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日系人会ニュース

**THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC**  
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## JAA Japan Disaster Relief

**Update from Earthquake and Tsunami Ravaged Areas in Japan** *by Eiich Kuwana*

My travels recently took me to Fukushima where I spent time with two non-profit organizations (NPOs); CWS Japan and Shalom, supported by the Japanese American Association of NY (JAA), with the generosity of the JAA members and supporters. Both organizations carved out time to explain the current situation facing residents; in particular, children in Fukushima. The children are considered to be at higher risk to radiation damage than adults. We visited a day-care center for children aged six months to kindergarten, only 40 miles away from Fukushima nuclear plants. (the classroom in the photo depicts two and three year olds). Shalom's office monitors the area to record radioactive "hot" spots.

In the day-care center yard, there is the satellite looking machine which shows "0.136" (0.136 micro Sieverts of radiation per hour). In Japan, a reading of less than 0.230 qualifies as being "acceptable", assuming that the "average" person spends only 8 hours a day outside.

Moreover, "hot spots" exist in many pockets within Fukushima. We found numerous areas that registered greater than 0.650 micro Sieverts, which is substantially higher than the acceptable limit of 0.230. A

distressing aspect of these readings is the fact that there is a kindergarten and a road used for those local children to commute to their schools along the path.

What cannot be disputed is that living with such concerns on a daily basis affects the mental state of the inhabitants of the area. Therefore, we applaud and support the efforts of Shalom, which has, as one of its core missions, to bring children away for weekends at a time from radiation affected areas to cleaner regions of Japan so that these children can play outdoors without fear of being exposed to radiation. The photo of children wading in a local brook is unimaginable in Fukushima, and this was made possible due to Shalom sponsoring a trip for these children to a different prefecture (state) in Japan. Even just for a weekend, kids need to be kids.

Your generous donations have made it possible for Fukushima children to enjoy moments of peace and relaxation, and JAA and I thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

## Annual JAA Scholarship Dinner of the 44th Scholarship Awards and 8th Honjo Scholarship Awards

The 44th JAA Scholarship Awards Dinner was held at the Harvard Club on June 3, 2014. Former Major League Baseball Player and Manager Mr. Robert John "Bobby" Valentine, Consul General and Madame Sumio Kusaka, Mr. Tadashi Sano, SVP of Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., Mr. Yosuke Honjo, President and CEO of ITO EN (North America) and Mr. Motohiro Satoh, Vice President of JCCI headed the guest list of 145 donors, awardees, their families





Photo by Masao Katagami



and JAA members attended the event. Thirteen high school recipients, a total of \$54,500 and three round trip air tickets by ANA and Delta Air Lines and six graduate school recipients (total of \$30,000 from the Honjo International Foundation) of the 8th Honjo Scholarship Awards were honored.

The ceremony began with MC Mr. Gary Moriwaki, co-chair of the Scholarship Committee, followed by greetings from Ambassador Kusaka and JAA President Susan Onuma. Mr. Bobby Valentine as our keynote speaker gave a wonderful speech that inspired not just the students but all who were present through his baseball experience and his baseball project for children of USA and Tohoku. He told the awardees that one of his most memorable moments in high school was when he received an award from the Italian-American community in Stamford, Connecticut. Miss Isabella Grabski, recipient of the Bingham McCutchen Murase Scholarship and Ms. Andrea J. Horisaki – Christens, recipient of the Honjo Award expressed their appreciation for their respective groups.

To conclude the ceremony, Mr. Katsuo Takeda thanked the donors and guests.

#### **2014 Annual JAA Scholarship Dinner Benefactors**

**Gold Sponsor:** ITO EN (North America) Inc.

**Silver Sponsors:** Bingham McCutchen Murase LLP,  
Ingram Yuzek Gainen Carroll & Bertolotti, LLP,  
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The Scholarship Committee consisted of co-Chairs Gary S. Moriwaki & Katsuo Takeda, and the committee members are Julie Azuma, Michiko Ito Crampe, David Hiromura, Akiko Kamata, Frederick Katayama, Yumi Kuwana, Satoru Murase, Susan J. Onuma, Suki Terada Ports and Koji Sato.

*A short bio of Mr. Valentine and a list of Awardees are on page 4 & 5.*

## **2014-the 28th JAA Foreign Minister's Baseball Tournament**

Results of the six weeks of the preliminaries are very competitive, "A" block includes the teams Bees, Junks, Biggies and Babes, "B" Block consists of the teams Jokers, Dumbo, Nikoniko and Hamakko. Please visit [www.jaabaseball.blogspot.com](http://www.jaabaseball.blogspot.com) for the recent scores.

## **Memorial Day Ceremony at the Japanese Cemetery in Mt. Olivet Cemetery**

Photo by Masao Katagami



On a beautiful sunny day, Memorial Day Services (Bosankai) was held on May 26, 2014 from 11am-at the Japanese Cemetery at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Queens. The event, sponsored by the JAA, with the support of the New York Buddhist Church and the Japanese American United Church (JAUC).

First, Rev. Earl Ikeda, the new minister of the Buddhist Church, read from the Sutra while incense and flowers were offered to the pioneers who had contributed so greatly to the present standing of the Japanese and Japanese American Community, followed by services performed by Rev. Kaz Takahashi, the new pastor of JAUC.

