



The Newsletter

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII



ハワイ島日系人協会

September 2017

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President's Message — Ivan Nakano

Wow, how time flies. We are nearly three fourths into 2017 and the Japanese Community Association has been very active.

In the month of April we hosted the Shibukawa delegation with their participation with the Merrie Monarch Festival and parade. This was a special year celebrating their 20th Anniversary of the Hawaiian Festival in Shibukawa/Ikaho.

In the month of May, 2017 we had our 4th Annual Nikkei Kigyo Recognition Banquet. This year we had the honor of recognizing Dodo Mortuary, Inc founded in 1898 and The Seaside Restaurant founded in 1921. Roland Higashi and his committee did an outstanding job.

In June, the County of Hawaii invited the JCAH to participate in a dinner reception with Sister City, Kumejima Island, Okinawa. The 30 plus delegation were here on an exchange symposium at NEHLA in Kona.

Also in June, participated in the Japanese Chamber

会長挨拶

of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii installation and fellowship activities with the delegation from Higashi-Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce.

In July, we participated in the 45th Anniversary of the Urasenke Hilo Association. Attended a Formal

Tea Ceremony at Hilo Daijingu with Grand Master Sen. There was a wonderful luncheon at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. After lunch, there was a Formal Tea Ceremony celebrating Queen Lili'uokalani and JCAH got to participate in a Matsu tree planting ceremony.

August was a very special month, Mike Miyahira and yours truly attended the Hawaiian Festival in Shibukawa/Ikaho, Japan. Also participating from Hawaii were Wil Okabe, managing director of the COH

and his wife Merle and Council Chair, Valerie Poindexter and her executive assistant, Kaci Tsuneda. Mayor Akutsu of Shibukawa City

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President Ivan Nakano was about to complete to climb the 365th step in Ikaho.

2017 Ikaho Hawaiian Festival

President Ivan Nakano and First Vice President Mike Miyahira traveled to Japan during the first week in August to participate in the 21st Annual Ikaho Hawaiian King Kalakaua Merrie Monarch Festival. We were accompanied by County Managing Director Will Okabe and his wife Merle, and Council Chair Valerie Poindexter and her aide Kaci Tsuneda.

JCAH board member Reiko Hamano was also there busy providing interpretation assistance to Kumu Keawe Lopes and her halau Ka

伊香保ハワイアンフェスティバル

La 'Onohi Mai O Ha'e'ha'e, winners of the 2017 Merrie Monarch Festival here in Hilo. Kumu Lopes and her halau put on nightly performances that featured her mother Karen Keawehawai. Karen brought the audience to its feet each evening when she sang a Hibari Misora favorite, Kawa No Nagare No Youni.

This year was especially important for two reasons. The first being that this was the 20th anniversary of the sister city

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Event Calendar

- November 18 – Bunka No Hi
- February 2, 2018 – Nikkei Kigyo Banquet

Ikaho, from Page 1

relationship between the County of Hawaii and Ikaho. Ikaho being a village that was merged into Shibukawa City. The second reason is that this was a competition year for the Ikaho festival. Every four years Ikaho holds a hula competition with the winning halau invited to perform at Hilo's Merrie Monarch festival the following year. This year's competition in Ikaho featured 14 halau competing in the Hula Kahiko category and 38 halau competing in Hula Auwana.

Many halau also attend the festival just to perform before the viewing public each day of the festival. Festival Executive Director Nobuaki Ito informed us that more than 7,000 hula dancers came to Ikaho to perform this year.

Our group stayed at the Hotel Pinon, a French themed onsen that is a sister hotel to Ryokan Matsumoto. We had our choice of a western breakfast at Pinon or a Japanese breakfast at Matsumoto. Difficult choice to make first thing in the morning.

We were greeted by Festival Chair Takahiro Omori, ED Nobuaki Ito, Shibukawa City Mayor Sadaji Akutsu, Council Chair Masaru Suda, Vice Mayor Takeo Tanaka, former Council Chair Hiroyuki Nakazawa, and others that we know from their prior

visits; Sanuemon Chigira, Akira Iijima, Tomohide Fukuda, Shigeru Morita, and Junichi Kato.

Chigira is the 18th generation owner of Chigira Jinsentei, a famous onsen in Ikaho. Fukuda is the 17th generation owner of Ryokan Fukuichi, where the halau and Reiko stayed. Morita is the owner of Kokuya Onsen.

