



# JAPAN-AMERICA JOURNAL

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii

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## Admiral Harris, Message from U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy Highlight JASH Annual Dinner

A video message from U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and a keynote address by newly-nominated Pacific Command Commander Admiral Harry Harris highlighted Japan-America Society of Hawaii's (JASH) 38th Annual Dinner held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Coral Ballroom. A full-capacity crowd of over 400 including 30 JASH Board Members supported this gala event, the major fundraising event for the Society every year.

This year's honoree for the JASH Bridge Award was Hawaiian Airlines. Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer Mr. Peter Ingram was there to accept the award on behalf of the Hawaiian Airlines team. Admiral Harris and his wife, Ms. Bruni Bradley, headed a distinguished list of guests to include Honolulu's Mayor Kirk Caldwell, former Hawaii Governor George Ariyoshi and Mrs. Jean Ariyoshi, Japan's Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda and Mrs. Michiko Shigeeda, Korean Consul General Walter Paik and Mrs. Jeong Ki Min, and joining us from Nagaoka City, Mayor Tamio Mori. KITV4 news anchor and reporter Lara Yamada acted as emcee.

Hawaiian Airlines was honored efforts to open new air connections to Japan, and by so doing expand not only tourism and business, but also cultural and educational exchange opportunities as well. JASH President Ed Hawkins highlighted the significant contributions Hawaiian Airlines has made to JASH educational programs with donations of air travel to Japan, and supporting the disaster-affected Japanese kids who came to Hawaii following the tragic earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 under the Rainbow for Japan Kids project. In accepting the award, Mr. Peter Ingram thanked JASH and its members, and reiterated Hawaiian Airlines' desire to continue partnering with JASH in supporting educational and other community support programs.



(L to R, Top): Lenny Yajima, Michiko Shigeeda, Lara Yamada, Peter Ingram, Edwin Hawkins Mrs. Jeong Ki Min, Daniel Dinell, Bruni Bradley, Kirk Caldwell, Toyoei Shigeeda, Walter Paik. (L to R, Bottom): Jean Ariyoshi, George Ariyoshi, Linda Ingram, Harry Harris, and Grace Hawkins.

Keynote speaker Admiral Harry Harris spoke about the importance of U.S.-Japan relations in maintaining regional security and economic and political development in the region, praising JASH for the work it does to promote relations with Japan. He reiterated former Ambassador Mike Mansfield in saying the U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship, bar none.

In her message, Ambassador Kennedy complimented JASH for another successful year of building bridges with Japan through its educational and exchange programs, specifically noting the work done for the relief of Japanese victims of the 3/11 disaster that carries on to this day, and the management of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship that allows U.S. and Japanese college students to study in respective countries.

JASH would like to thank all table sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees for their support of this annual dinner, and



Guests watch Ambassador Caroline Kennedy's message attentively.

for their support throughout the year. Names of sponsors and supporters can be found listed on page 9 & 10. The video message from Ambassador Kennedy, videos of the TOMODACHI-Rainbow Project, and the tribute to Hawaiian Airlines can be found in the following links:

[TOMODACHI-Rainbow Project Tohoku Video](#)  
[Message from U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy](#)  
[2014 JASH Annual Bridge Award Honoring Hawaiian Airlines](#)

You can also find these links on our website at

[www.jashawaii.org](http://www.jashawaii.org)

## Chair's Message: September 2014

Fellow JASH Members:

I appreciate the trust you have placed in me as Chair of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii. When my term started in January 2014, I put forward two goals:

- 1) Begin to implement the Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Directors in November 2013; and
- 2) Bring aboard a new President to succeed the retiring Ed Hawkins.

Effective October 1, 2014, JASH will have a new President in Lenny Yajima so tick box #2 off! While Lenny certainly has big shoes to fill, she comes well prepared for this role given her rich marketing/public relations experience as well as background as the former chief executive of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

A warm Mahalo to Ed Hawkins for his nine years of service to JASH; his able leadership has led to a smooth transition. This, coupled with Lenny's great passion and enthusiasm, has allowed her to "hit the ground running" and your Society to not miss a beat.

