

Sakura



Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce



A Message From the 58th HJCC President

Aloha Friends!

It has been an exciting, eventful and rewarding first five months serving as your 58th HJCC President. The highlight for me personally during this period was getting married to Cathy Cruz on July 29th. The highlight professionally during this time was the two-week Goodwill Tour to Japan with some fellow HJCC members, the 55th Cherry Blossom Queen & Court and their parents.

If you have never experienced the hospitality that we receive during the Goodwill Tour, I encourage you to save your vacation time and money over the next year to join us in 2008. I promise you that you will receive the greatest return on any investment you have ever made.

As you know, we are rapidly approaching that very festive time of year filled with many parties, fun events, and fellowship. Yes, it is almost Cherry Blossom Festival season.

With the year nearly halfway through as serving as your President, it is now time for all of us to team together to make the 56th Cherry Blossom Festival a successful and memorable 3-month long event. With David Kaneko as the Chairperson of the 56th annual Festival along with strong leaders making up this year's Steering Committee, I have no doubt that as long as all of us give them our support, that we can make this year's event the greatest in its history.

I look forward to seeing you at many of the upcoming chapter and Cherry Blossom Festival events. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

With warm aloha,

Justin George

58th HJCC President

Inside this issue:

58th HJCC President	1
2007-Goodwill Tour to Japan	2-3
Cherry Blossom Festival	4
Young Business Roundtable	
Community Development	5
Birthday Wishes	6
Upcoming Chapter Events	
Chapter Snapshots	7-8
The Jaycee Creed	9
About The Sakura	

2007-Goodwill Tour to Japan

The 2007 HJJCC Goodwill Tour to Japan spanned a two-week period from September 29 to October 14. The tour, an annual event, serves two important purposes. The first is to personally thank those companies that provide sponsorship for Cherry Blossom Festival. The other is to continue to build and maintain a strong bond with our sister Junior Chamber chapters in Odawara, Kurashiki-Kojima-Tamashima and Kobe.

This year's group consisted of an "official" party, including our Chairman of the Board, President, Executive Vice President, International Relations Vice President, Queen's Advisor, CBF General Co-Chair, and the Queen and Court. The other half of the group was the "unofficial" party, consisting of HJJCC members and Court parents. The entire group consisted of 20 people.



In Tokyo and Kyoto, the official party took care of business by visiting Festival sponsors including JTB Corporation, Japan Airlines, Shiseido, Fujiyasu Kimono, and also the Japan Cherry Blossom Association, thanking them for their sponsorship of our Festival. While the "official" party was making these important visits, the unofficial party was free to sightsee, eat authentic Japanese food, and go shopping.

Next on the itinerary was our first of three sister chapter visits with the Odawara Junior Chamber. We ate tofu katsudon and soba lunches at restaurants owned by JC members, rode a switch back train and the Hakone Ropeway, ate kuro tamago (black egg), made kamaboko at a factory owned by a JC member, stayed at a ryokan (traditional Japanese inn), ate a traditional kaiseki dinner, and participated in an authentic tea ceremony.

In Hiroshima, we visited the Peace Memorial Museum and the Atomic Bomb Dome. We also registered our paper cranes, in memory of Sadako Sasaki, who folded a thousand cranes in hopes of a cure from leukemia from the intense radiation. It was a sobering visit, filled with mixed emotions and powerful reminders of the destruction and loss of life on August 6, 1945, including a human shadow on stone steps and wax figures depicting burned survivors.



2007-Goodwill Tour to Japan (continued)

Our next stop was our second sister chapter visit with the Junior Chambers of Kurashiki, Kojima, and Tamashima, collectively known as the San JC's. We ate Chinese food at a restaurant owned by a JC member and made murasuzume at a famous shop owned by a former JC member who was instrumental in starting the sister chapter relations with the HJJCC 22 years ago. We also enjoyed a fresh seafood delicacy lunch.

In Kyoto, Watabe Wedding, a Festival sponsor, hosted the "official" party. Mr. Watabe himself accompanied the group to meet with the Kyoto prefectural and city officials. The "unofficial" party was free to sight-see. By coincidence the official and unofficial parties crossed paths at Kinkakuji (Golden Pavilion).

Kobe was our third and final sister chapter visit. We visited Kiku Masamune, a sake brewery, Kobe's Chinatown, and the Great Hanshin-Awaya Earthquake museum, which gives visitors a perspective of the massive Kobe earthquake in January 1995.

Osaka was the final stop on the two-week tour, with free time for everyone to do last minute shopping or sightseeing and eat good authentic Japanese food one more time.

Many mahalos to International Relations VP Allen King who took on the task of planning this year's trip down to the smallest details, corresponding with Festival sponsors, hotels, and sister chapters. Mahalo also to the official party for an outstanding job on the sponsor visits.



