



SAKURA



THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HONOLULU JAPANESE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fall 2010

Issue 3

President's Message



Aloha Members,

First and foremost please join me in congratulating Kris Miyamoto and her Board for guiding us through the challenging economy in 2009. Special thanks to Chairman of the Board David Kaneko for his guidance throughout the year as well. I would also like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve as your President and I hope to live up to your expectations.

As we begin our 61st year, I would like to remind everyone on our mission, which is "to provide our members with opportunities to strengthen leadership and personal development skills through community service and networking events while perpetuating Japanese relations and culture." Understanding our vision is only half of the battle. The other half is to ensure that we are providing the activities and programs that provide value to our members.

This is where we need the assistance of you, our members. All of you have become members of the HJJCC for your own individual reasons and we ask you to come forward to let us know what we can do to address your expectations of the HJJCC. We have a full year planned that will involve many community service events, opportunities to meet with and learn from Executive Managers of companies, events to learn about the Japanese culture and last but not least, leadership opportunities on committees for our signature event, the Cherry Blossom Festival. However, we want to hear from you to make sure that we are addressing your needs.

As the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce Chairman Wayne Kato said, "it's all about relationships" and I couldn't agree more. In addition to connecting with our members, we will be focusing on strengthening the relationships that we have with other organizations to provide added value for our members. With that being said, I encourage all of you to come out to our events and make new connections.

Lastly by the time you receive this newsletter, I will be back from attending our annual Goodwill Tour to Japan. The Goodwill Tour is the trip where HJJCC members and the current Queen and Court (along with some of their parents if room permits) travel to Japan to thank our Corporate Sponsors and strengthen relationships with our sister Jaycee organizations and we traditionally travel during the first two weeks of October. I would highly recommend for you to consider going on this trip next year so plan ahead! It is truly an amazing eye-opening experience that will cause you to fall in love with the culture and Japan itself. I'll be sure to share stories and photos in the next newsletter.

Thank you again for your support in helping me to continue our legacy and create something that we can be proud of.

Mahalo,

Darren Ota
61st President

58th Cherry Blossom Festival Court Update Summer 2010

We can't believe almost half a year has passed since we were crowned the 58th Cherry Blossom Festival Court!

We have really kept busy through the past few months and are honored to represent the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Japanese-American Community in Hawaii through our events throughout our state and in the Continental U.S.



Here's a little of what we've been up to since last time:

In May, we worked with Mrs. Yajima and the Japanese Women's Society at the Annual Adopt-A Mom Event. We had a wonderful day spending time with the Kuakini Residents and performing the Cherry Blossom special Sakura Daiko piece for them. From May 27th to the 31st, the court members traveled to Seattle with the Los Angeles and San Francisco Court members to visit the beautiful city and support the Greater Seattle Japanese Community Queen Scholarship Pro-

gram.

In June, we participated in Kulia I Kanu'u at Iolani Palace, an event to celebrate the 125th year anniversary of Japanese immigration to Hawaii and honor the 442nd regimental combat team. Queen's Advisor Jon Murai also got in the spirit by dressing up as an actual soldier from



that era. Check out the pic, he looks very rugged! The next day, we volunteered at the Hawaii Kai Dog Walk, and were overjoyed to see so many familiar faces and friends of the Cherry Blossom Festival with their four-legged friends. In the middle of the month, we met the Odawara Jaycees at the Welcome and Aloha parties. They are so much fun, and we can't wait to visit with them in October.

With Obon season in full force, we appeared at the Higashi Hongwanji and Haleiwa Shingon Bon Dances on July 3rd and 17th. We had a blast dancing and were so excited to see prior court members there as well dressed in their Yukata. Thanks to Terri Inefuku at Hawaii News Now, Marissa appeared on the morning news to promote the 59th Queen's Contestant Search.