With regard to goal #1, your Board has organized as outlined by the Strategic Plan. With our new President, your Directors and I look forward to working with the staff, corporate and general members, and others in furthering our mission: "Promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and the United States through the special and unique perspective of Hawaii".

Thank you for your support of your Society. I especially extend my deep appreciation to the members who serve as Directors, Committee Chairs, Executive Committee Members, and volunteers. Our future is bright because of each of you!

*Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu,*



Daniel Dinell  
Chair 

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## President's Message: October 2014

Dear JASH 'Ohana:

It is an honor to have been selected as your new President! I am so fortunate to join dedicated and diligent staff members who share the same passion as I for strengthening the friendship and bonds between the U.S. and Japan through the spirit of Aloha. We, your staff 'Ohana, will be working closely with Board Chairman Dan Dinell and his team of Directors to implement the Society's new strategic plan which is structured to enhance our exclusive offerings to you, our valued members, and to provide a sound financial future for JASH as we continue our extensive programming.

Many of the signature programs that exist today, and truly define JASH at its finest, are the result of former President Ed Hawkins' tireless work to build the bridges of friendship between Hawaii and Japan and beyond.

Ed, while we will miss you tremendously, we are so happy that you can now enjoy golf, travelling with Grace, and rendering "TLC" to your overgrown garden! We look forward to welcoming you back as a guest of honor at JASH events.


As I start my tenure as your society President, I humbly ask for your support in any or all of the following ways:

- Read our JASH Journal
- Attend our event offerings
- Spread the good word about our Society
- Renew or upgrade your general or corporate membership
- Bring new members on board

We are counting on your support of JASH!

*Yoroshiku Onegai Itashimasu,*



Lenny Yajima  
President 

## JASH Director Joichi Saito Receives Japan’s Foreign Minister’s Commendation

Long-time JASH Director and supporter Mr. Joichi Saito was recently presented with the prestigious Foreign Minister’s Commendation. Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda presented the commendation at a special ceremony at the Japanese Consulate on September 30<sup>th</sup>. His wife Yoko and friends and supporters were invited for this event.

The Foreign Minister’s Commendation is awarded to those who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and other countries through economic and technical cooperation, information and cultural activities, and other activities to enhance international relations. This year, the Commendation was awarded to 108 individuals and 30 groups worldwide. Mr. Saito was one of 10 individuals who were commended for their contribution to the promotion of Japan-U.S. relations.

His citation reads: “As Chairman and CEO, Mr. Joichi Saito effectively led Central Pacific Bank, which was originally founded to serve the Japanese-American community and became one of the major commercial banks in Hawaii. Mr. Saito also served on various boards of prominent Japan-related business organizations in Hawaii including the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Nippon Club. Throughout the years, Mr. Saito

provided exceptional service to these organizations and contributed significantly to the promotion of investments, trade, and economic relations between Japan and Hawaii. Along with his dedication and support of economic and business opportunities, Mr. Saito also devoted himself in community interests, holding important positions at organizations such as the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation, Kuakini Health System, Yamagata Kenjinkai of Hawaii and the Japan Sports Fukiya Association of Hawaii.”



The Japan-America Society of Hawaii and the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation congratulate Mr. Saito for this singular honor.

## Hawaii Delegates Bring Hope and Hula to Rainbow for Japan Kids Alumni

Ten students from ages 13 to 19, along with chaperones Daniel Hwang and Wendy Lum, recently ventured to the northern region of Japan’s main island to reconnect with Japanese students who had participated in the Rainbow for Japan Kids (RFJK) program in Honolulu, Hawaii. This program offers Japanese children - often left homeless and even parent-less by the Great Tohoku Earthquake of March 11, 2011 - a chance to relax and recuperate, in the hopes that they will bring fonder memories back to their homes. These memories are forged by one of the program’s primary goals, which is to create lasting



Hawaii delegates dance hula at Otsuchi Collaborative School during cultural exchange activities.

friendships with Hawaii children through a two-day camp and outdoor activities that immerse Japanese kids in Hawaii’s natural beauty.

