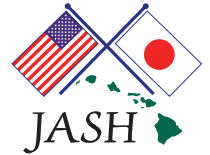




JAPAN-AMERICA JOURNAL

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii

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Building Bridges of Friendship and Understanding

It was a night to remember at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. On October 23rd, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) held its 32nd Annual Dinner. About 300 sponsors and guests attended the gala event, led by dinner sponsor First Insurance Company of Hawaii and its President and CEO, and JASH Chair Mr. Allen Uyeda. KUMU Radio Announcer Devon Nekoba did the emcee duties as three Rinzai Zen priests from Chozenji Temple performed a traditional Japanese style blessing.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first “JASH Bridge Award” to recognize individuals and organizations that epitomize the mission of JASH, “promoting understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii.” The first recipients of the award were Mrs. Marjorie Midkiff, a founding member of the Society and past JASH President, and JTB Hawaii, a tour and travel company that has a tradition of giving to the people through several community service foundations.

Before the awards presentations, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann stopped in to address the gathered guests. He thanked JASH for its 32 years of service in its mission of “enhancing Hawaii-Japan and U.S.-Japan relations” and personally recognized the night’s honorees, Mrs. Midkiff and JTB Hawaii, by presenting signed certificates of appreciation from the City and County of Honolulu.

Following the Mayor’s comments, JASH President Ed Hawkins presented a slide show honoring each recipient, showing the significant contributions each had made over the years to JASH and the community. JASH Chair Allen Uyeda presented the awards, engraved folding desk clocks, and each recipient thanked the crowd.

The other highlight of the evening was the keynote address by former Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command and current President and CEO of Hawaii Superferry, Admiral Thomas Fargo, USN (Ret). Based on his considerable political-military experience in the Asia-Pacific region and

Continued on next page



JASH Bridge Award presented to first recipient Mrs. Marjorie Midkiff (L) and to Mr. Takashi Sugi, representing JTB Hawaii (R)

Building Bridges...

Continued from page 1




Keynote Speaker
Admiral Thomas Fargo, USN (Ret).

fresh from consultation with major regional leaders, Admiral Fargo took the audience on a “tour” of the region, explaining how each country is affecting, and could affect, the U.S.-Japan relations

The evening was also special due to the generous donation of student tables by Mrs. Midkiff and several others. Through their generosity, students from Kamehameha Schools, Kapolei HS,

McKinley HS, Mililani HS and Waipahu HS were able to attend. Also present were representatives of this year’s and past years’ Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention Junior Ambassadors and Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition award winners.

The evening concluded with a *kanpai* from special guest Japanese Consul General Toshio Kunikata, to the further success of JASH.

JASH would like to thank all the table sponsors, members in attendance, and friends of JASH who came out to support this important fundraising event for the Society. 



Mayor Mufi Hannemann personally recognizes the Bridge Award Honorees.

Dragons and the Tomodachi

On Tuesday, November 18th, about 20 members and guests of the Tomodachi Committee of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii gathered at the “Robyn Buntin of Honolulu” gallery to listen to a very interesting talk on dragons by gallery owner Mr. Robyn Buntin.

Mr. Buntin has been in the business of dealing with fine art from Asia and the Pacific for 27 years. Since Mr. Buntin




JASH member Sumi Oda (L) and Robyn Buntin (R).

has such a vast collection of so many different and interesting artifacts, he chose to focus his presentation on “Dragons.” He explained that Dragons have shown up again and again in art throughout Asia – primarily in China and Japan. It is the only zodiac animal that does not exist in real life.

To those who follow *feng shui*, the Dragon is found in the most important direction. In *feng shui*, each direction is represented by a different animal. The East is the direction of the Dragon; the west is the tiger; the tortoise comes from the north; and the south is the direction of the bird. All bad things are thought to come from the north.

Among the various items that depict Dragons in his collection, Mr. Buntin shared with our members a large Japanese tapestry designed during the Meiji era, a tobacco box from Japan, a piece of a sedan chair from Tibet and a Chinese reticulated jade carving. He also showed a chart that depicted the evolution of the Dragon design in art, starting more than 6,000 years ago.

All of the attendees were fascinated by the lecture on Dragons. Mahalo Nui Loa to Robyn Buntin for opening the gallery and sharing his expertise with our members. Also thank you to Tomodachi Committee member Roberta Sullivan for arranging this special lecture. 

