U.S. Military Program (JUMP) as an in-person event after two years of being virtual! We are grateful to Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu for opening his residence to almost 140 guests which included military service members, civilian government contractors who served in Japan and service members from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship the JS Tōryū.

We were honored to welcome our distinguished speakers: Admiral John Aquilino, Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command; Mr. Motosada Matano, Political Minister, Embassy of Japan, Washington, D.C.; Consul General Yutaka Aoki, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu; Dr. Satohiro Akimoto, Director, Japan-U.S. Military Program & Chairman and President, Sasakawa Peace Foundation U.S.A.; and Peter Kelley, President, National Association of Japan-America Societies. The speakers spoke to the



(L-R) Mr. Peter Kelley; Dr. Satohiro Akimoto; Ms. Reyna Kaneko; Mr. Alex Jampel; Consul General Yutaka Aoki; Mr. Motosada Matano; Mrs. Laura Aquilino; ADM John Aquilino; Major General Jered Helwig and Mrs. Diana Helwig

importance of the friendship between the U.S. and Japan and how programs like JUMP continue to strengthen the bonds between our countries. They emphasized the critical value of people-to-people relationships and the importance, now more than ever, of keeping peace and stability within the Asia-Pacific region with all that is happening internationally.

Other highlights of the evening were the opening taiko performance by local high school students from Pacific Buddhist Academy. The thunderous drumming prepared our guests for the program that followed. During dinner, guests were graced by the

beautiful voice of Ms. Anju Madoka of Madoka no Kai as she played the shamisen. Guests also enjoyed Japanese dishes by Rinka and American dishes by Giovanni Pastrami.

The JUMP program provides an opportunity to bring the Japanese and American military, civilian and business community together. Whether it be in-person or virtual, it is a very special and unique program.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, the National Association of Japan-America Societies, the Embassy of Japan and Consul General Yutaka Aoki and staff for this special opportunity to bring this community together. MAHALO NUI LOA!



Tomodachi Celebrate the Holidays

On Tuesday, December 6, 2022, JASH members gathered for the annual Tomodachi Holiday Tea held this year at the Waioli Kitchen & Bake Shop nestled in Manoa valley.

Almost 20 members reconnected after Tomodachi programming was paused for over two years due to the pandemic. They enjoyed each other's company while partaking in delicious baked goods and beverages. After lunch, guests sang Christmas carols led by Tomodachi Committee co-chair, Kazuko Love and JASH president, Reyna Kaneko.



The program ended with lucky draw prize giveaways. JASH President Reyna Kaneko thanked guests for attending, spoke about JASH's plans for 2023 and encouraged everyone to attend future events.



Thank you to Tomodachi co-chairs Kazuko Love and Ray Tabata for helping plan and organize the Holiday Tea!



(L-R): Raj George, Lila Frisbie, Shizue Goldblatt & Ann Kobayashi



(L-R): Kazuko Tonoike, Shigeo Tonoike, Atsuko Igarashi, Kazuko Love & Anju Madoka



Ward Village 5:01

On Thursday, December 8, 2022, JASH members came together for the final 5:01 of the year at the IBM Building. Thanks to the generous support of JASH KIN-level Corporate Member Ward Village and Ms. Bonnie Wedemeyer, Executive Vice President of Sales and Strategy, we welcomed over 50 JASH members who enjoyed delicious pupu and drinks.



(L-R): Dan Dinell, Bonnie Wedemeyer & Alex Jampel.

JASH 5:01 events are held exclusively for JASH Corporate Members, Lifetime Members, and Board Directors.

Mr. Taichi Yasuhara of Ward Village spoke about the various projects at Ward Village and gave a presentation to JASH members. MAHALO to Ms. Wedemeyer and the team at Ward Village for helping JASH make this event possible!



(L-R): Shizue Goldblatt, Aya Sugawara, Bruce Morita, Akiko Sugawara & Taichi Yasuhara

JASH Newsflash

The *JASH Newsflash* newsletter is published quarterly. Visit our website at www.jashawaii.org for more information.

Disaster Preparedness & Quick Recovery in Hawaii

On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, JASH in partnership with Keidanren U.S.A., the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu and the East-West Center convened for a seminar on *Disaster Preparedness & Quick Recovery in Hawaii* at the Hawaii Imin International Conference Center. A networking reception followed the seminar for nearly 70 guests.

Based on Hawaii and Japan's shared experience as island communities, this seminar gathered experts from both regions to discuss the topics of disasters and recovery.

Expert panelists presented and discussed what has been learned from past disasters and how this information is shaping the ways we prepare for future disasters in their respective fields, including but not limited to technology, utilities, communication and the insurance industry. During the second half of the panel discussion, experts presented and discussed how recovery efforts are evolving and shared some of the innovations being developed for preparedness and recovery.

Thanks to the generous support of **Keidanren U.S.A.** and the **Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu**, there was no cost to attend. To view the seminar please [CLICK HERE](#).

Mr. Kiyoshi Tanigawa, Executive Director, Keidanren U.S.A. made opening remarks. Ms. Suzanne Vares-Lum, President, East-West Center was the moderator for the discussion.

During the first panel discussion, panelists Mr. David Lopez, Executive Officer, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HiEMA); Mr. Taichi Imamura, Manager, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc. (TEPCO) and Dr. Yoh Kawanami, Director of Customer Energy Resources Operations, Hawaiian Electric shared insights about their companies' disaster response preparations as well as suggestions for how residents can safeguard their homes in case of emergency.



(L-R): Makoto Yoda, Bart Beavers, Naohisa Kitada and Karl Kim

During the second panel discussion, panelists Dr. Karl Kim, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Director of the graduate program in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance; Mr. Naohisa Kitada, General Manager, Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central), Washington D.C. office; Mr. Bart Beavers, Business Development Manager, NEC in Hawaii and Mr. Makoto "Mark" Yoda, President & CEO, First Insurance Company of Hawaii Ltd. provided their insights on disaster preparedness and recovery from their respective fields, sharing ways technology is being used and developed to protect our communities.



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