



SAKURA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
HONOLULU JAPANESE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Winter 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Aloha HJJCC Members!

It is hard to believe that it is already the end of 2018 and we will soon be in 2019. Our Board of Directors has been working hard to give our members a variety of membership events and community service opportunities including our most recent mochi pounding and community service event with the Tenri Cultural Center and the Tenrikyo Hawaii Young Men's Association. We also had a wonderful Young Business Roundtable event this fall featuring Corey Campbell of Akamai Training and Consulting. We are grateful for your continued support of our various events!

Highlighted in this newsletter is our 2018 Goodwill Tour to Japan where we strengthened our bonds with our five sister chapters and thanked our Cherry Blossom Festival sponsors. We also had the honor to meet with Princess Mako of the Imperial Family. Photos from our trip are posted on our HJJCC Facebook and Instagram pages. The trip is for HJJCC members to continue friendships with our sister chapters and experience unique aspects of the Japanese culture. It is truly a once in a lifetime experience and an opportunity for all HJJCC members. We have already started planning for next year – Kristine Wada and I are available to answer any questions and provide more information.

Looking ahead of 2019, the 67th Cherry Blossom Festival will kick off in January and culminates in our Festival Ball event on March 16th at the Sheraton Waikiki. Thank you to 67th Cherry Blossom Festival General Chair, Gina Maeda, for your hard work. Please see the article in this newsletter on upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival events. And please come out to support Gina and the Cherry Blossom Festival Steering Committee!

We are also in the process of planning for our 8th annual Nijikai event! Please mark your calendars for June 14th.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season! Thank you to the HJJCC Board of Directors for all of your hard work. To our HJJCC members, I look forward to seeing you in 2019 at our events!

Happy Holidays,
Kristin Alm Kamakahi
69th President
Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce

GOODWILL TOUR

By 2018 Goodwill Tour Participants

Kobe was our first stop on the Goodwill Tour. We arrived at Kansai Airport in Osaka and were greeted by a few members of the Kobe JCs with a personalized welcome slide on the large digital display in the terminal! We hopped on a bus and made our way to the b Kobe hotel. After checking in, we ventured out as a group to get the rail passes for the remainder of the trip. The rest of the night was free time. A group of HJJCC members, on recommendation from the Kobe JCs, went to an awesome



teppanyaki dinner at Kobe Beef Steak Moriya Lin. After an amazing dinner and a full day of traveling, we were all tired and ready for bed!

The next day, we walked over to a Chinese restaurant for a delicious lunch with a big group of Kobe JCs. From there, they took us for a quick coffee run, then on to Meriken Park to see the waterfront and sites. The giant "Be Kobe" sign was a favorite photo op! We walked a short distance to a nearby shopping area for some free time, then were chauffeured to Suma Beach for boat rides to see the port of Kobe by water. After the boat tour was the Welcome Party at Northshore Cafe, a beach and surf themed restaurant. The Welcome Party was upbeat and fun, with a DJ, ping pong, belly dancers, drinks and a buffet of food. After, the HJJCC members were taken to the Shark Bar with the current Kobe JC president and board members, followed by a delicious meal of Champon.



The following day, we ate some stylish square sushi with power infused water at a department store with the Kobe JCs to get the day started. Then, they took us to the UCC Coffee Museum where we got to learn how coffee is made and tasted the difference between two styles of UCC coffee beans. Learned there was a UCC coffee plantation in Hawaii and there was a UCC product placement in the anime Neon Genesis Evangelion! Afterwards, we went the Asics Museum to learn the athletic history of these sneakers and to make our own little finger sneaker omiyage and left with a new appreciation for sneaker manufacturing.



For the Farewell dinner, we had pupu style food and lots of drinks. We played a game of beer pong, in which the losers would have to drink. Super fun! Then, we went bowling at Round One, in which HJJCC lost against Kobe and Kristin had to wear the bowling pin suit. We ended the night with some seafood and drinks at a restaurant. So full!

The last day in Kobe, we started off with a yummy yakiniku lunch and after, made our way to the Kobe Station for our departure. But before we left, Kobe JCs surprised us with some Halloween Kobe treats and chocolates. We truly appreciated the hospitality as we waved goodbye to Kobe JCs and made our way to the next destination on the Goodwill Tour.