A generous grant from the TOMODACHI Initiative, a public and private partnership between the U.S. Japan Council and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, gave some Hawaii kids the rare opportunity to visit RFJK alumni in their hometowns and strengthen the bonds of friendship they formed in Hawaii. Within their six days visiting the Tohoku region, Hawaii delegates engaged in cultural exchange activities such as performing a hula for students from Otsuchi Collaborative School, folding shopping

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bags out of newspapers with seniors at a temporary housing facility, and partnering with the Utatsu Sea Monkey Project to clean up debris at a beach in Minami-Sanriku. The beach cleanup stood out as a meaningful highlight for some delegates, as the chosen location was where Kai, an RFJK alumna and organizer of the cleanup, lost her mother to the March 11th tsunami. Kai’s demonstration of resilience and strength is an ideal example of how close the Hawaii delegates had become to the Japanese students in just a short span of time, an invaluable understanding Hawaii delegates could not have reached from attending the RFJK camps alone. Delegate Evan Lin commented on how it felt to experience these students’ situations firsthand: “It wasn’t until this trip that it hit me - many of these kids had their homes destroyed and families taken away. What truly touched me, though, was that these kids’ spirits were not broken.” Hawaii delegates witnessed this through the warm smiles and positive attitudes that greeted them wherever they went, making it seem like they were the ones receiving hope rather than giving it. Delegates were not only touched, but also inspired by the strength these Japanese

kids have shown in the face of life-changing adversities and expressed their need to appreciate and cherish the family, friends, and homes they usually take for granted.

Special thanks to Hide Takahashi and Masami Kanaya for making this experience possible by escorting the group around and assisting with Japanese translation. 協司 監修



Japanese volunteers of the Utatsu Sea Monkey Project gather with Hawaii delegates for beach cleanup at Minami-Sanriku.

## Japan-America Society of Hawaii Holds Fall 2014 McInerny Foundation’s Japan Day

**O**n September 16, 134 students representing Hawaii Baptist Academy, Saint Francis School, Waiakea High School, and Waipahu High School gathered at Hawaii Tokai International College for the Japan-America Society of Hawaii’s (JASH) Fall 2014 Japan Day, sponsored by the McInerny Foundation. Over 30 volunteer-experts presented cultural classes on bon dance, calligraphy, ikebana (flower arranging), kimono/yukata wear, origami, soroban (Japanese abacus), and tea ceremony. Members of the Taiko Center of the Pacific enlivened the atmosphere in the Auditorium with their taiko performance in the Welcome Ceremony. Students then proceeded to their cultural classes for this half-day program, which is now in its 21st year.



Volunteers teach the students how to bon dance.

To date, over 5,400 students from 56 different schools have experienced Japan Day. This unique program is one of two programs offered by JASH to Hawaii’s high school

students, with the other being the Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition. Japan Day provides students with hands-on experience with traditional Japanese arts and culture while reinforcing and complementing what is taught in the classroom setting. 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. Through understanding and respecting different cultures and customs, we continue to bridge the gap that leads to friendship and cultural appreciation.

JASH would like to thank all the volunteer experts for their dedication to the program, for without them, this



JWC Students are deep in concentration creating their ikebana masterpieces.

program would not be possible: Ms. Betty Dela Cuesta and members of Hawaii Shin Kobukai; calligraphy master Mrs. Setsuko Tokumine; Mrs. Jessie Nakata of MOA Hawaii; Mrs. Jean Sakihara and members of


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Kimono Project USA; Ms. Ashley Nishihara of Hawaii Origami Club; Mr. and Mrs. Hideaki Oshima from Araki Hiroya Soroban School; and Mr. Yoshihumi Ogawa and members of Urasenke Foundation. We would also like to thank Hawaii Tokai International College for the generous use of their facilities, and the Taiko Center of the



Beautiful yukata are donned by JWC students

Pacific for their inspirational taiko performance and demonstration. Please visit the [JASH Facebook page](#) for more photos of the event. For more information on this educational program, please contact Kelsey Soma Turek at 524-4450 or via email at [ksoma@jashawaii.org](mailto:ksoma@jashawaii.org). 