The Cherry Blossom Festival

The Cherry Blossom Festival is the HJJCC's signature event, and is one of the most recognizable cultural events in Hawaii. We are preparing for the 56th Cherry Blossom Festival, which will include these events listed below.

If you would like to be involved with this wonderful event, please contact Dave Kaneko at cbfha-waii@hotmail.com. We would love your help, which can be as simple as set-up / clean-up at an event, or more involved coordination of the golf tournament. This is a perfect opportunity to work with fellow HJJCC members, develop project management skills, and make a positive contribution to the community.

Schedule of Events 2008

Saturday, Jan 26 - Opening Ceremonies, Dole Cannery Ballrooms

Saturday, Feb 2 - Appearance, Kahala Mall

Saturday, Feb 9 - Appearance, Windward Mall

Saturday, Feb 16 - Appearance, Pearlridge Center

Saturday, Feb 23 - Appearance, Ala Moana Center

Saturday, Mar 1 - Heritage Fair, Ward Warehouse

Sunday, Mar 2 - Contestant Reception

Saturday, Mar 8 - Fashion Show, Hawaii State Art Museum

Friday, Mar 21 - Festival Ball, Sheraton Waikiki



Young Business Roundtable

The Young Business Roundtable (YBR) was established in 1997 as a committee of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce. The 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. YBR activities aim to provide young professionals with the opportunity to develop both professionally and personally.

Speaker: Paul H. Brewbaker, Ph.D
Senior Vice President and Chief Economist
Bank of Hawaii

Date: January 24, 2008

Time: 5:30pm-8pm

Place: Dave & Busters Showroom

Cost: \$20 member or \$25/guests

More info to follow. There will be a Q & A session after the presentation so have your questions ready!

Getting Out and Volunteering in the Community

Are you interested in helping out in the community? Then come out and join your fellow members at one of our community service events! It is a rewarding experience that benefits YOU, HJJCC and the lives in the community we touch. Contact our VP of Community Development, Cheryl Shintani at HJJCC@hotmail.com with a subject heading "Community Development" for upcoming events and be sure to check your emails weekly for any new updates . Here are just a few community events HJJCC members volunteered at in the past couple of months.

Easter Seals 8th Annual Gingerbread

12/09/2007



Kahala Mall Keiki Halloween Costume Contest

10/30/2007



If you would like to share a special announcement with your fellow HJJCC members, please email us, at HJJCC@hotmail.com with a subject heading "Sakura Announcements" and we will try our best to announce it in our next Sakura newsletter.

Birthday Wishes to Our Fellow Members

November

Daniel Chen
 Allen King
 Geraldine Jordan
 Rodney Batara
 Justin George
 Scott Yoshihara
 Cheryl Shintani

Wishing our members a Happy Birthday, please wish them a Happy Birthday when you see them at one of our events.

December

Glen Nomura
 Yosuke Tanio
 Allison Nagato
 Mami Goto
 Dyan Mitsuyama
 Kara Iwasaki
 Jennifer Shibuya
 Rattana Soubandith
 Brandon Mitsuda

January

Dee Okahara
 Kristl Ito
 Lareina Koyama
 Travis Umemoto

February

Blaine Kauwe
 Tianne Yamashita
 Andrea Chan
 Jeanelle Kikawa
 Sidney Komatsu
 Patty Low
 Liane Oyama
 Frank Wirt
 Cory Mitsui
 Craig Nishio
 Kevin Matsuura

Upcoming Chapter Events and Activities

Here is a list of what is coming up for members with additional details on events coming to you later in our weekly emails.

Saturday, January 5, 2008 *Shinnen Enkai - Annual New Year's Banquet* at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Manoa Grand Ballroom

Sunday, January 13, 2008 *Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii New Year's Ohana Festival 2008* at the Japanese Culture Center of Hawaii

Thursday, January 24, 2008 *Young Business Roundtable with Speaker: Paul H. Brewbaker, Ph.D* at Dave and Busters

For more information on these events please call, 949-2255 or email us at HJJCC@hotmail.com

Chapter Snapshots

**Kahala Mall Costume Contest
10/30/2007**



**Contestant Orientation for CBF
09/22/2007**



**Easter Seals 8th Annual Gingerbread
12/09/2007**



Wine, Dine and Shop 11/14/2007



Chapter Snapshots (continued)

HJCC Holiday Mixer 11/28/2007





**Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber
of Commerce**

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The Jaycee Creed

We believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than of men;

That the earth's greatest treasure lies in human personality;

And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

About the Sakura

The Sakura is a quarterly publication of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce. For information on our activities or to become a member, please contact us via one of the ways above. We are always looking for new members to participate in our community service projects while having fun at the same time.