Kyoto was an amazing experience! It is the former Imperial capital of Japan and is rich in traditional temples & shrines, imperial palaces, and preserved architecture to capture the history of Japan. Many shops, dining, and attractions provide visitors with the opportunity to experience the Japanese culture. Most of the group had free time in Kyoto and set off to enjoy the temples/shrines or scenic attractions.

Watabe Wedding Corporation has been a key sponsor in the Cherry Blossom Festival for over 45 years. During the Goodwill Tour they also host the Cherry Blossom Court and a few Board Members. We had the opportunity to meet Kyoto Governor Takatoshi Nishiwaki and the Supervising Director of Kyoto Revitalization and International Relations, Mr. Masanori Yoshikawa from the Office of the Mayor. Part of the experience from Cherry Blossom Festival Diamond Sponsor, Watabe Wedding Corporation includes an MK Driver for a day. The group is treated to an English speaking driver and an amazing private tour of famous spots of Kyoto, allowing us to immerse ourselves in the culture and history the city has to offer. Following our tour, we topped the evening off with a beautiful Kaiseki dinner at their very popular Okakuen Restaurant. We are very grateful for the generosity and support of Watabe Wedding Corporation.

We arrived at Shin-Kurashiki station and were warmly greeted by a group of San JCs (Kurashiki, Kojima and Tamashima) on the platform, holding signs to welcome us. We hopped on a bus to a quaint restaurant overlooking a riverbed and had a nice outdoor lunch with San JC members. From there, we made a quick stop at the Dormy Inn hotel to check in and drop off our luggage, then were taken to a uniform factory to learn a little about the textile industry in the area. We even got to try on school uniforms!

Then it was on to Brazilian Park Washuzan Highland, a theme park featuring attractions like the famous SkyCycle - a pedal-powered bicycle ride at the top of a mountain that overlooks the Seto Inland Sea and Seto-Ohashi Bridge. We climbed endless flights of rainbow-painted stairs to the top of the mountain to ride a few rides and some even got to bungee jump! Then we ventured back down to the main courtyard for the Welcome Party, with food, drinks, games and Samba dancers. After that, the HJJCC members were taken to Flog for nijikai, a bar that had an indoor golf simulator game. The final stop for the night was for late-night yakiniku.

The next morning, we walked across the street of the hotel to the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter. The first stop was learning how to make the famous Kurashiki pastry Murasuzume at Kikkodo. From there, we went on a serene boat tour of Kurashiki Canal that runs through the main town area. We had free time after, where we went to a mameshiba cafe to play with the dogs. They were so cute!





In the afternoon, we went to the Bizen area, where we went to a pottery workshop and made our own bowls and plates in the Bizenyaki style. We won't be able to see it until April, but we are excitedly waiting for the pottery to come. We had a lovely buffet style farewell dinner, followed by nijikai at Cafe & Bar KAG and nabe ramen at Jinbo.

We had the chance to tour Okayama Castle and have a final lunch at a Hawaiian style restaurant called Lilikoi Cafe with the San JC members before leaving for our next destination.



During our brief visit to Hiroshima we had an opportunity to contribute a donation of a thousand cranes to the Children's Peace Monument in honor of Sadako Sasaki on behalf of the HJJCC membership. We also visited the Hiroshima Peace Park which was a somber reminder of the devastation the city endured 73 years ago. The resilience of community to rebuild is truly inspiring. We couldn't visit Hiroshima without indulging in the Hiroshima style okonomiyaki and oysters, two of the region's specialties. It was only for a day, but we enjoyed exploring the city and taking in the beautiful sights.

On our first Day in Odawara, we were warmly greeted by the Odawara JCs (comprised of Odawara, Yugawara, and Hakone) and were treated to a tour of the Kanagawa Asahi Beer brewery where we learned about the brewing process and got to try a variety of the malty Asahi beer. That evening, we were hosted to a wonderful steak and seafood dinner in the resort town of Hakone where we finished our meal with a sushi making class and got to make our own nigiri sushi.

On our second day visiting the Odawara JCs, we rode around Hakone in an amphibious Ninja Bus and splashed into Lake Ashinoko for some great views of shrines and a peak at Mount Fuji. For lunch, we visited Yugawara, a small hill town near the ocean which is famous for seafood and onsen ryokans. We were treated to a seafood and tempura lunch with Yugawara Mayor Tomita who shared the history and their welcome for visitors to the town. We then visited the Yugawara Art Museum where we viewed regional art, finishing with coffee in the garden and enjoying a naturally-heated foot bath (ashiyu).

