



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

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CHERYL OKUMA-SEPE INSTALLED AS HUOA PRESIDENT

Close to a thousand Hawaii United Okinawa Association members, friends and guests filled the Hawaii Okinawa Center's Teruya Pavilion on Sunday, Dec. 14, for the installation of 2004 President Cheryl Okuma-Sepe and the introduction of the 2003 "Uchinanchu of the Year." The lunch-time installation banquet was co-chaired by veteran Gushikawa Shijin Kai leaders Ryokichi Higashionna and Fumiko Yoshimoto and their committee of Gushikawa club members. Okuma-Sepe is a member of Gushikawa Shijin Kai.

Okuma-Sepe succeeds George Tamashiro as president of the 52-member-club HUOA. In his outgoing president's message, George Tamashiro reflected on his year as president. He also encouraged the HUOA membership to support Okuma-Sepe, who is HUOA's fifth woman president.

The new president selected "Warai Fukui — Joy in Our Hearts Brings Good Fortune" as the theme for her administration. "Warai Fukui" is the title of a song written by the late Seiyu Higa, one of the immigrant pioneers from Gushikawa.

In her professional life, Okuma-Sepe, an attorney, is the Human Resources director for the City and County of Honolulu. She is the daughter of S. Raymond and Joanne Okuma and is married to Don Sepe. Also serving as 2004 officers are: President-elect Rodney Kohagura (Ginowan Shijin Kai); Vice Presidents Keith Kaneshiro (Aza Gushikawa, Kochinda Chojin Kai and Hui Makaala), Karleen Chinen (Bito Doshi Kai) and Laverne Higa Nance (Nago Club); Executive Secretary Jane Tateyama (Club Motobu); Assistant Executive Secretary Leona Urata (Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai); Japanese Language Secretary Chikako Nago (Young Okinawans of Hawaii); Treasurer Sandra Goya (Nishihara Chojin Kai); Jaysin Asato (Nago Club) and Immediate Past President George Tamashiro (Itoman Shijin Kai, Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai). The new officers were installed by Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris.

Serving as advisors this year will be James Y. Iha (Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai), Roy Kaneshiro (Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai), George



President-elect Rodney Kohagura and President Cheryl Okuma-Sepe dance "Warai Fukui." (One Moment in Time photos)



Mayor Jeremy Harris installs (from left): 2004 President Cheryl Okuma-Sepe and fellow officers Jaysin Asato, Sandra Goya, Chikako Nago, Laverne Higa Nance, Karleen Chinen and Rodney Kohagura.

Kaneshiro (Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai), Ken Kiyabu (Yagaji Doshi Kai), Lillian Takata (Nago Club) and Dexter Teruya (Oroku Azajin Kai).

The installation of the new officers was followed by the other highlight of the day: the introduction and honoring of the 2003 "Uchinanchu of the Year." Among the 41 distinguished honorees was Kin Chojinkai's Mrs. Maka Yonashiro, who passed away last year at the age

of 105. Mrs. Yonashiro was remembered as an inspiration to Kin members. She was represented on-stage by her grandson. The 2003 "Uchinanchu of the Year" honorees will be spotlighted in the next issue of Uchinanchu. Rounding out the formal program was the presentation of the 2003 sports awards for bowling, golf, softball and volleyball by HUOA sports chair Wayne Uejo — and two rousing toasts offered by Claude Zukeran, representing the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, and former HUOA president Akira Sakima.

The entertainment portion of the program was produced and directed by KZOO Radio personality Keiko Ura, who emceed the program with her brother, Tom Kobashigawa.

In keeping with Okuma-Sepe's theme, the newly installed officers and advisors, dressed in Okinawan kimono and make-up, danced a shortened version of the song, "Warai Fukui." They were followed by students of Kikue Kaneshiro Sensei's Kaneshiro Ryukyu Buyo Kenkyusho who did a more professional version of the dance. Before starting the officers' and advisors' dance, Okuma-Sepe and her fellow officers were asked by outgoing President George Tamashiro to share their HUOA pledge for 2004 with the audience.

The students of Hooge Kai Nakasone Dance Academy, led by Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei, brightened the afternoon with their renditions of "Hamachidori," "Kanayoo Amakaa" and "Chibariyoo." The lively jikata music was presented by the Afuso Ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai, led by Grant Murata Sensei.

... Let's sing and dance to the sanshin's tune of happiness,
To make a peaceful world where misery is overcome by the power of laughter.
Hi everyone, gather together.
Let's give a cheerful laugh and be happy.

from "Warai Fukui" by Seiyu Higa,
translation by Clarence Tomokazu Nakasone

CHERYL OKUMA-SEPE URGES "WARAI FUKUI" IN INSTALLATION SPEECH

The following is Cheryl Okuma-Sepe's installation speech.

Mensore! Welcome to our 54th Installation Banquet. It is an honor and privilege to be before you this afternoon. Together with our 2004 officers and advisors, I look forward to next year with "Warai Fukui," which translates into "Joy in Our Hearts Brings Good Fortune" as our theme for 2004 — made even more special due to my family from California, Japan as well as Hawai'i who are here today.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is a tremendous testament to our Uchinanchu heritage. Established in 1951, with Okinawan clubs as its members throughout the State of Hawai'i to make up what is HUOA. Today, HUOA is made up of 51 clubs and it has grown and thrived as it passed from the Isseis, to the Niseis, Sanseis, Yonseis, Goseis — five generations of good fortune which could only be because of the dedication, hard work and sheer desire to make this life better for future generations.

At the beginning of this organization, energy was towards the rebuilding of Okinawa after World War II. Over the years, the focus shifted to promoting the Okinawan culture in

Hawaii. One of the first cultural activities was the Cultural Jubilee, which evolved into the Okinawan Festival at Kapi'olani Park — truly one of the largest cultural events in the State of Hawai'i. Today it draws over 60,000 visitors, not only from Hawai'i, but from the Mainland and other countries (Okinawa, South America, Canada). Over the years, HUOA has perpetuated the Okinawan heritage by pursuing many cultural activities and programs.

As you look around this room, what do you see? What I see is the indomitable spirit of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. What I see is a profound reminder of our Guiding Principles which are:

- 1) To promote, preserve and perpetuate the Okinawan culture;
- 2) To perform community service;
- 3) To support and encourage education;
- 4) To conduct cultural shows, arts and crafts, demonstrations, athletic and social activities;
- 5) To pursue all that helps us to promote and build a bridge of friendship and fellowship with Okinawa.

Our purpose is broad, ensuring that enjoyment of our many programs goes beyond the Okinawan community, and

(continued on page 4)

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UCHINANCHU
Ippe nihei deebiru . . mahalo . . .

Uchinanchu is our voice — the voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, its members, and the “home” we all built together: the Hawaii Okinawa Center. By sharing information and experiences, *Uchinanchu* keeps us connected as a family, dedicated to preserving, sharing and perpetuating our Okinawan cultural heritage.

HUOA received \$1,480.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* in October and November, including one from the Big Island. Every dollar donated — along with the valuable income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA extends a heartfelt ippe nihwee deebiru to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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Uchinanchu

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Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by George Tamashiro
2003 President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Haisai Gusuyo!
In this, my final message as 2003 President of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, I would like to spend some time reflecting on 2003 and some of the events that made the year so memorable and meaningful for me.

Throughout the year, our small Hawaii United Okinawa Association staff, led by Executive Director Wayne Miyahira, and our many valuable volunteers and committees worked energetically to move our ambitious programs forward. They have improved the budgeting and fund development process, continued leadership and youth education programs, coordinated interesting cultural and sports programs, expanded our community services projects, and more. Among the outstanding projects we continued to sponsor was the Children’s Cultural Day Camp, which was held on O’ahu, Kaua’i, Maui and Hawai’i. Hundreds of elementary school students had an opportunity to learn some Okinawan words and phrases, songs and dances, create a pottery piece, play plantation games and even taste some Okinawan food. Thanks to our junior leaders and adult instructors, the project was a huge success.



Outgoing President George Tamashiro: “All of you together helped me fulfill my goal of leading the Hawaii United Okinawa Association in the year 2003 with the spirit of “Chimu Zurii — Harmonious Unity.”

The HUOA also had a part in three outstanding cultural performances from Okinawa: a show put on by Shida Fusako Sensei at the McKinley High School auditorium; the Nakagusuku Jouwa stage play and dance performance by Tamagusuku Setsuko Sensei at our Hawaii Okinawa Center; and finally, a fascinating performance of ancient songs put on by the Tansui Ryu Dento Hozon Kai, also at our HOC. To all of the performers and their supporters who came from Okinawa at their own expense to share their love for Okinawan culture with the people of Hawaii — and to our many HUOA volunteers who worked so hard to assist these top-notch performers, I extend a heartfelt “Mahalo nui loa . . . ippe nihwee deebiru” on behalf of the member clubs of the HUOA.

I would also like to share some thoughts on two major events that were held during 2003: first, the inaugural Legacy Awards luncheon; and second, the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference.

