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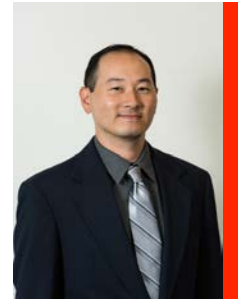
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The Official Newsletter of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce

April 2016

President's Message

Aloha HJJCC Members and Friends,



Wow! What an exciting last few months for our organization! We have accomplished so much but could not have made it this far without the support and hard work from our members. On behalf of the HJJCC Board of Directors, we send our warmest Mahalo and Domo Arigato Gozaimasu!

On March 26th, the 64th Cherry Blossom Festival culminated in a fantastic Festival Ball at the Sheraton Waikiki Ballrooms. Many of our members as well as 30 members from our Sister Jaycee Chamber from Kobe, Japan, were there to support our signature project. Kobe Jaycee President Shuji Tokuda presented the newly crowned 64th Cherry Blossom Court with pearls and gave a thoughtful speech in English. All 15 of the Queen's Contestants represented themselves wonderfully. Your 64th CBF General Co-Chairs Desiree and Kara and the Steering Committee really did a wonderful job putting together a great Festival. Please thank them when you get a chance.

The HJJCC hosted our friends from the Kobe Jaycees during Festival Ball weekend and many of you participated. I hope you enjoyed meeting new people and creating new friendships.

The HJJCC also just hosted 18 members from our Sister Jaycee Chapters from Kurashiki, Kojima and Tamashima – together known as the "San" Jaycees. What a wonderful group of Jaycees and our membership came out in force to hang out, share meals and sing karaoke together. Thank you for supporting this important relationship.

Elections for our 2015-16 Board of Directors is scheduled for May 11th, so please join us for great food, voting and meeting the members who will be leading this great Organization in the New Fiscal Year.

We have several important events coming up quickly, including hosting members from our Sister Jaycee Chapter from Odawara, Japan, in late May. Our Fifth Annual Nijikai Event with tasty vittles and "fun" beverages is set for June 3rd so please purchase your tickets now!! Tickets are going fast.

It is a great honor to serve you and this Organization. I hope to see you all soon!

Mahalo,
Brice K. Ueda, 66th HJJCC President

On Saturday, March 26, 2016, the 64th Cherry Blossom Festival Ball was held at the Sheraton Waikiki. For the 15 Queen Contestants, Festival Ball is the culmination of 7 months of hard work in cultural instruction and professional development. This year's theme is Kansha, or gratitude, which exemplifies one of the core values of the Festival and its supporters.

We'd like to congratulate the new 64th Queen and Court, and the Semi-Finalists of the 64th Cherry Blossom Festival!

64th Cherry Blossom Festival Update
 Kara Iwasaki and Desiree Uyeda
 CBF General Co-Chairs



64th Cherry Blossom Festival Court

The highlights of the evening included the Contestants performing "Sakura Daiko", a taiko piece choreographed and instructed by world-acclaimed musician Kenny Endo; the Western Phase, where the Contestants delivered one-minute personal speeches in evening gowns from Casablanca Bridal and Formals; and the Eastern Phase, which showcased Contestants wearing authentic furisode kimono flown in from Japan specifically for this event by Diamond Sponsor, Watabe Wedding, while answering an impromptu question on stage. This was also the last public appearance for the 63rd Queen and Court.



Queen **Alexis Sayuri Okihara**

1st Princess **Brittney Yasuko Kawahara**

Princess and Miss Popularity **Asia Rei Katsura Ayabe**

Princess **Ritsuko Sarah Tomari**

Princess **Kristi Kiyo Murakami**

Miss Congeniality **Dylan Katarina Lau**



Kampai! What better way to start off a weekend than with great friends? During the months of March and April, members of the HJJCC had the opportunity to reconnect and meet with members of the Kobe, Kurashiki, Kojima and Tamashima Junior Chamber of Commerce. Food, games, conversations and laughs bridged the distance that separated these sister chapters.

First to visit Hawaii from March 25th to 28th, was our sister chapter from Kobe. Though the day started off with a morning shower, everyone enjoyed a delicious local breakfast at the Airport Hotel courtesy of our very own Brent Kitsu. Added to the breakfast menu was a doughnut game coordinated by the 63rd Cherry Blossom Court. The Kobe JCs celebrated the crowning of the new court at the 64th Cherry Blossom Festival Ball at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Following that was even more of a celebration at Wood & Bucket Tapas Bar & Grill. The weekend then came to an end with a taco and burrito dinner at Dave & Buster's.



