

Japanese Weekend School (*Hoshuko*) Alumni Reception

On December 22, 2009, a reception was held for alumni from the Japanese weekend schools (*hoshukoo*) in the greater New York area at the official residence of Ambassador Shinichi Nishimiya. More than 60 alumni from the Princeton Community Japanese Language School, New York Weekend School, and the New Jersey Weekend School gathered. The alumni were mingled with the area's Japanese business leaders and the teachers and school administrations of their Alma-Mater, who were also invited to the reception. Representing the alumni, Mr. Takahide Endo, a 1993 graduate from PCJLS and Ms. Hana Barnes, alum of New York Weekend School, gave speeches, recalling their memories of the days at *hoshuko*.

The photos and news of the 2009, Hoshuko Alumni Reception can be seen at the following site.

Consulate-General of Japan in New York News letter

<http://www.ny.us.emb-japan.go.jp/en/c/2010/japaninfo1001.html#2>

Hoshuko Alumni Association (HAA) Website

<http://www.hoshukoalumni.org/pictures/december-2009-networking-event-with-ambassador-nishimiya>

History and Goals of the Event

The reception for the *hoshuko* alumni was launched in 2007, supported by Mr. Motoatsu Sakurai, then the Japanese Ambassador to New York, and the current president of the Japan Society. This year marked the third anniversary of the event. At the first reception in 2007, Ms. Hana Heineken, a 1999 graduate, gave her remarks, and at the reception in 2008, Mr. Kensuke Okabayashi, one of the earliest graduates of PCJLS, gave remarks as that school's representatives.

The continuing goal of the reception is to support networking by alumni who desire to strengthen ties between Japan and the US, across fields and across generations. Anyone who has studied at a *hoshuko* in any area is warmly welcome to join the event. The reception tradition is scheduled to continue in 2010 and thereafter. Invitations to the event are sent to all alumni of PCJLS by email. Those who wish to participate should feel free to contact Toshiko Calder, the Board Chair of PCJLS at calder81@aol.com.

Upgrading Contact Information

PCJLS is constantly upgrading the contact information of its alumni. Please let us know the alumni's latest email address and other information. We of course respect alumni privacy.

Hoshuko Alumni Association

During the 2009 reception, the Hoshuko Alumni Association (HAA), a newly established networking organization for *hoshuko* alums was introduced by its president, Ms. Kaoru Utada and the other founders. Activities aiming at connecting the alumni with one another are held year around. Those who wish to register with HAA can contact the following address:

<http://www.hoshukoalumni.org/about-us/>