## 2014 Japan Wizards Competition Winners Venture to Japan

This past summer, four teams from Iolani School, Kalani High School and King Kekaulike High School traveled to Japan to experience all they had previously studied after winning the 2014 Japan Wizards Statewide Academic Team Competition (JWC) hosted by the Japan–America Society of Hawaii (JASH) in February. Student-winners and their team advisors explored various landmarks and regions of Japan, utilizing the cultural knowledge and Japanese language skills they had acquired from the competition. King Kekaulike High School student winner Maya Ooki encapsulated the sentiments of all Japan trip winners: “The trip I’ve just recently taken to Japan has been one of the best opportunities I have ever had to broaden my mind and see the world from a different point of view! ... Everywhere I went, I was surrounded by a completely different world, and I learned so much from my short time visiting. I’m very grateful to have [had] this opportunity and to have met the people I’ve seen.”

From June 6-14, JWC Iolani School Level A winners



Iolani JWC Level A team members make yakisoba with local high school students in Nagaoka.

explored Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Osaka, and Nara. Iolani’s Level A winners were hosted by the Executive Committee for Developing a Bridge of Friendship between the U.S. and Japan (ECDBFUSJ) in Nagaoka city, Niigata Prefecture.

They ventured to the Isoroku Yamamoto Memorial Hall and Museum and partook in various cultural activities with local high school students from Nagaoka, while Level B winners remained in Tokyo and were hosted by the America-Japan Society of Tama Tokyo (AJSTT). They explored the Edo-Tokyo Museum and Japan’s famous hot springs at Oedo Onsen Monogatari. Students got a glimpse of Japan’s history both through an authentically



JWC Iolani teams at Temple University Japan.

Japanese perspective and by experiencing the longstanding traditions that make Japanese culture so unique. On the following day, the students were hosted by the staff at Temple University Japan (TUJ) in Tokyo, where they were given a chance to tour a Japanese college campus, observe a *shamisen* (a three-stringed Japanese guitar) performance, and participate in *suikawari* (splitting watermelon with a wooden stick while blindfolded). This visit was particularly enlightening to Naomi Natori, who wrote, “The Temple University visitation was very enjoyable and it made me question where I want to go to college. Before the visit, I was very against studying abroad, but after the visit I have an open mind to foreign options.”

JWC King Kekaulike High School Level A winners Charlotte Bridge, Devynn Leigh Kochi, Maya Ooki, and advisor Jan Matsushita were next to leave for Japan, departing July 2 and remaining there until July 14. The team began their trip in Osaka and Kyoto and after a busy weekend of sightseeing, headed to Ehime Prefecture to be hosted by the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC). The team members separated for a one-night homestay with local students from

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King Kekaulike High School Level A team poses with host students in Ehime.

While in Ehime, JWC teammates learned about the historic tragedy that brought Ehime and Hawaii together and how these two distinct regions have since moved forward, forging intimate ties and a mutual respect for one another, as attested by the warm welcomes and smiles that greeted King Kekaulike High School team members. Within two short days, JWC team members grew close to their host sisters and brothers, tasting home-cooked Japanese food and observing firsthand a day in the life of a Japanese student. Charlotte Bridge remembers the invaluable moments she and her host sister Yuri shared: “I loved the cultural feeling of Ehime, and just walking the streets at night with my [host family] was super nice. I spent an hour sitting in the footbaths and talking with [Yuri], and that was an experience that I feel I’ll remember Ehime by.”

From July 8-21, JWC Kalani High School Level B team winners Kira-Ann Hayashi, Janelle Morimoto, Rebecca Yamashiro, and advisor Robynne Klein finally got their chance to travel to Japan. The Kalani team began their trip in the northernmost region of Hokkaido and then rode the bullet train south to Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Fukuoka, and Osaka. During their time in Hokkaido, Kalani team

Matsuyama Higashi High School. Devynn Leigh Kochi, much like her other teammates, was nervous to meet her host family at first but later reflected upon the experience as her “favorite event of the trip.”

members were hosted by the America-Japan Society of Hokkaido (AJSH) and also given a homestay experience for two nights in Hokkaido’s capital city, Sapporo. Escorted by their host families, students ventured to the small harbor city of Otaru, observing remnants of older times when the city was once a bustling trading port. Team member Kira-Ann Hayashi “got a chance to view a bit of that history when [she]... saw all of the old glass fishing buoys piled up along the shoreline,” a sight largely absent from commercial tourist webpages and Japanese textbooks. Rebecca Yamashiro reflects upon visiting Hokkaido as “one of the best stops on [her] trip and probably [her] new favorite place in Japan.”