Mahalo to the Following Annual Dinner Supporters

Event Sponsor

First Insurance Company of Hawaii

Platinum Table Sponsors

Bank of Hawaii

First Insurance Company of Hawaii

Howard & Joanne Hamamoto / MB Capital Corporation

Gold Table Sponsors

Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP

JTB Hawaii

Stanford Carr Development LLC

Silver Table Sponsors

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KTA Super Stores

Sachi Hawaii

Servco Foundatin

Shidler College of Business

Sony Hawaii

University of Hawaii System & University of Hawaii Foundation

Student Table Sponsors

Center for Japanese Studies

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Marjorie Midkiff

Merle Okawara

Yoshiharu Satoh

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Susan Kosasa

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First Insurance Company of Hawaii

Colleen Murakami

Joanne Ninomiya

Earl & Yoko Okawa

Jean Rolles

Tracey Saiki


Gregory & Laura Thielen

Doraku Sushi & Benihana of Tokyo Host 5:01 Event

Doraku Sushi owner and COO of Benihana of Tokyo Kevin Aoki welcomed Japan-America Society of Hawaii to a special networking event at Doraku Sushi restaurant in the Royal Hawaiian Center on November 19th. Accompanied by his sister Echo Aoki, the Director of Benihana of Tokyo, Kevin opened up the restaurant on this evening to JASH for a 5:01. The 5:01 is a networking event for JASH corporate and lifetime members and their guests to get to know each other better and to introduce potential new members to JASH and its activities.

Benihana of Tokyo in Honolulu hosts this event each year to show its appreciation to JASH members and present its menu offerings. This year, Benihana of Tokyo's Senior Manager and Marketing Director Marilyn Cariaga arranged a combined event with Benihana of Tokyo, located in Hilton Hawaiian Village, and Doraku Sushi. It was an opportunity for Kevin to showcase his new concept in Japanese-American fusion dining in the middle of Waikiki.

Doraku Sushi carries on the entrepreneurial spirit of Kevin and Echo's father, Rocky Aoki, by combining a Japanese-American fusion sushi menu presented in a modern setting that still preserves the traditional Japanese countryside feeling. The restaurant has private seating both inside and outside, a long modern sushi bar, and a large communal-style wooden

table that presents a traditional dining experience that evokes a warm, intimate feeling. Each area is meant to cater to individual tastes and senses, and the different parts work together in harmony to create a unified whole. Those who want to enjoy a unique, avant-garde Japanese-American fusion dining experience should try Doraku Sushi. 




L-R: JASH Chair Allen Uyeda, Kevin Aoki, Echo Aoki and JASH President Ed Hawkins.

Christmas 5:01 & Silent Auction

The spirit of the holidays filled the air at the Society's annual Christmas 5:01 and Silent Auction held at the Moana Surfrider's Third Floor Ballroom on Wednesday, December 3rd. Nearly 200 members and guests enjoyed the

the food and merriment while wishing old friends and new acquaintances a happy holiday season.

The festivities started off with welcome remarks by JASH President Ed Hawkins followed by JASH Chair Allen Uyeda. As the silent auction opened, attendees started their holiday shopping early as they engaged in friendly competition, bidding on an array of items including hotel stays, jewelry, Japanese crafts, Christmas trees & wreaths, dinner cruises and a flat-screen television. All proceeds from the silent auction support the Society's many community events and on-going educational programs.

The Society would like to send a big thank you to First Insurance Company of Hawaii for sponsoring the event. Another big thank you goes out to the members and businesses that generously donated items for the auction. Thank you also to Hiro Itoh, Senior Catering and Convention Services Manager, and the rest of the Moana Surfrider catering staff for creating an elegant experience. Finally, this event could not have been possible without the support of the many volunteers, including the 2008 APCC Junior Ambassadors, who kindly donated their time. 



Society members and guests enjoyed the delicious culinary delights provided by the Moana Surfrider.

*A special mahalo to the following individuals and businesses who generously supported JASH
by contributing items or decorated a Christmas tree or wreath for our Silent Auction*

