Yokosuka Club Alliance offers evening of culture with *Nippon* Night

Story and photo by Jeffrey C. Doepp, CFAY Public Affairs

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Club Alliance held their Nippon Night dinner and entertainment extravaganza in the third-floor ballroom of the club Nov. 12.

Nippon Night is part of their themed "A Taste of" night events held biannually and is a celebration of Japanese culture, where cuisine, entertainment, art and traditional clothing is showcased.

"In the past we have had Kababayan Nights, which are based on the Filipino culture and a New Zealand Night," said Club Alliance Manager Godfrey "G" Johnson. "We plan on further expanding the "A Taste of" themed nights in the future to include other cultures."

According to Johnson, more than 65 guests turned out for the event, but past events have had 100 guests or more, as these themed nights are very popular with the Yokosuka base community.

"This event is a very convenient and inexpensive way to get a snapshot of the Japanese culture," Johnson said. "I'm pretty sure you won't find a place in Japan where you have a choice of cooking and eating shabu-shabu or sukiyaki, or choosing from a buffet with selections like tempura, ramen, sushi and yakitori while watching and listening to a Taiko performance or traditional music or dancers, all in one place."

Zushi Kaisei High School students entertain the audience with a Taiko (drum) performance during the CFAY MWR Nippon Night held at Club Alliance Nov. 12. Photo courtesy of Club Alliance.

Included in the entertainment portion of the event was a karate demonstration performed by former Japanese karate champion and Japanese movie actor Ichiro Sugisawa.

Paul Bauer, an employee in the Personal Property Shipping Office of Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka, who attended the event with his wife Tessie, learned of Nippon Night from the MWR advertisement that was posted on the main gate quarterdeck billboard.

"I'm glad I saw the advertisement," said Bauer. The Japanese food was great and the Japanese high school "taiko" (drum) performance was very professional and energetic. I particularly enjoyed the karate demonstration. The karate experts were very accurate and the pride they showed during their martial arts performance was amazing."

With the help from Club Alliance employees Joselyn Komiya, Emma Hoover and others, the club's ballroom décor was transformed into a form of artwork that reflected Asian culture with wide strips of red and white cloth draped across the ceiling, Japanese "wagasa" (paper umbrellas) placed in front of the stage area and "shoji" (paper screen doors) lining the walls. Employees were also dressed in traditional, "izakaiya" (bar and grill)-style "happi" (coats).

"Tessie and I really enjoyed the ambiance of the room, which included the feeling of being outside the gate. We were very impressed with how the employees including not only the greeters but the club manager himself, were going around to each table meeting the guests, taking our pictures and ensuring we were enjoying ourselves," Bauer said.

Bauer had a message for all foreigners who live and work on military bases in Japan—enjoy the Japanese culture.

"Do not be that person when, after leaving Japan you are asked, 'how did you enjoy your tour in Japan?' and not be able to give an answer because you didn't take advantage of your time here," he added. "Enjoy the Japanese culture, whether by venturing outside the gate or by attending one of these convenient on base sponsored events."

For more information on future MWR-sponsored events such as Nippon Night at Club Alliance, visit their Wordpress site http://mwryokosuka.wordpress.com/club-alliance or visit their Facebook site by doing a search for "Club Alliance Yokosuka."

Girl Scout cookies delivered to forward-deployed service members

By H. Sam Samuelson,
NAVSUP GLS Corporate Communications

More than 18,300 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were trucked in from a Yokohama port to the shared compound of NAVSUP (Naval Supply Systems Command) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Yokosuka and Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Yokosuka Nov. 21 for distribution to forward-deployed service members throughout the western Pacific.

"I feel really good about this," said Logistics Specialist 1st Class Joquel Chapple, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka. "It's hard being forward deployed, so it's nice to have something from home that's really familiar like the Girl Scouts and their cookies.

"Receiving the cookies has an immediate and positive effect on shipboard morale. Candidly, you may not see Sailors jump at the chance to join a working party, but with the pier side delivery of Girl Scout cookies there does not seem to be a shortage of volunteers," Chapple added.

"Last year, in the Japan area, we distributed nearly 35,000 boxes [of Girl Scout cookies] to more than 23 various afloat and shore commands," said Ray Denny annual lead volunteer for the effort and NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka director of command evaluation. "This year, we accepted the delivery late because of warehousing space limitations resulting from the humanitarian support and disaster relief material being stored in support of Operation Tomodachi.

"We believe the 18,000 plus boxes can be distributed just in time for the holidays."

Known as "Operation Thin Mint," San Diego Girl Scout troops and their cookie customers have purchased and sent more than 1.6 million boxes of Girl Scout cookies and colorful cards and notes of thanks to deployed troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, Africa, Japan, Korea, and the Arabian Gulf, western Pacific and Indian Ocean since 2002.

Mayflower Moving Company of San Diego stored the cookies prior to shipping and American President Lines generously provides free shipping overseas. Upon arrival in Japan, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka and DLA Distribution Yokosuka orchestrate their transfer to the warfighters.

"During the last five years the men and women serving on forward-deployed naval-force ships in Yokosuka have been treated to a taste of home courtesy of the San Diego-Imperial Council of Girl Scouts and the wonderful citizens from the city of San Diego," Denny said.

Pet of the Week

Meet Rosie. She is about 7 years old. She was abused a long time ago, but the only scars are the ones on her nose. She is very sweet and loves people. As a shiba, pomeranian mix tends to bark. To find out more about Rosie, or any animal at Pets Are Worth Saving (P.A.W.S.) contact 243-9996, or e-mail usskittytalk.yokosuka@gmail.com, or visit the P.A.W.S. Web site at www.pawsyokosukajapan.com