



The Newsletter

JAPANESE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

ハワイ島日系人協会



September 2019

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President's Message — Mike Miyahira

会長挨拶

So many things have happened since I last wrote. And so many people to acknowledge and thank for their hard work.

First, a big Thank You goes out to Roland and Jan Higashi for planning and coordinating our 6th Annual Nikkei Kigyo, honoring multi-generational business started by Japanese immigrants and their families. This year we honored two very deserving family businesses; Yamada Furniture and Hirano Store. Congratulations to the families and a big Mahalo to Roland and Jan for their hard work.

Secondly, another big Thank You goes to Dean Fuke at HMSA. Dean is our new Scholarship Committee

Chair and he did a phenomenal job. Dean hit the ground running and had his committee working hard. Dean and his committee choose two deserving recipients for our scholarship this year; Mayumi

Yoshida, daughter of Paul and Reiko Hamano, and Mollie Green of Honokaa who graduated at the top of her senior class. Our best wishes to both of them.

In March, First Vice President Dwayne Mukai coordinated the display of student artwork from elementary schools in Shibukawa, Japan. On display for several weeks, the artwork depicted scenes and life in



Shibukawa. We hope that you had an opportunity to take in the exhibit while it was up.

President, to Page 3

2019 Ireito Memorial Service

慰霊塔慰霊祭

The 80th Annual Ireito Memorial Service was held on a beautiful hot summer Sunday at Alae Cemetery on August 25, at 2 pm. This annual observance was initiated by the late territorial Senator Sanji Abe, who had the 15 ton marble monument cast in Japan in August 1938. The memorial was dedicated in Hawai'i on August 20, 1939. This year marks the 80th year of its dedication.

Mrs. Pat Abe, son Mr. Nathan Abe and Nat's son Micah, family members of the late Senator Abe were in attendance. Micah is a Yonsei of the Abe family, attended the Ireito Memorial Service. "Perpetuating the family legacy and truly remembering and honoring our Issei", commented Mr. Conrad Hokama from Hilo



Hooganji Mission, "and we need to continue."

Consul General of Japan, the Honorable Koichi Ito attended and delivered a message reminding all the need to continue perpetuating our culture and our important duty of honoring our Issei immigrants. "I am Honored and Humbled to be attending this annual event" commented the Honorable Koichi Ito.

On behalf of the Mayor and the County of Hawai'i, Managing Director Wil Okabe delivered a message of remembrance, honor and to perpetuate our Ireito legacy for the generations to come. "This need to continue", commented MD Wil Okabe.

Ireito, to Page 4

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Event Calendar

- Saturday, November 16 – Bunka No Hi, Culture Day at Sangha Hall



Save the Date!

6th Annual Nikkei Kigyo Recognition Banquet

Honorees: HIRANO STORE & YAMADA FURNITURE

The 6th Annual Nikkei Kigyo banquet honored HIRANO STORE in Glenwood and YAMADA FURNITURE on May 10 at Nani Mau Gardens. Both companies are operated by third and fourth generation family members, respectively.

Puna Taiko performed in the lanai. Naohiro Hotta of Hilo Daijingu opened with a traditional Shinto blessing, followed by Kagami Biraki to officially begin the program.



KAGAMI-BIRAKI! Is a traditional Japanese ceremony performed at celebratory events in which the lid of the sake barrel is broken open by a wooden mallet. ***The honorees made a big splash!!***

←Kagami Biraki led by President Mike Miyahira (center); L-R— Shinae Hirano & Eric Inouye from HIRANO STORE and Gene Yamada & his son, Bryce Yamada, from YAMADA FURNITURE.



Presentation of Nikkei Kigyo plaque and gift to **Hirano Store** presented to: Eric Inouye and Shinae Hirano (center) by President Miyahira (L) & Roland Higashi, co-chair (R)



Presentation of Nikkei Kigyo plaque and gift to **Yamada Furniture** to Gareth Makino and his mom, Carol Yamada Makino (center). By President Mike Miyahira (L) & Jan Higashi, co-chair (R)

Video presentations of the history of 90 year old **Yamada Furniture** which was established by issei Iwakichi Yamada who immigrated from Kumamoto Japan and is now operated by 3rd and 4th generation family members. Also, 101 year old **Hirano Store** based in Glenwood, which was established by issei Naojiro Hirano from Shizuoka, Japan and now operated by nephew Eric Inouye were shared with the audience. Both videos showed the tenacity, creativity, perseverance of these companies.

In attendance were, Consul General of Japan Koichi Ito and his wife, Misako; Mayor Harry Kim's representative Wil Okabe; Council Chair Aaron Chung; Governor David Ige's liaison Dennis Onishi, Representatives: Chris Todd, Joy San Buenaventura, Richard Onishi and Mark Nakashima. Entertainment was provided by Sid Fuke & Utae Suzuki.

Nikkei Kigyo plaque and gift to Yamada Furniture and Hirano Store were presented. (see photos at left)

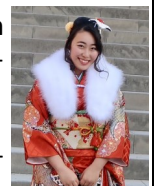
2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

A portion of the proceeds of the Nikkeikigyo event goes to JCAH's scholarship program. 2019 Scholarship recipients are:

Mollie Green, 2019 Honokaa High School graduate and ranked first in her class and belongs to the National Honor Society. She will be attending Temple University, Japan Campus majoring in Japanese Language.