Neal Akatsuka	Gyotaku Japanese Restaurant	Earl Okawa
All Nippon Airways	Hakuyosha Hawaii	Lawrence Okinaga
Anonymous	Halekulani	Okonomiyaki Chibo Restaurant
APCC Junior Ambassadors	Halekulani Corporation	The Original Glider Rides
Jae-Sun Brown & Family	Hawaii Coffee Company	Otoriyose-USA
Jenee' Brown & Family	Hawaii Superferry	Outrigger Enterprises Group
Mariah Gaoiran & Family	Hawaii Vertical Transportation	P.F. Chang's China Bistro
David Nakanishi & Family	Hawaiian Eateries	Pacific Aviation Museum
Kekoa Nakasone & Family	Hilton Grand Vacations	Pacific Beach Hotel
Malakai Shiraki & Family	Hilton Hawaiian Village	Pacific Guardian Life
Rachael Tamashiro & Family	James & Karen Hirai	Pearl Country Club
APCC Peace Ambassador	Hoakalei Country Club	Gary Reed, Artist in Oils
Colby Takeda & Family	Honolulu Academy of Arts	Reflections of the Heart
Atlantis Adventures	Honolulu Zoo Society	Roberts Hawaii
Baccarat	Hyatt Regency Waikiki Resort & Spa	Jean Rolles
Bead It!	Indich Collection	Romano's Macaroni Grill
Masako Bellinger	Island Air	Roots & Relics
Benihana of Tokyo	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii	Joichi Saito
Big Island Candies	Jeff Chang Pottery & Fine Crafts	Sara Sawada
Black Diamond Hospitality	JTB Hawaii	Sawada USA, LLC
Investments LLC	JW Marriott Ihilani Resort & Spa	Sea Life Park
Booz Allen Hamilton	The Kahala Hotel & Resort	Ray Sekiya
Brew Moon Restaurant &	Kakesako Brothers Jewelers	Servco Pacific
Microbrewery	KIKU-TV	Ristuko Seta, ADI Design Group
California Hotel & Casino	Ko Olina Golf Club	Sony Hawaii
Marilyn Cariaga	Susan Kosasa	Star of Honolulu Cruises & Events
The Cherry Company	Koyama Realty	Starts International Hawaii
Chuck's Steak House	Kumu Kahua Theatre	Roberta Sullivan
Cinnamon Girl	Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts	Suntech Hawaii
The Contemporary Museum	Le Bistro	Tomiko Takai
Tasha M. Cullen, Healing Hands	Lily Koi Restaurant & Lounge	Toby Tamaye
Diamond Wailea Resort & Spa	Maile Sky Court Hotel	Tiffany & Co.
First Insurance Company of	Mariposa Restaurant	Tori Richard
Hawaii	Maxi Hawaii Shop	UH Athletics Department
Flora-Dec Sales	McKinley Motor Service	Allen Uyeda
FUJIFILM Hawaii	Shirley Miyamoto	Virgo Anteprema USA
Emiko Fujiwara	Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa	Waikiki Signature Amenities, LLC
Yurie Fujimoto	Natsunoya Tea House	WDI International
G-Call Corporation	The Oahu Club	The Wedding Ring Shop
Germaine's Luau	Ocean Arts Hawaii	The Willows Restaurant
Shizue Goldblatt	Margaret Oda	Zippy's Restaurant

JASH Holds Fall McInerny Japan Day

October 29th was a cultural immersion day for 168 students from Castle High School, Kamehameha Schools, Myron B. Thompson Academy, and Maui's Lahainaluna High School as the Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) held its fall 2008 McInerny Japan Day at Hawaii Tokai International College.

In its second year of sponsorship under the McInerny




A volunteer from University Laboratory School's Kimono Project USA demonstrates to students the proper way to put on a Japanese kimono.

Foundation, Japan Day provided classes in Bon Dance, Bonsai, Calligraphy, Japanese Crafts, Ikebana, Kimono Wearing, Soroban (abacus), and Tea Ceremony as a way to introduce students to the rich and varied culture of Japan while showcasing the pride of various volunteers in their cultural heritage.

Japan Day is one of two programs JASH conducts for Hawaii's high schools (the other is the Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition) to teach the richness of Japan's cultural heritage and to honor different traditions and values of others.

A musical performance by the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble kicked off the event. Kenny Endo demonstrated how the sound of the Taiko drum could be used to represent natural phenomena such as wind, waves, and falling snow, an artistic interpretation of this traditional Japanese art form.

Since 1993, over 4,500 students from 48 schools have experienced Japan Day. Due to the generosity of the McInerny Foundation, JASH is also able to bring students from other islands to this bi-annual event. JASH extends its thanks to all the volunteers and to Hawaii Tokai International College for allowing use of the auditorium and classrooms for this event.

Recruitment for the Fall 2009 McInerny Japan Day is now beginning. Interested schools should see the JASH website at www.jashawaii.org or contact JASH Educational Programs Director Kelsey Soma at 524-4450. 

Tomodachi Christmas Tea

On Monday, December 15th, about 25 members and friends of the Tomodachi Committee got into the Christmas spirit by gathering for "high-tea" at the historic Waioli Tea Room in Manoa Valley. All those in attendance enjoyed renewing friendships and meeting new acquaintances while sampling a variety of teas (from gunpowder tea to holiday blend) and an assortment of fabulous treats prepared specially by the Waioli Tea Room and Bakery.


During the afternoon, attendees were treated to holiday music with special guest, guitarist Charles K. Morton. His music was so festive that a few of our own Tomodachi members, Lillian Yajima, Cathie Muschany and Kazuko Love, performed impromptu hula dances for everyone in attendance.

Also in attendance were Mary Cooke and her assistant, Margo Vitarelli of the Manoa Historical Center (MHC), who shared with the audience about Mary Cooke's home - a 3.2 acre botanical garden that houses the only heiau in Manoa Valley. Tomodachi members were very interested to learn about the MHC.