In May, we honored seven outstanding individuals from our Okinawan community for their countless contributions to our community. This event was called the Legacy Awards Luncheon. Two years ago, these individuals — Mr. Seian Hokama, Kikue Kaneshiro Sensei, Mr. Shinsuke Nakamine, Harry Seisho Nakasone Sensei, Mr. Akira Sakima, the late Mr. Albert Teruya and Mr. Yasuo Uezu — were honored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government for their extraordinary contributions to our culture and heritage at the Third Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival, commonly referred to as the “Taikai.” This first “class” of Legacy Award honorees indeed contributed greatly to the Okinawan community and to the larger Hawai’i community, for every time they lit up a face by sharing their cultural gifts, or gave of their time or expertise or personal wealth, they set an example for others to follow. I was sad that Mr. Albert Teruya did not live long enough to be a part of the program, and that Kikue Kaneshiro Sensei was not well enough to attend the program. But I’m glad that members of their family were able to represent them — and later, in their own way, convey the gratitude of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for the legacy they have left us. I am especially grateful for this program because by the time we closed 2003, we had lost another of the honorees: Mr. Shinsuke Nakamine. We need to try to honor those whose contributions have left a lasting legacy while they are still with us. For all who supported the inaugural Legacy Awards program in any way, I extend my heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the HUOA.

The second event I would like to share some thoughts on is the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference, a five-day extravaganza that was co-sponsored by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Hawai’i chapter of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association. My thanks to co-chairs Keith Kaneshiro, representing HUOA, and Bob Nakasone, representing WUB-Hawaii. Although the planning was centered in Hawai’i, it could not have been the success it was without the whole-hearted support of a number of individuals and organizations, among them Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine and his entire Okinawa Prefectural Government team; Mr. Morimasa Goya, president of WUB International; our sister organization in Okinawa, the Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai, led by Mr. Akira Makiya; Rinken Teruya and his Rinken Band; singer Mamoru Miyagi and all of the eisa groups and other performers who came from Okinawa; Okinawa Tourist Service;

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued)*

the Okinawa media; and our major supporters in Hawai'i — the City and County of Honolulu, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the East-West Center, to name a few. However, no event as big as the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference



would be possible without the support of the thousands of volunteers from our Hawaii United Okinawa Association and our cultural performance groups, who went beyond the call to live the aloha spirit and to share Hawai'i's special "Uchinanchu Aloha" with all of our visitors. There are no words to express how proud I was of you, our Hawaii United Okinawa Association, WUB-Hawaii and the State of Hawai'i — a simple but truly heartfelt "Thank you" will have to suffice.

My final thanks go to the members of the HUOA Executive Council; the club presidents and representatives who make up the HUOA Board of Directors; our Administration Committee; Programs Committee; Communications and Information Committee; our Hawaii Okinawa Center volunteers and HUOA staff; and to all of our HUOA members for their participation, support and unwavering Uchinanchu spirit. All of you together helped me fulfill my goal

of leading the Hawaii United Okinawa Association in the year 2003 with the spirit of "Chimu Zorii — Harmonious Unity."

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to our new leader, Ms. Cheryl Okuma-Sepe, as she begins her year as 2004 President of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

May the new year bring you and your loved ones good health and happiness. Aloha . . . and lppe nihwee deebiru.

GOV. INAMINE SENDS MAHALO FROM OKINAWA

The following letter from Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine was sent to 2003 HUOA President George Tamashiro following the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference, which was held in Hawai'i from August 29 through September 2, 2003.



OKINAWA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT

1-2-2 IZUMIZAKI, NAHA CITY
OKINAWA, JAPAN 900-8570

George Tamashiro
Hawaii United Okinawa Association President
First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference Executive Committee Co-Chairperson

September 2003

Dear Mr. Tamashiro,

I trust this letter finds you in good health.

I want to thank you for your untiring efforts in promoting international exchange with Okinawa Prefecture and congratulate you on the great success of the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference.

I am deeply grateful for the warm hospitality I received during my visit to the conference events. I was deeply moved both by the consideration shown to the pioneer Okinawa emigrants to Hawaii, who overcame many great difficulties in the foreign land where they built the foundations of today's Okinawan Associations, and by the visible efforts of the younger generation who came together to contribute towards the success of the conference.

During my visit to Honolulu I was also able to meet many Okinawan descendants who are working as Uchinanchu in many areas around the world. I could see that they are not only contributing towards the development of Japanese society, but also that of Hawaii. I feel strongly connected to them as fellow Okinawans.

It was very encouraging to see the strengthening of world Uchinanchu solidarity during the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference, where Okinawan descendants from all around the world here able to gather for the first time outside their Okinawan homeland. I would like to pay homage to the people who underwent many hardships to contribute to the organization of the Conference.

Speaking on behalf of Okinawa Prefecture, we would like to use the success of this festival in making significant developments to future international exchange projects.

In closing, I wish to offer my prayers for your health and prosperity, as well as the further development of your Association.

Yours sincerely,


Keiichi INAMINE
Governor of Okinawa

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TWO \$5,000 DONATIONS LAUNCH 2003-04 HUOA FUND DRIVE

by Karleen C. Chinen
Bito Doshi Kai

Their legacy is everywhere — felt not just by the families of Ushi and Kama Inafuku and Harold Y. Oshiro, but by all of us.

When we inhale the beauty of the Takakura Garden at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, we are beneficiaries of the years of tender loving care Harold Oshiro gave to the outdoor work of art as a volunteer gardener.

When we enjoy an Okinawan music or dance presentation involving siblings Sara and Scott Nakatsu — great-grandchildren of Ushi and Kama Inafuku — we are beneficiaries of the issei couple's pride in their Okinawan heritage, passed on to their children and grandchildren and now great-grandchildren.

Last year, the families of Ushi and Kama Inafuku and Harold Y. Oshiro made a major investment in ensuring that the legacy of their loved ones would be kept alive through the perpetuation of the Okinawan cultural heritage in Hawaii. Their gifts of \$5,000 each jump-started the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 2003-04 "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign.

The Inafuku family said they weren't able to donate during the fundraising campaign to build the Hawaii Okinawa Center back in the late 1980s and 1990. But they always wanted to honor the memory of the two people who had made possible their lives in Hawai'i. Last year, the seven daughters and two sons of Ushi and Kama Inafuku pooled their resources and sent a \$5,000 check to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's "Preserving Our Legacy" fund drive in memory of their parents, who had emigrated from Nishihara.

Harold Oshiro died last July at the age of 82 after a long illness. When he was healthy, the retired Army electrician and his wife Evelyn had spent their free time

as volunteer gardeners at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Harold even donated a small footbridge that was placed in the garden. The Oshiros and other volunteers also took on the monumental task of re-upholstering hundreds of chairs used in the Teruya Pavilion. Over the years, the seat cushions had become frayed from being used so often. Evelyn took the fabric home and sewed new seat cushions on her power machine.

"I wish I could donate more," she said. "I hope lots of other people will donate, too."

"The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is extremely grateful to Evelyn Oshiro and the children of Ushi and Kama Inafuku for their generous donations to this year's 'Preserving Our Legacy' campaign," said 2003 President George Tamashiro. "As an organization, we are fortunate to have many activities for the community, many of them held here at our Hawaii Okinawa Center. This donation from Evelyn Oshiro, in memory of her husband Harold, and the donation from the children of Ushi and Kama Inafuku, in memory of their parents — along with the donations of hundreds of others — makes all of our activities possible and enables us to carry out our mission of preserving, promoting and perpetuating our Okinawan cultural

heritage. So, on behalf of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, I would like to thank Evelyn Oshiro and the Inafuku family, as well as all of our generous donors." 



Evelyn and Harold Oshiro

As of January 12, 2004, the 2003-04 "Preserving Our Legacy" fund drive had collected \$123,360.00. The HUOA is continuing to accept contributions and encourages those who have not yet made a donation to do so. For additional "Preserving Our Legacy" contribution forms, call the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400.

Installation Speech (continued from page 1)

touches also on the community at large. In that purpose, we are reminded of the generosity of many people here locally, and our friends in Okinawa who made possible this Hawaii Okinawa Center (built in 1990) — this the home of HUOA and memorial to our issei, where many activities take place under the Kawara tile (the typical Okinawan roof) with the shisa protecting the Okinawan Center, the Takakura Garden, and the Issei Garden, where the statue of Toyama Kyuzo, father of Okinawan immigration, stands.

Fulfillment of HUOA's purpose rests on the devotion of all our club members and the many volunteers and friends both here and in Okinawa that support HUOA efforts. HUOA is successful because of the thousands of hours by volunteers who devote their hearts, lives and devotion to supporting our many activities — whether it is preparing for and working at the Okinawan Festival at Kapi'olani Park, our spring and winter craft fairs here at the Center, or Kariyushi, participating in various parades such as the Pan-Pacific, or in community projects with the FoodBank and bone marrow donor registration, activities for our children such as Children's Day Camp or Halloween night, programs such as the Student Exchange Program, Leadership Tour and Study Tour, or organizing sports such as the golf tournament, bowling, softball and volleyball, or tending to the grounds around this Okinawan Center so that all can enjoy these beautiful gardens, or assisting at the Okinawan Center with the many calls and visitors who find their way here, to participating in the working committees of the Administration Committee (chaired by Jimmy Toyama), Programs Committee (chaired by Victor Yamashiro), Communications (chaired by John Tasato) Committee and their respective subcommittees — thousand of hours of efforts by volunteers to see that the affairs both cultural and business, of HUOA, are in order. This is a truly vibrant, energetic, and, without a doubt, a well-rounded organization.