Mayuko Yoshida who is attending Keio University in Japan where her focus is in international relations, global human rights and Japan development.



Mollie and Mayuko each received \$1500 from the association.

President, from Page 1

In April, we hosted our guests from Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa-shi, during their visit for Hilo's Merrie Monarch Festival. As many of you may recall, Ikaho is the home of the King Kalakaua, The Merrie Monarch Hawaiian Festival. Each year, they invite the winning halau to perform at their Hawaiian Festival. This year we hosted Takahiro Omori, President and Seiji Sekuguchi, Vice President, of the Shibukawa Ikaho Hot Spring Tourism Association. Our thanks to Dwayne Mukai for making all of the arrangements for the dynamic duo from Shibukawa.

In May, our Chigiri-e Class ended with a final birthday luncheon for Lily Nakao, our long serving instructor from Honolulu. Lily volunteered her time to come over and help our students learn the art of Washi-Chigiri-e. Thank you to Jan Higashi for her work to organize the Chigiri-e classes.

They say that many hands make the work go quickly and this year's Tanabata Festival was a great example of what can happen when we successfully collaborate. This year, the Hawaii Japanese Center, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and the Imiloa Astronomy Center joined forces and put on a remarkable Tanabata Festival for all of Hilo. The crowd was estimated to be over 2,500 attendees. And many JCAH members (who are also members of one or more of the three entities) helped to put the event on.

As I draft these comments, Dwayne Mukai and I are preparing for our visit to Shibukawa for their 23rd Annual King Kalakaua The Merrie Monarch Ikaho Hawaiian Festival. Wow! 23 years. We'll have more to share upon our return.

Until then..... ogenki de.

Bunka No Hi Omikoshi Parade Walkers

LOOKING FOR BUNKA NO HI OMIKOSHI PARADE WALKERS on Saturday, November 16, 2019. Join JCAH President Miyahira and board members in the parade. Friends and family welcomed! Meet at Aupuni Center (across Restaurant Kenichi) on Kilauea Avenue.

Email: jcahawaii@yahoo.com or call 969-6437 if interested!!
Tanomimasu and doomo arigato!



SPECIAL for JCAH members only Bunka No Hi (Okage sama de) T-shirt Pre-sale only by 10/11/19



Order extra! Great gift for someone special!

Men's T-shirt style only

T-shirt color: Purple

S-M-L-XL—\$16 2XL—\$18 3XL—\$21

T-shirts will be available for sale at Bunka No Hi on November 16 at regular price: \$20—\$27, depending on size.

SPECIAL OFFER for JCAH members only: Bunka No Hi (Okage sama de) T-Shirt Pre-order Form—DEADLINE TO ORDER: OCTOBER 11, 2019

Member name: (print) _____ Phone _____

Email: _____ Mobile # _____ Text ok? Yes ___ No ___

Here's my order: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ # of shirts ___ x \$16 each = \$ _____
2XL # of shirts ___ x \$18 each = \$ _____
3XL # of shirts ___ x \$21 each = \$ _____

Total
\$ _____

Mail order form & check payable to JCAH, 714 Kanoelehua Ave., Suite 202, Hilo, HI 96720, postmarked by Oct. 11. T-shirts will be ready for pick up at Bunka No Hi on Sat. Nov. 16 at the Sangha Hall from 10am-1pm. For info: email: jcahawaii@yahoo.com or call 969-6437.

Ireito, from Page 1

"The Issei ability to adapt life in a foreign land, display courage and resolving many hardship left a legacy that is evident in the lives of their descendants today," commented President Mike Miyahira.

The Japanese community Prefecture Organizations participated with their floral bouquet presentation, traditional Oshoko and prayer. The organization that traveled the greatest distance was Miyako Town, from Fukuoka, Japan. Mr. Tsuyoshi Yoshitake, Chief - Tourism Office represented their town. "This was truly an honor for their individual representation" commented many in attendance.

The Big Island Buddhist Federation (BIBF) provided the assistance with the memorial service. Hilo Meshoin the Toban Temple and Reverend Junshin Miyazaki officiated the service with sermon and messages. Reverend Miyazaki in his message elaborated in detail the life and legacy of the late Territorial Senator Sanji Abe. Ministers from the BIBF

and their temples participated in the opening prayers, floral bouquet presentation and traditional incense offering. Toban Temple provided the delicious desserts and refreshments. Hilo Meshoin Scout Troop 82 helped place the floral bouquets at the base around the Ireito Memorial Spire.

Under a sunny Hilo sky, with a afternoon trade, floral and incense scents brought this Memorial Service to a close.

Following the memorial service, participants, BIBF Ministers from the Ireito Service visited the final resting places of two Japanese Maritime Cadets. Honors were extended with a floral bouquet presentation, short sermon and reading of the individual headstone inscription by Toban Temple minister Reverend Junshin Miyazaki followed. Cadet Ryoji Kiyota and Cadet Enjiro Kikuchi were remembered. "Behind each name is a face, and a story of life cut short" - was the closing comments.



Welcome new members who joined since last newsletter

Mitchell & Karen Dodo
Fumi Koizumi-Droge
& Matthew Droge
Sam Horiuchi

Jon & Sandra Miyata
Eric & Lolita Tanouye
Stacey & Robert Williams



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