JASH would like to thank our contacts at ECDBFUSJ, AJSTT, TUJ, EPIC, and AJSH for their warm hospitality and aloha towards our JWC teams. Kalani senior Kira-Ann Hayashi summarized the experience for all participants, as it helped

her realize future goals and further desire to study Japanese: “I never imagined that this trip would help me in this way... This is an unexpected result, but... I think this is what the Japan Wizards



JWC Kalani Level B team members and their host families in Hokkaido.

Competition is all about. It helps foster these interests in the Japan-United States relationship and inspires people to continue to study. I cannot thank JASH and the other sponsors of the Japan Wizards Competition enough for granting us this trip and helping give me motivation for the future.”

## Japan-in-a-Suitcase Visits Wailuku Elementary on the Island of Maui

On September 5, 2014, students at Wailuku Elementary were treated to a special presentation of the Japan in a Suitcase (JIAS) program thanks in large part to a grant given by the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation. Japan-America Society of Hawaii (JASH) staff members Elizabeth Barrera and Kathryn Murata along with JIAS volunteers Becky Ebisu and Geri Cheng spent the day on Maui sharing JIAS I and II with the first and second graders in the school. Together, the four of them gave a total of twelve JIAS presentations to nearly 250 students.

Wailuku Elementary, with its stately buildings con-

structed from stones found in Iao Valley, was established in 1904 and currently services over 1,000 students in grades K – 6. The interest level of the students was high and children were excited to see the presenters on campus and in their classrooms sharing items about Japan and Japanese school life. The first graders especially liked seeing various Japanese school items and comparing and contrasting the differences between school life in Hawaii and in Japan. For the second graders, the program tied into school curriculum nicely, as students will visit the Alexander and Baldwin Sugar Museum this school year to learn about Japanese im-

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migrants who came to Hawaii to work on the plantations.

All students seemed to grasp the basic concept of different perspectives, having been shown various items and poster boards while discovering more about Japanese school life: student schedules, writing system, *randoseru* (backpack), *zokin* (cleaning cloth), *uwabaki* (indoor shoes), textbooks, and a bento box; and Community life: language, money, festivals, clothing, the game Jan Ken Po (JIAS II), and the Japanese version of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star (JIAS I). They were encouraged to spot differences in the way Japanese children do things and the way they do things and were reminded that different does not equal wrong.


JIAS is a free program offered to elementary schools in Hawaii. It is one of five JASH educational programs aimed at teaching the concept of different perspectives and is aligned with the Hawaii Department of Education Content Standards for Social Studies and World Languages. The major goal of



JASH staff Kathryn Murata and Liz Barrera show the Japanese world map to 2nd graders to help them learn where Japan, Hawaii and the U.S. are located.

JIAS is to nurture students' sense of inquisitiveness and help them to look at objects and issues from different viewpoints. This is accomplished through a hands-on demonstration of items used by Japanese school children in the classroom. JASH believes teaching these concepts at an early age will make them more open-minded to new ideas and people of other cultures. The secondary purpose of JIAS is to teach children about Japan's unique culture and to appreciate Hawaii's special relationships with Japan. The young students at Wailuku Elementary now understand this rich cultural relationship

first hand. JASH wishes to extend a special thanks to Vice Principal Noe Castro who helped us arrange this visit.

If you know of a school on a neighbor island that would benefit and welcome the JIAS program in Spring 2015, please contact JIAS Program Coordinator Elizabeth Barrera at [ebarrera@jashawaii.org](mailto:ebarrera@jashawaii.org). 

## Junior Ambassadors travel to the Fukuoka Asian-Pacific Children's Convention

After six-months of attending workshops to prepare for their trip, Hawaii's six Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) Junior Ambassadors, (Kala Handa, Diesel Kawelo, Andrew-Lee Smith, Chelley Endo, Sunny Monaco and Misa Muranaka) along with Peace Ambassador Jae-Sun Brown and chaperone Dori Nishijo-Kim departed for Fukuoka on July 9, 2014. They spent two weeks there taking part in the 26th APCC, which was held from July 10 - 23, 2014.