And so today we gather here in fellowship, to celebrate and usher in our new year. We as your board of officers and advisors look forward to a truly joyous adventure. I thank in advance all the volunteers who spend an untold number of hours working so hard to support the many activities and programs throughout the year. To all of you who devote of your time and effort to keep HUOA the success that it is, thank you for your past efforts, and thank you for embarking on our journey into 2004.

Warai Fukui! It certainly is with joy in our hearts that good fortune is smiling on us for next year. The calendar for 2004 promises to be even greater. In addition to our many cultural activities, crafts fairs and the Okinawan Festival, we are looking forward to the following on our agenda:

- First shown at the Okinawa Gushikawa Cultural Theater, being brought from Okinawa to Hawai'i is "Pigs From the Sea," a contemporary Okinawan musical production which

is the endearing account of how seven men of Okinawan descent from Hawaii went to Oregon, enlisted the assistance of the military, and traveled nearly two months to Okinawa. Calvin Nakama, our committee chair, has been doing a tremendous job to coordinate the efforts here to bring this production for a first time showing ever in the State of Hawaii — brought direct from Okinawa. What makes this musical production even more unique is that our children here have been invited by Okinawa to play roles in this production. Mifune Ikeuchi, director/choreographer from Okinawa, has been busy teaching 20 of your children to take roles in this musical show with an Okinawan cast at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall, April 30, 2004.

- And for our sports fans, for the first time ever, we will see



HUOA 2004 President Cheryl Okuma-Sepé: "... let's work and play together with 'Warai Fukui' in our hearts ..."

our first International Softball Tournament, inviting not only our local teams in the State of Hawai'i, but also Okinawan teams. We look forward to that July 4 weekend at Central Oahu Regional Park across from the Okinawan Center. Wayne Uejo, our HUOA sports director, is working hard on this effort.

- Also, we will have a Storytelling Festival which has the goal of ensuring that from generation to generation, family history is preserved, as well as reaching out into the Hawai'i community. If you were interested in history: why did our

ancestors leave Okinawa to come to Hawai'i, what were their impressions of Hawai'i, what was plantation life like, how did they live — stay tuned for this Storytelling Festival.

We are mindful that the success of HUOA is because of the clubs. I'd like to congratulate our Uchinanchus of the Year. You are truly the heroes. And we are so proud of you. Thank you for being the shining examples of what makes our clubs and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association so very special.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the club members for your loving dedication to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. It is your support that ensures the success of the many events that occur throughout the year. Time and time again, your support and assistance is sought. And you have pulled through every time. And it is because we recognize that clubs are important to the very existence of HUOA, we would like to spend this year to see what HUOA can do to assist the club members. This will be an important topic for us with the Administration Committee.

I would like to say "thank you" to the efforts of George Tamashiro, his officers and advisors who led the Hawaii United Okinawan Association through a most memorable year made possible by the tremendous efforts of all of you. And I thank him in advance for the advice and wisdom which I will surely depend on.

Mahalo to the many people who made this Installation Banquet so memorable. While there are many people to thank whom we recognize in the program booklet, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the chairs of the Installation Committee: Ric Higashionna and Fumiko Yoshimoto, and the committee chairs Calvin, Norene, Fran, Tom, Ron, Marcus, Mat, Morris, Wayne, Millie, Kay, committee members and friends. Mrs. Shimabukuro, thank you for allowing us to use your home where these beautiful table decorations could be created. Mahalo to Ura Keiko for spending countless hours on this very special program teaching the officers and advisors for your entertainment enjoyment; to Sensei Yoshiko Nakasone for her generosity and kindness; and Grant Murata, Sandaa for his patience as we practiced for this program.

In closing, I take a paragraph from the music "Warai Fukui" (translated by Clarence Nakasone):

*Let's sing and dance to the sanshin's tune of happiness.
To make a peaceful world, where misery is
Overcome by the power of laughter.
Hi everyone, gather together,
Let's give a cheerful laughter and be happy.*

So please, let's work and play together with "Warai Fukui" in our hearts as we embark together into 2004, with joy and laughter and an abundance of good fortune! I wish you all Happy Holidays. Ippe Nihei Debiru!

MAHALO FOR “PRESERVING OUR LEGACY”

Mahalo to the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 2003-'04 "Preserving Our Legacy" annual fund drive. The following donations were received between October

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In Loving Memory of My Son, Castle,
 by Helen Candilasa
 (Our apologies for any inconvenience
 the error may have caused the Candilasa
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MAHALO FOR PREPARING "PRESERVING OUR LEGACY" MAILERS

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association sends a heartfelt "Ippe nihwee deebiru" to the following volunteers who turned out on Sunday morning, Nov. 2, and for several days before and after Nov. 2, to help prepare, collate, stuff and mail this year's "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign materials. The volunteers prepared 11,784 pieces for mailing. The many hands working together, enjoying the fellowship of those around them, also saved HUOA funds so they could be used for other projects. Mahalo again for your time and support!



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 Ethel Miyashiro
 Evelyn Miyashiro
 Gainor Miyashiro
 George Miyashiro
 James Miyashiro
 Joyce Miyashiro
 Millie Miyashiro
 Doris Murai
 Carol Nakamura
 Jane Nakamura

Wendi Nakanishi
 Claire Nakaya
 Laverne Higa Nance
 Gary Nishikawa
 Jean Nishikawa
 Carole Nohara
 Violet Ogawa
 Cheryl Okuma-Sepe
 Yukiko Ross
 Margaret Sawamura
 Jo Ann Seo
 Maureen Shimabuku
 Herbert Shimabukuro
 Tom Shimabuku
 Karen Sugikawa
 George Takamiya
 Pat Takamiya
 Howard Takara
 Jane Takayesu
 June Takeno
 Nobu Takeno
 Christina Takushi
 Jane Tateyama
 Naoto Tateyama
 Joanne Toyama
 Takashi Tshako
 Gail Uchima
 Michael Uchima
 Mary Ueunten
 Senjin Ueunten
 Mark Yabui
 Sandy Yanagi

OUR CLUBS . . . OUR FUTURE

HUI OKINAWA . . . by AMY SHIROMA

Hui Okinawa held its annual bonen kai on Nov. 2 at the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin's Sangha Hall. The highlight of the luncheon program was the announcement of awards by Hui Okinawa's Awards Committee. Believing in the importance of young people in perpetuating, preserving and appreciating the Okinawan culture, Hui Okinawa recognized the service and participation of its youth by presenting its "Warabincha Award" to Elizabeth Alonzo, Preston Chibana, Megan Escalona, Taylor Escalona, Jonathan Hara, Ann Inouye, Steve Inouye, Hollye Kihara, Kayla Kosaki, Gerrie Morishita, Casey Nagamine, Cara Nakayama, Devan Nakayama, Kathy Oyadomari, Jessica Sagawa, Scott Saito, Dana Shimabukuro, Jesse Shiroma, Katie Shiroma, Steffia Stubblefield, Theone Suzuki, Dale Takayesu, Joni Tao, Beth Tsuha, Lisa Watanabe, Christina Watkins, Allyson Yafuso, Marlene Yafuso, Kayla Yamashiro, Marisa Yamashiro, Andrew Yoshimoto and James Yoshimoto.



Hui Okinawa's active and committed 2003 "Warabincha Award" recipients.

The "Hatarachaa Award" for extraordinary effort and time in furthering Hui Okinawa's projects and goals was presented to Frances Chow, Alice Dakujaku, Portia Hara, Cynthia Inouye, George Ito, Shirley Ito, Kevin Kaneshiro, Kay Kobashigawa, Amy Miwa, Dwayne Mukai, Sally Nagata, Troy Sakihara, Betty Suetomi, Shannon Tamimi, Sandy Taniguchi, Mildred Uchima and Lorraine Yamada.

Stella Miyashiro, Kaye Nagamine, Kathy Okunami, June Oshiro and Clyde Yafuso were presented the "Chibayaa Award" for their dedicated and diligent service to Hui Okinawa.

The "Distinguished Service Award" for dedication and loyalty to Hui Okinawa throughout the years went to Tome Hokama, Matsuchiyo Momohara and Jinsei Nako.

The "Member of the Year" award was the last to be presented. Hui Okinawa broke from tradition by presenting the award to the husband-and-wife team of Clifford and Susan Kaneshiro. The Kaneshiros have been active members of Hui Okinawa for many years: Clifford served as an officer and was also a member of the Board of Directors; Susan has helped with various committees at many functions. The Kaneshiros were responsible for the special T-shirt design for the Haari Boat Festival and the Summer Festival.

The couple recently took on their biggest project to date: the publication of Hui Okinawa's fundraising cookbook. With assistance from several others, they spent countless hours gathering recipes and preparing the publication. And, after the cookbooks were published, they shifted gears and took on the huge task of distributing and selling the cookbook. They set up a cookbook sales table at every opportunity, and now have just a few books left. Clifford and Susan Kaneshiro were recognized at the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's installation banquet on Dec. 14 in Honolulu.

Special thanks to Doreen Tao who chaired our bonen kai and to Roy Hokama for standing by as advisor.

OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII . . . by NANCY TOME

The Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii concluded its 2003 activities with its bonen kai on Nov. 22 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. About 90 members and families attended this gala day set aside for fun and fellowship. Guests stepped into a room filled with music, joyous laughter and an ingeniously designed "Okinawan Horn of Plenty." Included in the "Horn" were goya (bittermelon), dried and fried tofu, awamori chinsuko cookies, Okinawan sweet potato and kandaba (sweet potato leaves), konbu, sea salt and kokuto (sugar cane candy) and brown sugar candy. A "job-well-done" goes to Joan and Herbert Nakamatsu and Jane Takayesu.

Another popular event was the highly successful bazaar and silent auction put on by June Takeno, Nancy Yogi and their elves. Cheers go to Chair Barbara Fuchigami for successfully reminding people for months to actively participate in this event.

During a very short business meeting, the 2004-05 officers were announced: President: Rory Rankin; Vice President: Nancy Yogi; Secretary: Lisa Uyesato and

Treasurer: Fred Shinsato. Assisting will be Tom Shimabuku, Kay Yamada, Ethel Miyashiro and Harris Shiroma.

After feasting on lunch prepared by A Catered Experience, the festivities concluded with karaoke, sanshin music and kachashi by some very talented members.

As I leave my term as OGS President, please allow me to share some of OGS's activities during the past two years. We:

- raised funds to purchase a computer
- data-based the translated works of three immigrant books for easier retrieval;
- data-based a 1938 10th anniversary book of Shuri immigrants for the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club for its 75th anniversary booklet;
- created a website for Okinawans worldwide to access;
- organized a 10th anniversary tour to Kyushu and Okinawa, building ties with Okinawa kenjinkai in Kumamoto and Kagoshima and researching genealogy in Okinawa;
- participated in HUOA parades, which led to the creation of our own banner;
- started the process of applying for tax exempt status for OGS which will benefit both donors and members;
- participated in the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference to showcase our club's activities worldwide; and
- created a T-shirt with our OGS logo.

HUI O LAULIMA . . . by JEAN YAMASATO

Hui O Laulima, a women's group committed to promoting Okinawan culture, is currently accepting applications for its 2004 cultural grants. The grants or scholarships will be awarded to those demonstrating the greatest potential for preserving, perpetuating and promoting Okinawan culture. Applicants must also exhibit leadership ability and be involved in community service. Two letters of recommendation must accompany the application, which are available from Jean Yamasato at 839-6089. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 29, 2004.

The award money must be used within one year, and a final report must be submitted at the conclusion of the grant period. For more information, call Jean Yamasato.

KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI . . . by ED KINO

A memorial golf tournament for the late Harold Tome was held Nov. 14 at Olomana Golf Links. Twenty-five golfers played with difficulty, but the winners were 90-year-old Shoyei Yamauchi with a net of 68, and Nobu Tamayose. In third place with a net of 70 was Richard Takayesu, while Toshi Shimabukuro, Tommy Kawamura and Ed Watase tied for fourth with net 72s.

Finally, don't forget that Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai's 78th shinnen enkaï will be held Feb. 8, 2004, at Victoria Inn's second floor banquet room.

OKINAWA CITY - GOEKU SON . . . by KAREN KUBA-HORI

The year 2003 was a very exciting one for our organization – we would like to thank the many volunteers who assisted us with our many programs in 2003. This year, we were honored to recognize Sensei Mitsuko Toguchi as our "Uchinanchu of the Year." Sensei has graciously donated much to our organization, the HUOA and the many odori students she has instructed for many years. Congratulations, Sensei Toguchi!

We were saddened to lose four members in 2003. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of Thomas Arume, Barbro Kuba, William Kuwaye and Fred Kaneshiro. We hope the memories you hold of them will give you comfort this coming year. Their warmth, fellowship and involvement with Goeku will be missed by our membership.

The year 2004 looks to be an exciting year for us. President Mae Chung promises to have a wonderful year planned. We will start the year with our annual shinnen enkaï, scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at C'est Si Bon banquet hall at the Pagoda Hotel. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mae Chung at 696-6295. Additional information about our shinnen enkaï will be forthcoming.

Until next year – ii sogwachi shimisoochi.

ITOMAN SHIJIN KAI . . . by JANE TAKAYESU

Itoman Shijin Kai recently sent a painting by member Hideo Kaneshiro to Mayor Chosei Yamazato to congratulate Itoman City on the opening of its new City Hall building. The painting of Hawaiian canoe paddlers symbolizes the bond we share with the people of Itoman, where the haari boat races originated many years ago and are still held annually.

Itoman City reciprocated by sending two miniature models of Itoman sabani, or fishing boats: one to Mr. Kaneshiro and the second to Itoman Shijin Kai. A kibeï-niseï, Mr. Kaneshiro, worked on the sabani boats as a teenager in Itoman before returning to Hawai'i prior to World War II. The City also sent a video of the unveiling ceremony for the painting at their City Hall. The video will be shown at the Itoman shinnen enkaï, set for March 6, 2004, at Masa's Cafeteria.

continued on page 9

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HILO TEEN FINDS HANAI FAMILY IN OKINAWA

by Jonathan Hara (Reprinted with permission) Hui Okinawa

Ippe nihe debiru, Hui Okinawa, for providing an interisland coupon for me and four other Big Island students who traveled to Okinawa this summer. Your generosity helped with our travel expenses as we participated in the June 12-28, 2003, Hawai'i-Okinawa Student Exchange Program. This is a Hawai'i Department of Education program spearheaded by Ms. Lana Mito in Honolulu. She worked very hard in preparing us to be ambassadors of good will. We traveled to Honolulu on three separate weekends for orientation sessions before embarking to our different assigned host families.

I had an extraordinary two-week experience with my host, Yoshiaki

Toume, and his gracious family in Gushikawa City. I was away from the big modern city and loved the agricultural setting. The Toume family work hard at farming eggplant, tomatoes and okra — all favorites of mine. Mrs. Toume introduced me to bittermelon, and I looked forward to all her meals.

I accompanied Yoshiaki to Misato Technical High School and had fun with his schoolmates and teachers. Other than the language, from what I observed, the

guys had all the same interests and instincts! I helped their English language instructor in the classroom and

looked like a Hawai'i graduation picture. Lo and behold, it was their Hilo granddaughter. Mr. Toume's first cousin

is Akemi Kanoho of Hilo, who just happens to live right across the lane from my Grandma Hara. What a small world!

It was a treat for me to be hosted by Yoshiaki Toume and his family in this different rural setting, and I thoroughly enjoyed all the aloha and friendships I experienced.

Okinawans must be one of the happiest and friendliest people in the world. I can only hope to be more like them. They considered me a brother and son, and it was heartbreaking to have to leave them. I pray they are all well and wish they will be able to visit someday soon.

Thank you again, Hui Okinawa, for being supportive of these cultural exchange programs for Hawai'i's youth.

Jonathan Hara is a senior at Hilo High School. Also participating

in the 2003 Hawai'i-Okinawa Student Exchange Program was Hui Okinawa member Ann Inouye. This was Jonathan's second trip to Okinawa: In the summer of 2000, he was one of five Hilo teens who participated in the Kin Town "Voyage of Rediscovery." Since that trip, he and Hilo's other Kin Town voyagers have been presented the "Warabincha Award" numerous times for their service to Hui Okinawa and participation in the club's activities. Jonathan is the son of Ed and Portia (Shimabukuro) Hara.



Jonathan with Yoshiaki Toume, his Minato Technical School host student.



Dinnertime with the Toumes. (Photos courtesy of Jonathan Hara)



At Minato Technical School, Jonathan assisted the English teacher from Australia.



This was Jonathan's second trip to Okinawa. The girl flashing the shaka to his left remembered him from the 2000 Kin voyage.

that was fun. I never saw Yoshiaki do any homework, so I'm not sure how this school compares to the college prep schools others attended.

My spare time was spent sightseeing, biking for hours at a time (even bare-backed, breezing it in Okinawa in June was very hot and humid), a little shopping, playing hanafuda cards at night and just a lot of good-fun family togetherness. At their grandparents home, there was a photo that caught my eye because it

OUR CLUBS...OUR FUTURE (continued)



Hideo Kaneshiro holds one of the Itoman sabani boat models sent by Itoman City.

Itoman Shijin Kai's next board meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Takayesu residence in Moanalua Valley, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For those interested, we plan to show a video at 5:30 about the shipping of the pigs to Okinawa after the war. Several Itoman area issei were involved in that project, among them the late Ushikichi Nakama and Kamesuke Kakazu. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting to help plan our shinnen enkai. Call President Jane Takayesu at 839-2151 for information.

Itoman City Mayor Chosei Yamazato unveils Itoman Shijin Kai member Hideo Kaneshiro's Hawaiian canoe paddlers painting. (Photos courtesy of Jane Takayesu)



2003 SPORTS AWARDS PRESENTED



HUAO sports chair Wayne Uejo (far right) with the 2003 sports champs (from left): for volleyball, Jimmy Miyashiro (Urasoe Shijin Kai); for golf, George Kuba, representing Russell McGarry (Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club); for softball, Jane Serikaku (Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai); and for bowling, Terry Tamanaha, representing the Dushi Guata team. (One Moment in Time photo)

Outgoing President George Tamashiro presented the 2003 sports awards at the Dec. 14 Installation Banquet. The winners represented a mixed bag of HUAO clubs.

Urasoe Shijin Kai was presented the volleyball trophy. Urasoe member and player Jimmy Miyashiro accepted the award for his club.

Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai (previously Minami Nakagusuku) President Jane Serikaku accepted the softball trophy.

For the second year in a row, the golf award went to Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club member Russell McGarry for his championship showing at the HUAO Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament, which was played at the West Loch Golf Course over the Memorial Day weekend. Accepting the trophy for McGarry was Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club member George Kuba.

For the sixth consecutive year, Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai captured the Inamine Cup for its best team score. The trophy is named for Jimmy Inamine, owner of Jimmy's Bakery in Okinawa, a longtime supporter of HUAO's annual Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament. (The 2004 tournament will be held May 29 and 30 at the Pali Golf Course. Application forms will be available in a few months.)

And finally, for the second year in a row, the Mixed Handicap Bowling League award went to the Dushi Guata team, a combined team of bowlers from Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai and Gushikawa Shijin Kai. Accepting the team trophy was captain Terry Tamanaha.

“CHINU, NAMA, KUREKARA SACHI” MARK MOKK 75TH

by Sandra Goya
Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai

Honoring the Past

Over 100 years ago, brave men and women left their village homes in Okinawa to start a new life in Hawai'i. Making the long voyage across the Pacific Ocean, they braved treacherous conditions and persevered. Bonds of friendship were formed, forged from kinship and survival.

Early Okinawan immigrants on Maui formed chiho (club of the area) kenjinkai and aza son shihin clubs out of a need to band together to help solve their mutual problems. In the 1920s, attempts were made to organize the Maui Okinawan groups under a single umbrella organization. But the conditions necessary for these clubs to thrive were not yet in place.

In 1945, Maui Uchinanchu collected clothing as part of the postwar relief efforts.

Two years later, the Federation of Maui Ryukyu Clubs (Maui Ryukyu Remmei Kai) was formed to encompass all of the island's Okinawan communities. In the early 1960s, the name was changed to the Maui Okinawa Jin Kei Rengo Club (Maui United Okinawan Association). Upon the return of Okinawa to Japan in 1972, the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK) as we know it today came to be.

Enjoying the Present

Today, over 350 families — great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren — are MOKK members. A building dedicated to the issei, whose struggles and sacrifices made life easier and more comfortable for all of us, is the kaikan that serves as a gathering place for the Okinawan community. Proudly, the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center (Bunka Kaikan) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2002.

The kaikan houses a museum of artifacts rich in history and heritage. It seems only fitting that the cultural center attract young and old alike to learn odori (dance), sanshin, taiko, karaoke, koto, paranku, iaido (swordsmanship), hogen and gateball. In addition, a children's day camp ignites a fire in our youth to preserve and perpetuate our rich Okinawan culture for future generations.

Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart possess a heartfelt spirit energized by a true respect for one another and natural ability to reach out and form lifetime bonds of friendship. This spirit of togetherness was ever-present at the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's Bonen Kai and 75th anniversary celebration luncheon held at the Maui Beach Hotel's elleair Rainbow Room on Nov. 22. The sun shined brightly as over 250 members arrived at the event. Seeing old friends brought lots of hugs and smiles, and soon the room was



HUAO President George Tamashiro (at podium) administers the oath of office to Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai's 2004 officers and directors. In 2004, MOKK will be led by sansei Bob Yonahara.



Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members dance to the music of the Afuso Ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai, led by Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei. (Photos by Sandra Goya)

filled with laughter and elated voices.

MOKK President Todd Hondo welcomed everyone and the Reverend Ryoza Yamaguchi of Paia Rinzaï Zen Mission blessed the celebration. Guests in aloha wear and MOKK 75th anniversary shirts navigated their way to their seats and found a special souvenir booklet waiting for exploration. Their souvenir brought many greetings from dignitaries and captured the essence of MOKK. History came to life through stories and pictures, setting the stage for what was yet to come.

Honoring the past MOKK presidents was a true reminder of the dedication and the many steps MOKK has taken to where it is today. But it was truly their day as Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa officially proclaimed November 22 as "Maui Okinawa Culture Day." HUAO President George Tamashiro and representatives of the Japanese Consulate offered congratulatory messages. The 2002 MOKK Uchinanchu of the Year passed the honor on to the 2003

recipients. And then the lights dimmed and the souvenir booklet came to life on screen. Pictures and music flowed. The narration for each scene was a personal story, a private memory for each, such that no words were necessary as each moment captured and shared, fully embraced one and all.

Educating the Future

As we look ahead, we wonder what will sustain the strength of Okinawan organizations in the next century. Foresight and foundation have provided MOKK with the tools for a positive future. The annual picnic in July brings everyone together for a day of enjoyment and fellowship. The MOKK Senior Citizens Club, formed in 2002, solidifies the deep roots of Uchinanchu bonds.

The MOKK scholarship recipients, 79 to date, will be nurtured for future leadership roles. The fujinkai ladies provide the spirit of volunteerism from the heart in action — magic transformed into reality. The MOKK golf tournament attracts golfers from all over Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Japan and Okinawa, linking Okinawans across the globe. The Maui Okinawan Festival reaches out to the community and shares with our neighbors what the Uchinanchu spirit is all about.

The 2004 MOKK leaders filled the stage and took their oaths during the installation of officers by HUAO President Tamashiro. The 76th year of MOKK was now promised to the next generation of officers. Fittingly, the young 90-year-old Wallace Miyahira brought everyone to their feet with a toast to the future.

The 75th anniversary culminated with joyful entertainment that celebrated this special occasion. The tantalizing

sounds of Okinawan music provided by Afuso Ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai (Sensei Grant "Sandaa" Murata, Sensei Kenton Odo, Tom Yamamoto) was accented

in harmony by Sensei Jane Kaneshiro on koto, Sensei Terry Higa on taiko and Richard Yamashiroya on kuucho. Led by Sensei Frances Nakachi, the dancers (Sandra Uyehara, Chikako Shimamura, Jodie Ching) of Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai through gesture and expression told the story expressed in each song to an appreciative crowd.

Then audience members stood with their hands in the air moving in rhythm as the traditional kachashi began.

The fun-loving Okinawan spirit was alive at this program. As the music ended, hugs were exchanged for promises to see each other again soon.

Forward to the year 2028, the 100th anniversary of MOKK. On this occasion, club officers in a special ceremony will reveal the contents of the MOKK Time Capsule buried on December 11, 2003, filled with photos; a can of the "official" MOKK beer, Keystone; messages; plantation toys; club bylaws and a bottle of Kiku No Tsuyu (100 years old in 2028) awamori. 🍷



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YOUNG OKINAWANS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HONORS SENIORS

by Val Zukeran
Young Okinawans of Hawaii

For those who attended the annual Young Okinawans of Hawaii Christmas Senior Luncheon on Dec. 6, or helped out in any way, there is no question that everyone walked away feeling touched. For me, the Young Okinawans' gesture to give back to our issei and nisei is why I'm a strong supporter of the club. It's about giving back, about saying "thank you," and about showing what the true Okinawan spirit is all about.

This year's luncheon brought out over 100 volunteers and over 450 seniors. Our very own Tomomi Shimabukuro was a great emcee. The luncheon began with speeches by YOH President Bill Akamine and HUOA President George Tamashiro. This year, each guest received a free Kupuna ID sponsored by the Honolulu Fire Department. Lunch was provided by A Catered Experience. The appetizer made by Gene Oshiro was an ono stuffed kabocha with pork and sweet potatoes. Thank you to Hawaii Taiko Kai for making the Christmas-colored andagi. Norman Kaneshiro, Allison Yanagi, Pete Doktor and Gene Tamashiro of Katareh provided the lunchtime entertainment. Their music was a unique blend of traditional and modern Okinawan sounds.

It was a really exciting program this year with over 70 percent of the entertainers being YOH members. And if you thought we didn't have talent, boy, we surprised you! The program began with YOH's own Akemodoro shishi, which was generously donated by Sensei Akemi Martin. Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta have done a great job of perfecting the shishi's personality over the last two years. We invite anyone to learn shishi-mai since YOH's goal is to perform with two or more shishi at our various performances. It's fun! Ask Eric Nitta, he doesn't want to let go of the shishi butt. Hmmm . . .

Following the shishi was Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko under the direction of Akemi Martin. This was their first appearance for the Senior Luncheon and her group really brought a lot of energy and spunk. Their innovative style of eisa captures both young and old and is definitely a show to watch. After that, well, again the YOH men strutted their stuff with "Boy from Laupahoehoe," then the lovely YOH women demonstrated their awesome beauty and talents by dancing hula to "Hana." Just for the record, we all, and I mean all, did not have any prior hula or odori experience. We were blessed with really awesome teachers who taught us the dance in only three weeks. A very big Ippei Nihwe Debiru to Sensei Shizuko Shiroma, Gerri Maeda, Val Teruya, Thelma Arakawa, Nancy Yeda, Sherri Nishida, Thelma Ho, Eleanor Hu, Diane Kawakami, Shirley Miyahira, Betsy Miyahira and Lorraine Kodama for teaching us what we needed to know. They stayed with us for many long and late hours. Without them, we would never have been able to do it.

We also showed our YOH video that brought laughter around the room. We all know that everyone at one time or another has done crazy things, so for all those guests who laughed — you probably were there at one time in your life. Next, YOH did a joint eisa performance with Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, which was fun to watch. My mother-in-law Arlene Zukeran danced the hula to "Christmas Luau" and "White Christmas." It was an awesome solo that could only be performed the way she did because it came from her heart.