August was a very busy month for our Court. On August 3rd, we hosted a Meet & Greet at Fashionista's Market to answer any questions by prospective contestants. Marissa judged a children's decorating contest at Mangoes at the Moana, organized by 58th Cherry Blossom Festival Contestant, Jonelle Shintaku. The next day, the court emceed the annual Bowl for Kids Fundraiser at Aiea Bowl to raise funds for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Honolulu. From August 12th - 17th, members of the court, their families and the hospitality committee traveled to Los Angeles for Nisei Week. We had an amazing time visit-



ing the Japanese American Museum, watching the Nisei Week Coronation Ball, participating in the Nisei Week parade and spending one entire day in Disneyland! Back at home, Kimberlee Young represented the court at the American Heart Association's Heart Walk on August 14th. Upon our return to Hawaii, we volunteered at Na Mea O Makamae, a fundraiser for the Waikiki Community Center with other HJJCC members. The next morning, the court and friends went to work at Maunalua Bay to help clear the bay of invasive seaweed. In September, we also had many events. On September

11th, we were at the Children's Tent at the Rice Festival at Aloha Tower. September 12th, we were at the Maunalani Nursing Home for Grandparent's Day and at the Daijingu Autumn Festival. On September 18th, the court traveled to Hilo to make appearances at Hale Anuenue Nursing Home, Big Island Candies and the annual Hilo County Fair. On September 19th, members of the court appeared at Nenchosha Ian Engai Taikai, an event by the United Japanese Association of Hawaii.

We are really looking forward to our trip to Japan from October 2nd to 17th. Upon return to Hawaii, Marissa is presenting a seminar on the Cherry Blossom Festival Experience at Haleiwa Shingon's annual seminar on October 24th. The Court will also be assisting with the Kahala Mall Costume Contest on October 28th.

We hope to see your smiling faces at these events if you are able to attend!

Thank you so much to all of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce and all of the members for supporting our Court through our activities this year. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of the community to make this experience even more memorable. Stay tuned for the next newsletter with highlights from our trip to Japan and other court adventures!

Love, Marissa, AJ, Kim, Cori, Kimberlee & Andie



2010-2011 Board of Directors

On Saturday July 24, 2010, our new Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors were installed for the 2010-2011 year. Our Annual Installation Banquet was held at The Honolulu Country Club this year. Stan Fichtman, President of the Hawaii Jaycees, officially had each Board Member say an oath to be sworn into office. Over 80 guests joined us this year including distinguished guests, fellow junior chamber members and supporters. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us.



Darren Ota
President & CBF General Chair



Staci Yoshihara
Executive Vice-President



Cheryl Sora
Board of Director at Large



Sydette Nekota
VP of Management Development



Stacey Fukuda
VP of Community Service



Lauren Honbo
VP of Membership Development



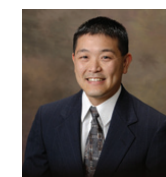
Brenda Nomura
VP of International Relations



Tiffany Mitani
Treasurer



Kristy Morinaka
Secretary



Jonathan Murai
Queen's Advisor



Nathan Gytokou
Young Business Roundtable Chair



Deron Kamisato
Historian

Community Service

In July a handful of HJJCC members along with some of the 58th Cherry Blossom Festival Court shared in Japanese culture by volunteering at the Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji bon dance. Members helped to serve food to hungry dancers and also stayed to dance themselves. The Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce also helped to support local organizations such as the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu, American

Heart Association and the Waikiki Community Center. In the month of August members participated in the Bowl for Kids Sake event raising \$600 for BBSS. The HJJCC also spent the day at Kapiolani Park helping to educate Hawaii's keiki in the Family Fun Zone at the American Heart Association's annual Heart Walk. For our last service project, the 58th Cherry Blossom Festival Court accompanied HJJCC members by volunteering at

the Na Mea Makamae o Waikiki held at the Sheraton Waikiki.



Happy Birthday!

July

Addison Caluya
Shauna Goya
Austen Ito
Hiromi Itoh
Gerald Kim
Brandon Kim
Vincent Learned
Staci Yoshihara

August

Taryn Hamamoto
Lauren Horikoshi
Jeanelle Howard
Steven Kaneko
Dawn Yonamine

September

Manabu Asaoka
Leslie Chun
Reid Higashi
Derrick Iwata
David Kaneko
Shelliann Kawamoto
Ken Koga Lincoln
Colin Touchi
Lori Yano
Douglas Young

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 earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.