Hosted by the Fukuoka government, the APCC promotes international relationships between children so that they will become adults with a strong social responsibility for the world. In its 26th year, the APCC has hosted over 10,000 Junior Ambassadors with nearly 6,340 host families in Fukuoka. This year, the Hawaii delegates spent the first five days at an exchange camp with 230 children from 40 countries and cities throughout the Asia-Pacific region. They were fortunate to have roommates from New Caledonia, Dalian (China) and Japan, so communicating through hand gestures and games were a fun way to get to know each other.

Following the exchange camp at Marine House Camp, the delegates all went home with their Japanese host families in the city of Asakura where they stayed for the next eight nights. While with their host families, among other things,

the children had a chance to attend school with their host siblings, visit a Japanese onsen, visit the Dazaifu Temple, take part in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, eat lots of Japanese food, meet the Mayor of Asakura, and perform at the Asakura city festival. While the APCC delegates were busy with their activities, Hawaii's Peace Ambassador Jae Sun Brown shared community service stories and experiences of the Bridge Club Hawaii, an alumni organization of former APCC delegates with the 29 other Peace Ambassadors in attendance at the APCC.

On July 21, the 230 delegates again reunited for the APCC “We Are the Bridge” cultural exchange festival held at the JR Hakata Station in Fukuoka City. There, the



The APCC delegates at Marine House Camp.

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## Annual Dinner Sponsor Recognition

(September 25, 2014)

### Event Sponsor



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### VIP Reception Sponsor



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Mr. & Mrs. Ray & Shirley Miyamoto  
Mr. & Mrs. Joichi & Yoko Saito  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Roberta Sullivan  
Dr. Stephen Tenby



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Hawaii delegates performed two oli (chants) and danced a hula to the song Waikiki Hula, which they had learned from their chaperone, Makua Dori Kim, a Hawaiian studies teacher at Aina Haina Elementary. The students returned to Honolulu on July 23, excited to share what they had done on their trip. Delegates and parents met again at the JASH office on August 2 to discuss with each other their experiences. JASH would like to thank all of the families and friends who helped to prepare the delegation for their trip.

JASH has been associated with APCC for 11 years, sending Hawaii's 11-year olds to this global youth camp to expand their view of the world, create new friendships, and inspire them to better themselves and their community. JASH continues to promote this relationship by involving APCC

alumni in programs and activities through the Bridge Club Hawaii. If you know of anyone interested in taking part in the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in 2015, the application will be available on-line at <http://www.jashawaii.org/edu2.asp> after December 1, 2014. The deadline to submit the application to the JASH office will be January 23, 2015. Applicants for the 27th APCC will need to be born between September 1, 2003 and August 31, 2004 in order to apply. Further information on Bridge Club Hawaii can be found on its Facebook website at <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeClubHI>.

On the morning of August 20, 2014, JASH President Ed Hawkins and Peace Ambassador Jae-Sun Brown shared their experiences about the 2014 APCC on KITV 4. Please click [here](#) to see the video clip. 

## Tomodachi Let's Talk Presents: Magyars in Hawaii


The annual Tomodachi Let's Talk Story event was held on August 14, 2014 with special guest speakers Liz Moore and Ilona Penzes. JASH members gathered in the private room at Tokoname Restaurant in Manoa Marketplace and after a Japanese-style lunch, munched on their Hungarian-style dessert called *ratesh* while listening to our speakers on an unusual subject for locals: Magyars in Hawaii.

Liz Moore, a Hungarian local, began by painting a picture of the ancient history of Magyars, or native Hungarians. This term comes from an Old Hungarian word, *mogyer*, which may refer to the most prominent Hungarian tribe of a thousand years ago, called Megyer. These ancient peoples of Hunnic decent most likely originated from central Asia, and slowly changed to European lineage as they moved west over the super continent, eventually becoming the Kingdom of Hungary and converting to Christianity. The history-telling brought listeners right up to 1918 – 1920, when the Kingdom of Hungary was reduced to less than a third of its original size in The Treaty of Trianon, a peace agreement after World War I.