Then came our grand finale. I cannot tell you what it meant for all of us to do this performance. Twenty adults and eight children, danced to Mamoru Miyagi's "Mifayu." Those who know this singer cannot help but be touched by his music. "Mifayu" means "thank you" to our parents and grandparents for being who they are and for giving us the life we have. I couldn't hold back my tears while dancing this and I heard that many others cried with me, both the performers and the audience. Again, thank you Sensei Shizuko Shiroma for creating this dance and teaching us what we should all be doing — and that's giving back to the community in the most positive way, keeping our people together and helping each other no matter what.

We ended with another Mamoru Miyagi song, "Matsuri Kachashi." There were lots of door prizes, smiles, laughter — everyone really had a good time. There are so many people who helped and supported us during the year. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for believing in us; we will continue to give back to the community in the very same way that you all have shown.

I want to share a message from one of our members. It says a lot about why we continue this unique event:

"Wow! Actually, words do not adequately describe the wonderful experience of the 2003 Senior Luncheon. However, many told me that this year's program was the "best" one yet! Good job, Bill, Val, Jinnah, Donna, David, Jon Ishihara and the rest of you YOH peeps.

Let me take this opportunity to share just a wee bit of personal history. Back in 2000, murmuring arose among the YOH Board about skipping Senior Luncheon that year because it was a very busy Centennial Celebration year for YOH and HUOA. However, only a year before, an elderly woman took me aside as I was scurrying by. Her tiny hands tightly gripped my own and with tears in her eyes, she whispered to me: "I will probably not live to see another year's performance, but I am so glad I came today." The chatter of the room disappeared and in a

solitary daze, I had no words to respond except "Thank you." I have not seen her since that day. Needless to say, nothing was going to convince me to cancel the Senior Luncheon the following year.

What really hooks you to this event is finding someone special. For me, there is a special senior who gets out of her walker every year to dance kachashi. This year, a woman tapped me on the shoulder to personally thank me while I was cleaning up. I asked who she was . . . it was Kip Nakamoto's mother! Kip, I'm glad that YOH was able to bring a smile to your special someone, considering all that you've done for YOH. I guess my real message is that being face-to-face with the seniors' warm eyes reflecting tears, smiles and laughter is a big part of what YOH should be about.

I hope that all of you who shared your day with them this year were able to walk away touched by the same warm feeling that I experienced years ago. I invite all of you to join me each and every coming year to find time in your busy schedules to continue helping YOH in this important and gratifying event. Maybe one day, we'll find ourselves seated in those very same seats wearing the same tears and smiles as our children and grandchildren do the same for us.

Last note . . . several comments were made to me about how YOH reflects a unique and sincere sense of unity and bonding amongst its membership. I want to thank all of you who promote this perception to the community. When it comes from the heart, no words are necessary." — Jon Itomura



YOH member Jon Itomura with senior Elsie Yoshiko Arakaki

This has been an extremely long article, but when it comes to YOH's Christmas Senior Luncheon, it's hard not to talk about it all. A very big mahalo to Hui O Laulima, Yomitan Club, Hawaii Taiko Kai, Frank Yogi for the sound system, HUOA officers and the Young Okinawans for manpower. There were so many people involved, but there isn't enough room to list all of them, so I'll close here by saying: On behalf of Young Okinawans of Hawaii, we wish you a very happy and healthy New Year's. Ippei Nihwe Debiru!

For more information on the Young Okinawans of Hawaii, contact Val Zukeran at 235-5620, or e-mail her at vzukeran@hawaii.rr.com.



Tiny YOH members joined their moms on stage, dancing "Mifayu." (Photos courtesy of Young Okinawans)



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HUOA Happenings

HUOA BOARD MEETS ON MAUI

For the first time in the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 52-year history, the Board of Directors traveled off-island — to the Valley Isle of Maui — for its bimonthly meeting and the opportunity to experience Maui-style hospitality. More than 30 club representatives and guests attended the Board meeting, which was held on Oct. 18 at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center in Wailuku. The meeting was hosted by the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai, whose members prepared a scrumptious breakfast and luncheon feast that even included pigs feet soup. The visitors were also treated to a tour of the Maui kaikan, which is rich with Okinawan cultural and plantation day artifacts. With stomachs nourished and full, the visitors filled the rest of the day with shopping, sightseeing, and, of course, golf.

The invitation to hold the Board meeting on Maui was made in 2002 by then-MOKK president Clarence Uehara.



HUOA President George Tamashiro presents an appreciation plaque to 2003 Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai President Todd Hondo. (Photos courtesy of Rodney Kohagura)



Yomitan Club members Mel Horimoto, Tom Uechi and Wilfred Lam (in foreground) fill their plates with the masan treats prepared by Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members.

HOC "HAUNTED" FOR HALLOWEEN



The Hawaii Okinawa Center was transformed into a haunted house for the HUOA's Halloween program. (Photos courtesy of Sandy Goya)



The Oct. 24 Halloween costume contest attracted children from the Gentry Waipio community as well as the keiki of HUOA members.

FORMER HUOA PRESIDENT SHINSUKE NAKAMINE PASSES ON

Former Hawaii United Okinawa Association president Shinsuke Nakamine passed away Nov. 22 at the age of 91. Mr. Nakamine, who was recognized last May at the HUOA's inaugural Legacy Awards luncheon, devoted much of his time to community service through organizations like the HUOA and the United Japanese Society of Hawaii.

Shinsuke Nakamine was born July 28, 1912, in Wai'anae to Saburo and Matsu Nakamine, immigrants from Yonabaru-Cho. Shortly after his first birthday, his mother took him and his sister to Okinawa, where they were raised. Nakamine-san graduated from Okinawa Kenritsu High School in 1930. He returned to Hawai'i that year and enrolled at Iolani School, graduating in 1935.

Mr. Nakamine co-founded the Okinawa Uruma Young Men's Association which was formed to serve young kibe-nisei men who had returned to Hawai'i after completing their education in Okinawa. Nakamine-san coordinated events such as speech contests and cultural lectures to help bridge the issei and young nisei.

He also helped build good will between Okinawa and Hawai'i through projects like cultural exchanges. In a 2001 interview with the HUOA, Mr. Nakamine looked back on his involvement in the Okinawa war relief effort. He recalled getting together

with about 150 volunteers daily for about three weeks at the Jikoen Temple, then located on Houghtailing Street. "Some people, they pick up clothing and shoes, whatever they donate. Some are mending and sorting." Meanwhile, Nakamine-san's group was responsible for soliciting lunch donations to feed the roughly 150 volunteers each day. Mr. Nakamine also helped raise funds to purchase 550 pigs to send to Okinawa for food and breeding after the war.

When dignitaries from Okinawa visited Hawai'i, he escorted them and served as an interpreter for meetings with government officials. "Those days, [they] all use Hickam Air Base . . . so we have to [go at] midnight — 12 o'clock — we wake up and meet them, pick them up, take [them] to [their] Waikiki hotel. And then following morning, we get up early and then take them all [on a] city tour. And then evening, we have party."

Later in the postwar years, Mr. Nakamine coordinated an agricultural training program in Hawai'i for young farmers from Okinawa.

A longtime member of Yonabaru Chojin Kai, Mr. Nakamine also served the larger Okinawan community as 1957-58 HUOA president. During his term, he introduced a college graduates testimonial dinner at which students of Okinawan ancestry who had graduated from the University of Hawai'i or Mainland colleges and their parents were individually recognized.

Nakamine-san also helped bring a severely handicapped Okinawan boy to Hawai'i so he could receive medical treatment at Shriners' Hospital. He often visited the youngster and encouraged him until he recovered and was able to return to Okinawa.

Mr. Nakamine was also a successful insurance man who worked for Sun Life of Canada for 65 years. He was a multiyear Million Dollar Round Table member. He also made time to serve as a board member, advisor or director for many businesses and community organizations, including Central Pacific Bank.

In 1983, Mr. Nakamine's exemplary service to the community was recognized when he became the first nisei of Okinawan ancestry to be awarded an imperial decoration: the Fourth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Nakamine-san remained productive throughout his life: On the occasion of his 90th birthday, he fulfilled his long-held dream of publishing his autobiography, "The Life of Shinsuke Nakamine," a Japanese- and English-language volume that captured his life experiences and accomplishments.

Mr. Nakamine is survived by his wife Chiyo, sons James and Thomas and daughters Amy Pritikin and Nancy Onuma, brother Shinbu, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



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KARII! . . . CONGRATULATIONS!

Allison Yanagi was promoted to the Yushusho level in uta-sanshin after passing a proficiency test in the Nomura-ryu style of classical Ryukyuan music in Okinawa. Of the 182 students who took the Aug. 21 test, only 59 passed. Yanagi, a student of Harry Seisho Nakasone Sensei, was the only Hawai'i student to take the test. She performed and sang two songs, "Shuri Bushi" and "Kwamucha Bushi." Yanagi is also an accomplished Okinawan kuucho artist and is often asked to play for Okinawan music and dance performances. She holds a Yushusho certificate in kuucho as well as a kyoshi menkyo, which allows her to teach. She also is a member of the contemporary Okinawan musical group, Katareh. Yanagi has studied in Okinawa and earned her master's degree in Asian Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, specializing in Okinawa. Allison is the daughter of Carl and Sandy (Kaneshiro) Yanagi and is a member of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai.