In between festival performances, competitions and formal receptions, we were treated with a tour of the 365 stone steps of Ikaho town that ended at the Ikaho Shrine. We also rode the Ikaho Ropeway to the Uenoyama Park, then hiked down to the Ikaho Shrine. Ivan has quite a story to tell about that hike. We also visited the Mt. Haruna

Shrine which is rich in culture and history.

We were treated to Yunohana Manju, manju that is steamed using steam from the hot spring water. We ate Mizusawa Udon, another local treat. And at the farewell party, games of jan ken po and geisha performances.

We all enjoyed our visit and look forward to renewing our acquaintances next April when Omori, Ito and others return to Hilo to attend the 2018 Merrie Monarch festival here in Hilo.



2017 Ireito Memorial Service

Well attended by over one hundred people, the 2017 Ireito Memorial Service was held on August 27, Sunday, at 2 pm at the Alae Cemetery. Rev. Satoshi Tomioka of the Puna Hongwanji officiated the event. Representatives from the late Sanji Abe family, the Japanese Consulate General, Ireito Trustee, County of Hawaii, Japanese Community Association of Hawaii, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii, various Buddhist churches, Shinto shrines, and Kenjinkai's offered incense and bouquets of flowers at the Ireito Monument.

Guests from County's Sister City, Sumoto, Fukuoka Kenjinkai guests from Miyako Town, and students and instructors from the Kanto Gakuin University of Kanagawa prefecture also attended the event.



2017 Bouquets of flowers at the Ireito Monument.

The Annual Ireito Memorial Service is one of our major events to remember and thank our Japanese ancestors, the Issei immigrants, who established their legacy through hard work and sacrifice. In addition to the memorial services, short services were held at graves of two Japanese training ship cadets who lost their lives during their voyage to Hawaii in 1920's.

The committee extends its gratitude to all participating organizations, the County of Hawaii Parks and Recreation, the toban church, Puna Hongwanji, and their Fujinkai and boy scout troop 67, the Big Island Buddhist Federation, the Big Island United Junior YBA, and the event MC, Mr. Arnold Hiura.

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SAVE THE DATE!

5th ANNUAL NIKKEI KIGYO RECOGNITION BANQUET

Friday, February 2, 2018

Will honor and recognize two multi-generational companies:

Kuwaye Trucking and S. Tokunaga Store



Matsu Kuwaye started Kuwaye Taxi with a horse-and-buggy in 1912 in Honokaa after he completed his three-year contract with Honokaa Sugar. His son, Yasuo Kuwaye continued and expanded the business in 1940 with a service station in Honokaa, Kuwaye Service Station, in addition the Kuwaye brothers started Kuwaye Trucking, Kuwaye Bus Service. When the 1946 tsunami demolished the railroad system, servicing the Hamakua coast, Kuwaye Trucking expanded their services. In 1950 they purchased Hawaii Trucking Co. from Theo. H. Davies and moved the business to Hilo. Today, third generation, Wayne Kuwaye and Yasuo's son continues the legacy.



S. Tokunaga Store was established in 1920 by Sumie Tokunaga who was a young immigrant plantation worker. It is a fishing store with heart, hustle and almost a century of history on the Big Island. The tsunamis of 1946 and 1960 destroyed the store at its original Bayfront location and was relocated and rebuilt several times and is now located on Manono Street. Sumie's daughter-in-law Ethel took over the business in 1960 followed by Michael Tokunaga, third generation, in 1991. Michael has expanded the store's reach, by including hunting, dart and archery supplies. The store retains a strong sense of history where you can still find traditional Japanese fishing tabs!

The Nikkei Kigyo Recognition event began five years ago to recognize longstanding Nikkei companies in East Hawaii. JCAH recognizes that our issei forefathers had the will, spirit, creativity, diligence to do whatever it took to support their family and to provide much needed services to the community, and, their "gambare" spirit lives on in their successors!

More info regarding ticket or table purchase forthcoming.
Email: jcahawaii@yahoo.com, 969-6437 or our website, www.jcahawaii.org.

President's Message, from Page 1

and Takahiro Omori of the Shibukawa Ikaho Onsen Tourism Association were tremendous hosts and made the trip a most memorable one.