Many Hungarians then became minorities in several different nations. Because her father had a prominent political background in Hungary, Liz and her family escaped the Soviet Union conquest by moving to Austria. She told listeners that although she was very young and doesn't remember the escape, she does remember hearing bombs dropped while on the trains with her family.

Ilona Penzes was born and raised in Hungary during the communist regime. Her stories were told with great humor and brought up lifestyles and ways of thinking that are vastly different from the average childhood in the U.S.; her father was a part of 1% of the population allowed to own a private practice, and Ilona grew up in relative wealth as a result. Learning Russian was mandatory learning English was forbidden. Evening TV programs her family was exposed to were filled with propaganda and had very little information of the outside world. But that did not stop Ilona from learning about foreign cultures.

Ilona spoke of how she would stay up late to watch Kurosawa movies, and became fascinated with this culture that was alien to her. Her prowess with the Russian language also gave her the rare opportunity to visit Russia when she won the National Russian language competition, realizing for the first time that even though Russia was supposedly the wealthiest country in the world, the country had little to no food available for its citizens to buy. Conditions like these added up to her eventual emigration to America with her husband, where she was inserted into an English as a Second Language school, and befriending a few Japanese ladies resulted in her first new word in Hawaii to be *otearai* (Japanese word for bathroom).

The combined stories of Liz Moore and Ilona Penzes reminded our members of how diverse and unique our culture is here, and how we can love and learn from the assortment of knowledge available by learning just a little about foreign cultures. 



Liz Moore, Tomodachi Chair Kazuko Love and Ilona Penzes posing.



## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER

11 Tomodachi Origami Event

### DECEMBER

5-9 Nagaoka University Student Delegation Visit

3 Holiday Gala sponsored by Halekulani

11 Tomodachi Christmas Tea

### JANUARY 2015

10-16 Nagaoka Jr. High Student Delegation Visit

21 New Year's Reception

23 Speaker Series Luncheon:  
Guest Speaker Dr. Tomohito Shinoda

### MARCH 2015

TBA Tomodachi Hinamatsuri Celebration

25-31 Mission Project

### APRIL 2015

22 25th Annual Golf Tournament

## JASH Donor Recognition

*(July - September 2014)*

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

Atherton Family Foundation  
Ficoh Charitable Foundation  
McInerney Foundation  
Ms. Kazumi Sakuma

### Diplomat \$250 - \$999

Mr. Daniel Dinell  
Mr. Dennis Francis  
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Ms. Lenny Yajima

### Colleague \$1 - \$249

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Mr. Gerard Gibson  
Mr. Robert Harrison  
Ms. Kris Horton  
Mr. Robert Ichikawa  
Ms. Tabitha Mitchell  
Ms. Cheri Nakamura  
Mr. Jo Shinsho

## Membership Updates

*(July - September 2014)*

### New Corporate Members

Chigasaki City Regular

### New Members

Mr. David Asanuma	Family
Ms. Becky Ebisu	Individual
Ms. Jean Esaki	K-12 Educator
Ms. Karen Fuse	Individual
Mr. Jon Ishihara	Family
Ms. Cindy Kajiwara	Individual
Ms. Sara Katahira	Student
Ms. Noreen Kawachika	Individual
Ms. Lindsay Kosasa	Individual
Mr. Timothy Lyons	Individual
Ms. Akemi Martin	Individual
Ms. Tabitha Mitchell	Family
Ms. Kayoko Mitsuhata	Individual
Ms. Gail Mukaihata	Sustaining
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Dr. Blair Odo	Individual
Ms. Sandria Ohyama	Individual
Ms. Dina Schneider	Individual
Ms. Celina Smith	Individual
Dr. Hiroya Sugano	Individual
Ms. Kazuko Williams	Individual
Ms. Betsy Wo	Student
Ms. Susan Wo	Sustaining

### Member Upgrade

Mr. Daniel Dinell	Lifetime
Dr. Yoshiko Dykstra	Lifetime
Mr. Kevan Elias	Lifetime
Mr. Allen Uyeda	Lifetime
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