Allison Yanagi



Hawaiian slack key artists **Ozzie Kotani** and **Steve Sano** have released a collection of slack key-influenced Japanese and Okinawan songs on a new CD titled

"Remembrance — Omoide." "Omoide" is a remembrance of shared experiences by two guys who, at first glance, seem to share little," explains the recording's liner notes. Kotani grew up in Hawai'i; Sano in California, where he still resides.

Both, however, grew up with one parent who was kibe-nisei — and both grew up hearing Japanese children's songs like "Shojoji no Tanuki Bayashi," "Aka Tombo" and the pop tune, "Sukiyaki," all of which are featured on the CD along with 10 other tunes. The three Okinawan songs are "Nada So So," "Warabi Gami" and "Bashofu." Another old-time favorite, "Wakare no Isochidori," was composed by the late Francis Zanami, a Hawai'i Uchinanchu who led the popular Shochiku Orchestra in postwar Hawai'i. Kotani and Sano acknowledge the assistance of Cheryl Uehara in introducing them to several new Okinawan tunes.

Kotani's paternal grandfather immigrated to Hawai'i from Kiyan, Gushikawa. He says he has always been proud of his Okinawan roots and was thrilled to have been able to record the three Okinawan songs.

The CD was recorded on the Daniel Ho Creations label at Stanford University, where Sano teaches music. Kotani and Sano previously collaborated on another CD, "A Taro Patch Christmas." Kotani has also recorded with George Winston's Dancing Cat Records. "Remembrance — Omoide" is available at most music stores in Hawai'i.

Former State Senator **Patsy (Miyahira) Young** will be inducted into McKinley High School's Hall of Honor during a special Black and Gold Week school assembly on Jan. 29 and at a McKinley Alumni Association fundraising brunch on Jan. 31.

Young, who graduated from McKinley in 1947, is a member of Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai and Hui Makaala. A pioneer in politics, she served in the State House and subsequently the Senate during the 1970s and '80s, at a time when very few women were involved in politics. Young was one of eight women elected to the 1968 Constitutional Convention. She also organized the women's coalition during the 1988 legislative session. Young also served on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents and the State Public Utilities Commission. Her service to the community was recognized by the State House in 1994.

Also slated to be inducted into the Hall of Honor is Dr. Harriet Natsuyama (Class of 1955), an expert in pure and



Patsy (Miyahira) Young

applied math, computer science, physics and engineering. Natsuyama co-founded Planet Aura, a nonprofit organization that sells cards, postcards, posters, world flags and other products that support efforts to end world hunger.

Chance Gusukuma was cast in playwright Lee Cataluna's "Folks You Meet in Longs," which played to sold-out audiences



"Folks You Meet in Longs" playwright Lee Cataluna with cast members (clockwise from bottom left): Chance Gusukuma, Wil Kahele, Daryl Bonilla and Maka. (Kumu Kahua Theatre photo)

this past summer at Kumu Kahua Theatre. Gusukuma is a television producer for JN Productions and has reported on many HUOA activities. "Folks You Meet in Longs" was his first stage experience. Gusukuma played a number of characters in the production: a young

man named Rogelio "D.J. Stankmaster" Cabingabang, who is trying to talk his way out of trouble with his girlfriend; Bill Thompson, an apartment dweller with a soft spot for the youth stealing food from his refrigerator; Grampa Joji, an ornery senior who rants about how kids nowadays don't know real, hard work; and Larry Tanouye, a Longs worker who never dreamed he would still be working at the same job — and at the same store — since high school.

Gusukuma said he decided to audition for the play after listening to his cousin's hilarious stories about working at Longs for many years. He said appearing in the play was hard work, but that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "Folks You Meet in Longs" was directed by Keith Kashiwada and was such a hit that it will be presented again this summer (July 1–August 1) at Kumu Kahua Theatre.

TANSUI RYU STAGES BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

by Karleen C. Chinen
Bito Doshi Kai

Last summer, the Okinawan community took a journey back in time thanks to a benefit performance by the Tansui Ryu Dentoh Hozon Kai of Okinawa. "Listening to the Ancient Songs of Okinawa" was presented at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on July 27. The performance commemorated the 380th anniversary of the birth



A performance of kwena, or ancient prayer dance, opened the Tansui Ryu concert.

of Tansui Uyekata, founder of the Tansui school of classical Ryukyuan music, as well as 20 years since the Tansui Ryu Dentoh Hozon Kai was established in Okinawa. About 30 musicians and performers traveled to Hawai'i at their own expense to put on the show.

They were joined by another 20 supporters from Okinawa. Besides their performance at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, the group put on an entertaining show for senior citizens at the Lanakila Multi-purpose Senior Center.

The Tansui school of classical Okinawan music was established in the late 17th century by Tansui Uyekata. It predates the Afuso and Nomura schools, which are today the more prevalent schools of classical Okinawan music. All court music until the emergence of Chokun Tamagusuku (1650-1734) was presented in the Tansui style. The Tansui Ryu Dentoh Hozon Kai, led by Heizo Uesato Sensei, was established to preserve the traditional Okinawan performing arts taught by the Hozon Kai's founder, the late Seihin Yamauchi Sensei. Although there are no teachers of Tansui Ryu in Hawaii, the HUOA's ties to Yamauchi Sensei date back to 1951, the year the Hawaii Okinawa Kenjin Kai (today's HUOA) was established. Yamauchi Sensei was a special guest artist at the Kenjin Kai's celebration.

One of the highlights of the performance, which was chaired by Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai member George Kaneshiro, was the opening gassho which featured not only Tansui Ryu musicians but their Hawai'i counterparts from both the Nomura and Afuso schools in Hawai'i. Joining the guests from Okinawa were teachers

and students from the Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu; Aragusuku Seiko Yayoi Kenkyusho; Mitsufumi Ryu Taiko Hozon Kai; Nomura-ryu Ongaku Kyokai, Hawaii Shibu; Nomura-ryu Koten Ongaku Hozon Kai, Hawaii Shibu and the Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai, Hawaii Shibu. The harmony of the three styles — Tansui Ryu, Nomura-ryu and Afuso-ryu — each playing their own style during the gassho was unbelievably beautiful.

The audience was also treated to a rarely seen kwena, or prayer dance, and a recitation of "Ohfu Omoro," poetry from the Omoro Soshi, by Saneaki Aniya, a professor at Fukuoka Geijitsu Kogyo Daigaku. Professor Aniya is the great-grandson of Sanekaru Aniya, the Ryukyuan Kingdom's last official orator of Omoro.

Okinawa and Hawaii connected in the "Yamauchi Melody" section — songs written by Seihin Yamauchi Sensei. One of his compositions, "Hawaii Melody," was sung by Yamauchi's niece, Kiyu Yamauchi Sensei.

A lively Aloha Party organized for HUOA by members of Yomitan Club followed the afternoon performance.

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“FROM BENTŌ TO MIXED PLATE” IN HOMECOMING SHOWING ON MAUI

by Karleen C. Chinen
Bito Doshi Kai

Homecoming. It is an Island tradition that makes life in Hawai'i so special. Whether returning to the old high school or college campus, or simply coming home to the warm embrace of 'ohana in the Islands . . . there's nothing sweeter than coming home to Hawai'i.

On Dec. 12, the island of Maui welcomed home a Hawai'i story — *From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i*. The exhibit, which was developed by the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and curated by Hawai'i writer Arnold T. Hiura, opened at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center (MACC) in Kahului for a nine-week run.

The showing at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center is the final opportunity for the public to see the much-traveled exhibit, which debuted at the Bishop Museum in 1997. The exhibit has been seen by over 700,000 people in its various venues in Hawai'i, the continental U.S. and Japan. A bilingual version of the exhibit made its international debut at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum in November 2000, the centennial year of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i.

Now the original exhibit is back home on Maui.

Bentō explores the evolution of the Japanese American identity in Hawai'i, from the arrival of the first immigrants from Japan in 1868 to the present generation, shaped by life in Hawai'i's multicultural setting. It looks at how the Issei (first generation Japanese), Nisei (second generation American of Japanese ancestry), Sansei (third generation AJA) and even Yonsei (fourth generation AJA) have adapted to the different cultural influences that came to bear on them in the Islands, and how each generation has contributed to the evolution of the Japanese American ethnic identity over time. Volunteer docents of all ethnic backgrounds from the Maui community have been bringing the exhibit panels and artifacts to life by sharing their own experiences with exhibit viewers, many of them Maui schoolchildren.

The Maui Arts & Cultural Center and the Japanese American National Museum, co-presenters of the exhibit on the Valley Isle, have been working with volunteers from the community, in particular JANM's Maui Advisory Council. The Council, chaired by Stanley Okamoto, met monthly at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center. Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai member Clarence Uehara chaired the fundraising efforts to bring the exhibit to the Valley Isle.

The exhibit features more than two hundred artifacts and over two hundred photographs that help tell the story of the evolution of Hawai'i's Japanese community. Most of the artifacts and photos are on loan to the exhibit by individuals in Hawai'i. The single-largest collection of historic gems in *Bentō* are from the Maui Okinawa Cultural

Center. The loan was arranged by the late Roy R. Yonahara, a leader in Maui's Okinawan community and former executive director of the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center. Yonahara, the father of current Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai President Bob Yonahara, died in 1997. He was a staunch supporter of both the Japanese American National Museum and the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. One of the exhibit videos is dedicated to his memory.