That evening, we had a wonderful farewell party in a tatami room in Odawara where we enjoyed shabu shabu, a local hula performance, and the Cherry Blossom Court performed an awesome hula dance. Of note, HJJCC recaptured the stocking tug of war title!

Our short visit was capped off with a tour by our hosts of the Historic Odawara Castle where we dressed as geisha, samurai, and even a pink ninja! Before our hosts escorted us back to Odawara Station, we were treated to another wonderful meal, this time a 9-variety soba lunch! A truly memorable experience and we are so indebted to our gracious hosts and friends in Odawara!

For the second consecutive year, we ended our Goodwill Tour in Tokyo. Our HJJCC President, CBF General Chair and International Relations Vice President, along with our 66th CBF Court made a few sponsor and official visits. In this city we had some free time where many of us branched off on our own to explore some of the many popular shopping and sightseeing places in Tokyo.

On our last night on the trip, we as a group enjoyed one final dinner together to celebrate and reminisce the two weeks we experienced in Japan. We felt so lucky and grateful for all the experiences and opportunities we had on our Goodwill Tour and highly encourage our membership to attend if they are interested in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.





MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

By: Chris Anjo, VP of Membership Development

On September 20, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC) and the HJJCC held a joint networking mixer, Back to the '80s at the Plaza Club. With an emphasis on *fun*, members and guests from the two Chambers dressed to impress in '80s attire and costumes, and enjoyed '80s-themed networking games, a photobooth, and even a DJ!



HJJCC members got into the holiday spirit with our Holiday Mixer and Toy Drive on December 11 at Nocturna Lounge. Fellowship and networking were accompanied by Christmas cookie decorating, Christmas-themed origami making, and video game and karaoke. Members showed their generosity by donating over 60 toys to the Toys-for-Tots Hawaii!

Membership Development is looking forward to a fun and exciting 2019, where we plan to feature more of our Japanese culture in our member events!



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

By: Lara Karamatsu, VP of Community Development

It's been a busy quarter with a mix of brand new community service events and ones we enjoy supporting annually. We're always happy to have willing HJJCC members supporting these great causes. The new projects we helped with recently:

- Mission Houses Gala Huaka'i, 9/15/18 - silent auction, live auction, and auction closeout
- Poke Festival, 9/29/18 - assisting various vendor booths by taking tickets or handing out food
- Hawaii Food & Wine Festival, Keiki in the Kitchen, 10/28/18 - demonstrating fitness challenge exercises (jump rope, hula hoop, squats, picking pineapples, etc.) for the kids to compete alongside celebrity chefs
- American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, 11/17/18 - helping participants get pinked out for the walk with all things pink: tattoos, stickers, body paint, hairspray, noise makers, and ribbons.



We also continued to support:

- Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce Chopsticks and Wine, 10/11/18 - checking in VIP guests, helping with VIP welcome drinks and monitoring lines
- Kahala Mall Halloween Costume Contest, 10/27/18 - lining contestants up according to the categories and guiding contestants on and off the stage
- Honolulu Marathon, 12/9/18 - directing runners from the bus drop off spot to the start line zones and picking up trash along the route

We rounded up this busy quarter with our first ever mochi pounding/community service event on Sunday, December 16. Twenty HJJCC members started the afternoon in the Tenrikyo Cultural Center's Japanese Garden, with a short lesson by the Tenrikyo group about *hinokishin*, or a selfless task with pure heart. The group put what they learned into action by raking leaves and pulling weeds to help restore the garden. After getting cleaned up, the Tenrikyo group continued to educate the group as they explained and demonstrated the *mochi-tsuki* (or pounding the mochi) process. Our HJJCC members took turns mashing and then beating the rice with the *kine* (wooden hammer). Once the rice was smooth and in ready mochi form, other members helped shape and fill the mochi pieces with *azuki*. It was a wonderful cultural experience had by all, and we are very grateful to the Tenrikyo group for providing this opportunity to our members.



YOUNG BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

By Kara Iwasaki, Young Business Roundtable Chairperson



The Young Business Roundtable (YBR) was created to form a strong interactive and influential community among young professionals in Honolulu, and to assist members in excelling in their respective professions and careers. The YBR aims to provide and share opportunities for young professionals to network, to participate in and affect business-related issues, and to gain professional development experiences.