As tradition follows, the Egg Roulette was a must; however, the Winner's title was transferred back to Kobe. Even though the weekend was just too short, spending time with our Kobe sister chapter was a wonderful time.



Visiting from April 7th to 11th were the San JCs comprised of the Kurashiki, Kojima and Tamashima Junior Chamber of Commerce. The HJJCC celebrated their arrival with a Welcome Dinner at the famous Old Spaghetti Factory. Catching up over spaghetti and spumoni ice cream, both chapters were excited for the weekend that lay ahead.



On Saturday, April 9th, the San JCs joined members in attending the 63rd CBF Closing Ceremony at Pomaikai Ballroom. Walking into the Farewell Dinner on Sunday at Maple Garden, the slight sunburn from the morning

International Relations Update

Starla Takara, IR Committee

Photos by: Chris Kwock, Ryan Matsumoto, and Tyson Yamada

could be seen. Together the sister chapters spent the morning collecting trash and playing soccer at the Kilauea District Park. The time spent in the sun brought members even closer together over a picnic lunch. After dinner, everyone headed over to Goody Goody Bar and Grill for even more laughs and good times playing darts and singing karaoke. Sadly, the fun weekend also had to come to a close.



Though 3,980 miles may separate us physically, the connections members created and strengthened will not keep us apart. Thank goodness for technology such as Facebook, we are all connected to each other more than ever. October cannot come sooner until we are able to see them again. We are excited and looking forward to seeing our last sister chapter group from Odawara visit in May! Hope you can join us in the hosting festivities with Odawara!

Membership Mixer

Over 80 members and guests joined us for a networking pau hana at The Plaza Club on Wednesday, March 16th. Event attendees enjoyed a nice spread of appetizers while taking in the wonderful views of the Aloha Tower and the Downtown area.

Of course it wasn't just about the food and scenery since there was a bunch of networking to be done! Many new faces showed up at this event along with friends from the recent past. We encourage everyone to come out to these events for a casual networking experience.

A special thanks to The Plaza Club for hosting our mixer!

Our next event is the HJCC General Membership Meeting and Elections. Please join us on Wednesday, May 11th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at Dave &

Busters to learn more about getting involved with HJCC. Following a short program for elections the event will be open to networking and playing games at Dave & Busters. We hope you can join us!

Thank you again to our Membership team - Alex, Dana, Masato, Mika and Ryan - for doing a great job on these events!



Membership Development Update

Tyson Yamada, VP of Membership Development

Happy Birthdays!

April 2016

Ashley Higa
Nicole Sato
Ronson Fox
Allen Woo
Ryan Inouye
Richard Mizusawa
Bryson Chang
Donovan Morimoto
Jodi Nozoe Chang
Desiree Yamamoto
Tiffanie Masutani
Carrie Esaki

May 2016

Glenn Kuwaye
Nicole Velasco
Kristine Wada
Tanden Hayes
Lynn Miyahira
Sage Capone
Nate Gyotoku
Shiho Natori
Tyson Yamada
Subin Ueda
Hiroyuki Koida
Tyler Lam
Sarah Kodama
Ryan Nakagawa
Randi Tsushima
Ted Saihara
Daniel Arita

June 2016

David Ching
Lauren Okimoto
Justin Enos
Mari Kishimoto
Lara Karamatsu
Jennifer Okubo
Seiji Aspengren
Lori Higashi
Kathryn Fujitani

Upcoming Events

HJJCC General Membership Meeting and 2016-2017 Board of Directors Elections

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Dave and Busters, Pa'ina Hale Room

Email Tyson Yamada at membership@hjjcc.com to RSVP by May 4

American Heart Association Beat

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7:00pm to 10:30pm
Trump International Hotel

Email Gina Maeda-Caluya at community.service@hjjcc.com for more details!

5th Annual Nijikai

Friday, June 3, 2016, 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Manoa Grand Ballroom

Honolulu Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Tickets \$65 advance

Purchase tickets online at <http://www.hjjcc.com/nijikai/> or from any HJJCC Board or Nijikai Committee member!

Confirmed Nijikai Restaurant Vendors

- Bread+ Butter
- Chez Kenzo
- JJ Dolans
- Karai Crab
- Kissaten
- Marians Catering
- Pagoda Floating Restaurant & Catering
- Square Barrels
- Young's Fishmarket
- MW

Save the date for the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Annual Gala

Saturday, June 25, 2016, 5:00pm
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

Want to get involved?

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

Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96701

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Email: info@hjjcc.com
Phone: (808) 949-2255