Also in August, co-chairs, Delbert Nishimoto and Hiroshi Suga did an outstanding job on the 78th Annual Ireisai Hoyo Memorial Service at the Alae Cemetery on August 27, 2017. The annual service is for us to remember and thank our Japanese ancestors, the Issei immigrants, who established their legacy through hard work and sacrifice.

By the time you read this newsletter the 16th Annual Kenjinkai Golf Tournament will be completed. We will have the results to you in the next newsletter. We want to thank Allan Sasahara for chairing this annual tournament. He does such an excellent job.

We would like to express our appreciation to Jan Higashi and Paul Sakamoto, co-chairs of the Cultural Committee and their respective committee chairs for

organizing our 9th Annual Bunka No Hi - Japanese Cultural Day to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin Sangha Hall. They have planned an array of cultural activities and we encourage our membership to participate and enjoy the experience. Please mark your calendars and don't miss this exciting event.

The past nine months have been exciting and a unique learning experience for me. By being able to participate in the many activities, it has truly made me appreciate our Japanese Culture and the essence of "Okage Sama De". Thank you.

Ivan Nakano



Bunka No Hi Flyer

Bunka No Hi (Japanese Culture Day)
November 18, 2017—Sangha Hall
**Shichi-Go-San Kimono Dressing
&
Picture Taking**

A biennial opportunity for GIRLS, age 3 and 7 to be dressed in authentic kimono & accessories.

BOYS, age 5, will be dressed in haori and hakama.

JCAH member, \$40; non-member \$50, includes dressing, photography and 2—4x6" photos in a double photo frame and digital copies sent to your email. For application and info email:

jcahawaii@yahoo.com or call 969-6437 or website www.jcahawaii.org.



JCAH will recognize members 90 years and older at the 9th Biennial Bunka No Hi (Japanese Culture Day in Hawaii) on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Sangha Hall. If you are 90 or older, or know of any members 90+ who haven't been recognized in previous years, please call JCAH office at 969-6437 or email jcahawaii@yahoo.com, no later than October 16, so you can be included in the program.

2017 Bunka No Hi T-shirt

*Pre-sale to JCAH members
Deadline to order 10/16*



*Great gift for Christmas!
Birthday! Or Just because!!*

Men's T-shirt Style only

T-shirt color: Black

S-M-L-XL—\$15 2XL—\$17 3XL—\$20

T-shirts will be available for sale
at Bunka No Hi on November 18 at
regular price: \$18-\$25, depending on size.

2017 BUNKA NO HI –OKAGE SAMA DE - T-SHIRT PRE-ORDER FORM

Name: (print legibly) _____ Phone _____
Email: _____ Cell # _____ Text ok? Yes ___ No ___

I would like to order: ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL Total # of shirts ___ x \$15 each = \$ _____
___ 2XL Total # of shirts ___ x \$17 each = \$ _____
___ 3XL Total # of shirts ___ x \$20 each = \$ _____

Please mail order form and check payable to JCAH to: JCAH, 714 Kanoelehua Ave., Suite 202, Hilo, HI 96720, postmarked by October 16. T-shirts will be ready for pick up at Bunka No Hi on Sat. Nov. 18 at the Sangha Hall from 9:30-1:00 pm. For more info, email: jcahawaii@yahoo.com or call 969-6437.

Sayonara, Consul General Yasushi Misawa

さよなら、三澤総領事

Mr. Yasushi Misawa was appointed as a successor of Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda and arrived in Honolulu in July 2015. Consul General Misawa and his wife Yoko Misawa loved Big Island and visited here frequently.

They are transferring to Berlin, Germany in late September and Mr. Misawa will be the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Germany.

JCAH hosted the farewell luncheon reception on September 17, 2017 at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel.

Consul General Misawa praised JCAH and people in Hilo as the most active community for continuing efforts to perpetuate Japanese heritage and to promote interaction with Japan and Japanese people in Hawaii. And he thanked them for all their effort. Con-

sul General Misawa mentioned that 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the first immigrant from Japan to Hawaii and the consulate arrange a series of events in Hawaii. The Consul General Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa moved table to table during the luncheon

and talked with each participant. He said that his successor was Mr. Ito and would be arriving soon.



Left: Consul General Yasushi Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa took a picture with the participants to the farewell luncheon. Right: Honorary Consul Art Taniguchi and Tommy Goya presents a picture printed on a metal to Consul General Yasushi Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa.



Welcome new members who
joined since last newsletter

Alyce Arata
Kenneth & Janet Matsuo
Colin Nakagawa