A wonderful time was had by all. A big mahalo goes to



Charles K. Morton entertains the Tomodachi guests..

Tomodachi Committee member Roberta Sullivan for arranging this special afternoon at the Waioli Tea Room and inviting Mr. Morton to play for our guests. Also, thank you to Tomodachi Committee co-chair Ray Tabata for inviting Ms. Cooke and Ms. Vitarelli to attend. 

Membership Updates

October - December 2008

New General Members

Wendy Abe	Individual
Benjamin Bangsberg	Individual
Eric Bergthold	Individual
Aaron Browne	Student
Eko Burgess	K-12 Educator
Satomi Fukutomi	Individual
Carrie Fry	Individual
Jamie Gusman	Individual
Lisa Kuwasaki Kim	K-12 Educator
Andrew Lambert	Individual
Michelle Lau	Individual
Nobuko Loncar	K-12 Educator
Kevin Matsuda	Individual
Shizuka Miller	K-12 Educator
Sharon Minichiello	Individual
Sandra Oda	K-12 Educator
Miki Ogasawara	Individual
Tracey Saiki	Individual
Sara Sawada	Individual
Yoshiko Tokuda	K-12 Educator
Rod Tsuda	Individual
Joseph Udell	Individual
Lillian Wadahara	K-12 Educator
Yoko Wang	Individual

General Member Upgrades

Kyoko Bourdra	Family
Emiko Fujiwara	Sustaining
James Hadde	Individual
Robert Yamamura	Family

JASH Donor Recognition

October - December 2008

Statesman \$5,000 - \$24,999

First Insurance Company of Hawaii
JTB Goodwill Foundation

Counselor \$1,000 - \$4,999

International Cultural & Friendship
Association
Ito En (USA)
JTB Cultural Exchange Corporation
Marjorie Tanoue

Diplomat \$250-\$999

Ehime Prefecture International Center
Foodland Give Aloha
Pacific Beach Hotel
Sady Sakai
Allan Yasue

Colleague \$1-\$249

Neal Akatsuka
Francine Fujinaka
Hanako Hata
Hakuyosha Hawaii
James & Karen Hirai
Robert G. Lee
Kazuko Love
Sharon Minichiello
Shirley Miyamoto
Margaret Oda
Earl Okawa
T. Raymond Sekiya
Timothy Sullivan
Brenda Teranishi
Ronald Ushijima
Roy Yamada




Japanese Speaker of the House Visits Ehime Maru Memorial

On Sunday, December 28th Japan’s Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honorable Yohei Kono, paid a visit to the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park in Honolulu. Mr. Kono was accompanied by a staff assistant and the Japanese Consul General in Honolulu the Honorable Toshio Kunikata.

The President of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association Ed Hawkins met Mr. Kono and escorted him to the memorial where Mr. Hawkins related the history of the incident and the significance of the memorial in Kakaako. Mr. Kono presented a flower wreath in respect to the nine lost crew of the fishery high school training ship Ehime Maru and observed a moment of silence in their memory.

Afterwards, Mr. Hawkins described the various good-will initiatives for enhancing U.S.-Japan relations that came out of the tragic incident. These include the establishment of a sister school relationship between Honolulu’s Kawanānoa Middle School and Ehime Prefecture’s Uwajima Minami Junior High School, Ehime Prefectural International Center sponsored summer internship for two University of Hawaii students each year, and the sending of an active duty military representative from the U.S. Navy to Ehime’s Nametoko English Camp each summer to teach English to Japanese students.

For his part, Mr. Kono noted he was Foreign Minister in Japan’s Cabinet during the Ehime Maru incident, and recalled coordinating with Admiral Thomas Fargo who was the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at that time. 



House Speaker Kono observes a moment of silence in tribute to the deceased crew of the Ehime Maru

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

22 New Year’s Reception, Washington Place

FEBRUARY

9 Ehime Maru Memorial Ceremony

14 Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition, Sheraton Waikiki Hotel

25 What is East Asia Reading? What is East Asia Watching?, East-West Center

26 Hinamatsuri Celebration: Japanese Doll Festival, Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan

MARCH

13-15 Honolulu Festival, various locations around Honolulu

APRIL

8 Japan Day, Hawaii Tokai International College

22 19th Annual Friendship Golf Classic, Hickam AFB Mamala Bay Golf Course

MAY

16 Visitor Industry Charity Walk

JUNE

5-7 Pan-Pacific Festival - Matsuri in Hawaii, Waikiki

12 Hilton 5:01, Hilton Hawaiian Village

13 Waikiki Beach Cleanup and Picnic

JULY

25-31 Pearl Harbor: History, Memory, Memorial Session I, East-West Center

AUGUST

1-7 Pearl Harbor: History, Memory, Memorial Session II, East-West Center

Japan-America Society of Hawaii

Promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii

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