To kick off the 2018-19 year, our first Young Business Roundtable session featured Corey Campbell, CEO and founder of Akamai Training & Consulting. As an Executive Performance Coach, Corey shared with HJJCC members tips on *Mastering Your Personal Brand*. We all communicate a message about ourselves in everything we do -- whether or not we realize it -- which is why understanding your personal brand is impactful to all relationships.

The session guided attendees through the elements of emotional intelligence: self-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, and relationship management. We reflected on individual core values and purpose in order to comprehensively understand our personal motivations, then discussed communication and likeability factors that build trust. Corey's passion and energy in what he does was truly an inspiration to developing an authentic personal brand!



67TH CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

By Gina Maeda, 67th Cherry Blossom Festival General Chair

For the last few months, eleven Queen contestants have been attending a variety of cultural and self-development classes – ranging from ikebana to aikido to public speaking. As one of the longest continuously running ethnic festivals in Hawaii, the Cherry Blossom Festival offers young Japanese-American women a unique opportunity to learn more about themselves and their heritage.

All of their hard work leads up to Festival Ball night, where the 67th Cherry Blossom Festival Queen and Court will be selected. This year's theme of 前進 “Zenshin” (progress or moving forward) is a nod to all the years that came before us and made it possible for us to carry on these traditions, and for those who will come after us. It also acknowledges that the Festival would not be able to continue without the combined efforts of Steering Committee members, whose ideas and innovations keep our work relevant and fresh.

Below is a list of our upcoming events! We hope to see you there! Please visit cbfhawaii.com for more information.

<p>Opening Ceremonies Sunday January 13, 10:30 am JCCH Ohana Festival, Teruya Courtyard</p> <p>Kahala Mall Public Appearance Saturday January 19, 12 noon</p> <p>Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center Public Appearance Saturday January 26, 12 noon</p> <p>UH vs. Stanford Men's Volleyball Community Engagement Friday February 1, halftime (Game starts at 7 pm)</p> <p>Windward Mall Public Appearance Saturday February 2, 12 noon</p>	<p>Ala Moana Centerstage Public Appearance Sunday February 10, 3 pm</p> <p>Golf Tournament Friday February 22, 11 am registration/ 12 noon start Pearl Country Club</p> <p>Contestant Reception Saturday February 23, 6:30 pm Artistry</p> <p>Festival Ball & Silent Auction Saturday March 16, 5 pm Sheraton Waikiki</p>
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SAVE THE DATE!



二次会

Purchase tickets online at:
WWW.HJJCC.COM/NIJIKAI

8TH ANNUAL Nijikai

POMAIKA'I BALLROOMS

Enjoy a night filled with entertainment, food samples
from popular local eateries and hosted beverages.

JUNE
14
2019
6-9 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

November

Steven Doo
Eric Imada
Julie Kiwada
Traci-Ann Miwa
Mika Morigawara
Justin Muraki
James Odan
Crysta Okabe
Jason Sugibayashi
Kaleen Terayama
Bryson Watabu

December

Kevin Ching
Travis Ito
Mariko Iwasaki

Kara Iwasaki

Eryn Kawamoto
Rachel Kaya
Jolyne Kurihara
Chris Kwock
Daniel Lam
Danielle Lum
Gina Maeda-Caluya
Scott Matsuda
Matt Minaai
Joy Nakahara
Chris Nakamura
Chelsea Okamoto
Mark Saiki
Curt Ueda
Kristen Yamamoto
Darren Yoshioka

January

Chris Anjo
Matthew Hirokane
Hayato Honda
Kristyn Katayama
Kari Kiyota
Joel Kutaka
Jordie Ocenar
Laurie Tomooka
Korey Tsubota

February

Trisha Asao
Christopher Bueno
Claire Fukuoka
Koichi Hozumi
Carly Ishihara

Renni Iwasa
Terrence Kawano
Ross Kohara
Daisuke Kume
Ryan Lam
Garrett Lau
Calvin Matsushima
Ryan Miyashita
Cindy Nakagawa
Micolas Ogawa
Rennie Otake
Andrew Pang
Daniel Tanigawa
Lea Yamaguchi

Want to get involved?

Send an email to info@hjjcc.com to get started!