Ambassador Sumio Kusaka expressed his appreciation to our pioneers who had promoted good relations between the U.S. and Japan. Mr. Motohiro Satoh, vice president of JCCI gave a brief history of Dr. Jokichi Takamine, founder of the Nippon Club and Dr. Toyoshiko Takami, founder of JAA. Ms. Fukuko Fujimoto, new Principal of Greenwich Japanese School of NY and Mr. Toru Okamoto, Principal of the Japanese Children's Society each gave a heartfelt talk. MIS member Mr. Kazu Yamaguchi and Vietnam veteran Mr. Stanley Kanzaki were among the 150 in attendance.

We appreciate the staff of Japanese Children's Society and members of Japanese Lions Club for their clean up of the cemetery on the days before and after.

Wreathes were offered by the Consulate General of Japan in New York, Nippon Club, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New York, Japanese Lions Club and three organizers.

**New York Buddhist Church New official Resident Minister Rev. Earl Ikeda and Mrs. Ikeda** officially took up residence as of March 1. Rev. Ikeda was formerly resident minister with the Hawaii Honpa Hongwanji to the Moiliili Hongwang Mission. Rev. Ikeda is extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of Buddhism and is a devotee of Japanese culinary and cultural arts. He is bilingual minister.

## **Exhibition of Japanese and Japanese American Artists in New York 2014**

The 19th annual Art Exhibition of the Japanese and Japanese American Artists in New York were held from May 1 to May 10. The 37 artists (including four new artists: Reina Kubota, Shu Ohno, Isamu Enrico Oyama and Akemi Takeda), displayed their 69 art works at the JAA Hall.

Photo by Masao Katagami



The opening reception was held on May 1st from 5pm, attending were Consul Yoshikatsu Aoyagi, Mr. & Mrs. Motoatsu Sakurai of Japan Society, JAA President Ms. Susan J. Onuma, the artists and JAA members and guests. Everyone enjoyed a unique international art exhibition and refreshments made by JAA Keirokai Volunteers.

JAA greatly appreciated those who bought art. A portion of which is a donation made to JAA: Mr. George Hirose, Mr. Michio Ishii, Mrs. Kaoru Kokaze, Mrs. Tokiko Miura, Ms. Susan Onuma, Mr. Hirotada Sakai and Mrs. Yoko Sasaki.

## **8th Japan Day @ Central Par**

On a beautiful Sunday, Mother's Day, May 11, 2014 more than 50,000 people were gathered at the Band shell area in Central Park.

Volunteers from the JAA calligraphy class demonstrated their beautiful and skillful brush work to 1600 New Yorkers. The booth was so popular that we ran out of ink and papers!

Our volunteers were Yumiko Abe, Masako Gibeault, Yuri Ishizuka, Atsuko Imaizumi, Ayako Ishizuka, Hiroko Shimizu, Terue Saito, Namie Suzuki, Eiko Tanaka, Sachie Ueshima, Chizuko Yamaguchi, Shuji Kato, Haruko Sakurazawa, students from Stuyvesant HS and Michio Noda.



## **Social Service Committee**

### **Keirokai-Luncheon for Seniors**

Regular luncheons were held for seniors on May 8 and 22. At both events the K. Iwaki Band performed and members enjoyed Karaoke sing along. **We will hold Keirokai on June 12 and 24.**

### **The Fifth Annual Japanese Heritage Night**

The Fifth Annual Japanese Heritage Night at Citifield, home of the New York Mets, will be held on July 11, 2014.

### **Summer Flea Market at JAA Hall on August 2, 10am-2pm**

This is the last flea market at this office. We are accepting donations of new/used clothes, chinaware, jewelry and others. This is a fun-filled major fundraiser!

### **21st Annual JAA Charity Golf Tournament Grand Prize is ANA Air Ticket (Business Class) NY to TOKYO**

The 21st JAA Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, September 15, 2014 at Haworth Country Club, 5 Lake Shore Drive, Haworth, NJ 07641. This will be a shotgun tournament by the New Peoria System. All golfers will tee off simultaneously.

Entry fee is \$270.00 (\$100.00 of which is tax deductible). Your fee includes breakfast and buffet lunch plus green fees & cart. The deadline for entry is Sept. 2, 2014. Call JAA office for more detail!

## **Obituary**

★**Yoshiko Watanabe** passed away on May 9, 2014 at the age of 89 at Isabella House.

She was born on Feb. 16, 1925 in Los Angeles, the second child of Keitoku Watanabe, a 1905 graduate of the University Pennsylvania and Tomoko Watanabe.

In 1931, when her father passed away at the age of 45, the Watanabe family moved to her mother's home in Gifu. After graduating from Toyo Music School where she studied singing, Yoshiko became a music teacher in high school and junior college in Gifu. In 1972, she came to New York to aide and support her ailing sister.

After her sister's death, Yoshiko stayed in New York as a teacher at the Japanese Weekend School in Fort Lee, NJ. Miss Watanabe was an active member of the Japanese-American United Church.

★**Yuri Kochiyama** (May 19, 1921-June 1, 2014)

Please see page 5 for her obituary.

We pray for them and their families.