Homemade toys and games from the Roy Yonahara Collection; Courtesy of the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center. (Photo by Shuzo Uemoto)

Yonahara had donated many of his own personal treasures to the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center collection, including his set of home-made plantation toys and a tofu usu (mortar), all of which are included in the exhibit. The exhibit also features artwork and tools hand-crafted by



Kesho mawashi (ceremonial sumo apron) worn by Takamiyama — Maui's Jesse Kuhaulua; Collection of Azumazeki (Jesse Kuhaulua). (JANM photo by Norman H. Sugimoto)

Yonahara's Issei father, Ryosen Yonahara, while interned in an American concentration camp during World War II.

The exhibit includes several prized items from the Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum in Pu'unene as well as photographs borrowed from family photo albums during a collection effort at MACC in 1996. Photos of legendary swim coach Soichi Sakamoto and members of his Three-Year Swim Club, Maui Taiko and family photos from Maui residents are among the many featured in the exhibit.

The inspiring story of Coach Sakamoto and his champion Three-Year Swim Club is told via text, photos and a video interview with Pu'unene native John Tsukano, which was shot along the banks of the irrigation canal fronting Pu'unene School. Kin Chojinkai member Keo Nakama swam with Sakamoto's Three-Year Swim Club.

Also featured in the exhibit videos are interviews with the late labor leader Tom Yagi, who was instrumental in building the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center; World War II veteran and early Democratic Party-builder Mike Tokunaga, who was born and raised in Lahaina; Maui Jinsha's longtime resident minister, Rev. Torako Arine, who, at age 92,

performed the Shinto blessing at the exhibit's Dec. 12 opening, and even Jikoan Hongwanji Mission's Rev. Bruce Nakamura at a bon dance in Hilo.

Among the many artifacts featured in *Bentō* is the first kesho mawashi (ceremonial sumo apron) worn by a proud son of Maui: sumotori Jesse "Takamiyama" Kuhaulua, now known in Japan as Azumazeki oyakata (stablemaster). At the age of 19, Kuhaulua left his family and home in Happy Valley, to enter the highly regimented world of sumo in Japan, becoming one of the first gaijin (foreigner) to make his mark in the sport. Kuhaulua cleared the path for other Hawai'i youth to excel in the sport in Japan. The kesho mawashi featured in the exhibit was given to him by veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Kuhaulua loaned the stunning silk kesho mawashi to the exhibit. It is emblazoned with the emblem of the 442nd and its "Go For Broke" slogan.

The exhibit's title, *From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i*, is derived from the early Japanese and Okinawan plantation laborers who carried their lunch of rice and okazu (pickled vegetables and occasionally meat or fish) in a tiered aluminum container called a bento tin. At lunchtime, the multiethnic work crew would place their okazu in the center of a circle and share what they had with each other.

The evolution of multicultural sharing and learning is symbolized in Hawai'i today by the "mixed plate," a popular meal of foods from several different cultures served on a paper plate with a common ingredient, rice.

Another highlight of the exhibit is the JANM FamilyFun Festival, set for Saturday, Jan. 24, at MACC. The Festival will celebrate the different cultures that came together during Maui's plantation days and will include food, crafts, entertainment and games for the kids.

OROKU RESTAURANTS EXHIBIT TO BE SHOWN AT 'A'ALA "TALK STORY"

by Karleen C. Chinen
Bito Doshi Kai

If you haven't yet had a chance to see the Oroku Restaurants Exhibit, mark Sunday, Feb. 1, on your calendar and swing by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Mō'ili'ili, where it will be displayed for one day only at an 'A'ala "talk story" being held in conjunction with the JCCH exhibit, "A'ala: The Story of a Japanese Community in Hawai'i." In its heyday, a number of Oroku-owned restaurants were located in the 'A'ala area.

Due to a lack of space inside the JCCH Community Gallery, the Oroku Restaurants Exhibit will be shown in a covered corridor outside the gallery from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The 'A'ala talk story event will also feature karaoke singing by former members of the Shochiku Orchestra, including former Oroku restaurant owner Masaji Uyehara. Available for purchase will be saimin from a just-like-'A'ala saimin stand, bento and snacks.

The Oroku Restaurants Exhibit was produced by the Okinawan Restaurants Project Phase 1 Committee, co-chaired by Oroku Azajin Club members Howard Takara and his daughter Holly. The Okinawan Restaurants project is a partnership of the HUOA and the JCCH. It was initiated in 2001 by then-JCCH president Susan Kodani following the closing of the Columbia Inn restaurant. Kodani met with former Columbia Inn owner Eugene "Gene" Kaneshiro and subsequently the HUOA Executive Council to discuss HUOA's involvement in the project.

The committee, made up of several former Oroku restaurant owners, met monthly for two years. Twelve oral history interviews with former restaurateurs were conducted by the UH Center for Oral History with grant monies obtained by Kodani. A copy of the transcripts of all 12 interviews will be shared with the HUOA. The Phase 1 committee identified 72 Oroku-owned restaurants that were in operation between 1923 and the 1960s. Their names, owners, locations and dates of operation are featured in the exhibit.

The 10-panel exhibit was produced with donations from Oroku Azajin members and former restaurant owners Wallace and Ethel Teruya,

Beatrice Kaneshiro and Gene Kaneshiro. Financial support was also provided by the HUOA and the Hawaii chapter of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association. The panels were designed by UH graphic design student Marween Yagin, with design advice provided by UH art professor



Oroku issei Kojiro Takara operated Star Grill on King Street from 1938 to 1948. (Photo courtesy of Frank Takara)

Tom Klobe. Quotes from the oral histories were incorporated into the exhibit, which was shown for the first time at last year's Okinawan Festival. It was also shown during the two-day meetings of the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference at the East-West Center.

At the Feb. 1 "talk story," former 'A'ala residents are encouraged to share their memories of the bustling ethnic enclave where people lived, shopped, ate and socialized in the 1920s and '30s. Several Okinawan-owned restaurants were located in 'A'ala, mainly along old 'A'ala Street, which originally ran from King to School Street. The King-to-Beretania section of 'A'ala Street is no more today; it was redeveloped and is today part of 'A'ala Park. Among the Oroku-owned restaurants located in the 'A'ala area were Star Grill, which Kojiro Takara operated from 1938 to 1948 before converting it to Star Shoe Store. Uptown Cafe, originally located on 'A'ala Street, was run by Taro and Toyo Takara, and Thomas Takahara, and Henry and Fred Takara operated the Oahu Railway Coffeeshop on Iwilei Road.

The 'A'ala exhibit features many historical

photographs being shown for the first time and artifacts from prewar 'A'ala. "People used to go 'A'ala Market every week to buy their fresh seafood, chicken, pork, fruits, vegetables — everything," recalled Larry Sato, whose parents owned a men's clothing store in 'A'ala Rengo.

(A'ala Rengo was the long building located on King Street alongside the Nuuanu Stream. The businesses were organized as an association, or rengo.). "They also used to go to 'A'ala Rengo to buy their hardware, clothing, shoes and furniture, and they used to go and watch chambara (Japanese sword-fighting movies) or other films at one of the four theaters in the area," Sato said.

"A'ala was a robust, vibrant Japanese business community, and that's why we decided to do this project," said Brian Suzuki, one of the exhibit coordinators. Suzuki's mother worked in a dry goods store in 'A'ala Rengo. The 'A'ala committee worked on the project for over three years.

A companion book of the same title, written by Michael M. Okihiro and other 'A'ala project coordinators, features historical photos of the area, detailed maps of the district and rich stories of the people who lived, worked and played in 'A'ala. It is available for \$24.95, plus tax.

"A'ala: The Story of a Japanese Community in Hawai'i" will remain on display through Feb. 14. Admission is free.

The Hawaii Okinawan Restaurants Project Phase 1 Committee is willing to show the Oroku Restaurants Exhibit at the shinnen enkai of the various HUOA clubs if their schedules permit. To request the exhibit, call Howard Takara at 988-3201, or email him at het@hgea.org. Work on Phase 2 of the Okinawan Restaurants Projects, encompassing all Okinawan restaurants in Hawai'i, is currently underway. It is being chaired by Laverne Higa Nance.

From Bentō to Mixed Plate (continued)

From Bentō to Mixed Plate will close on Sunday, Feb. 15, with a grand reunion of volunteers and visitors from all 10 Bento venues who will reunite at MACC for a day filled with fun, games, food, music and dance, and sharing warm Bento memories. The reunion is open to the public; admission is free. For more information on the

reunion, call René Tomita at JANM's Hawai'i's office at (808) 946-5417.

From Bentō to Mixed Plate will remain on display at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center through Feb. 15. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Through Feb. 15:** *From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i* @ Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Schaefer International Gallery). Free admission.
- Jan. 18:** HUOA President Cheryl Okuma-Sepe and President-elect Rodney Kohagura depart for Okinawa on their aisatsu trip, returning Jan. 25.
- Jan. 19:** Programs Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Jan. 19:** Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Jan. 24:** *From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i* FamilyFun Festival @ Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Free admission.
- Jan. 26:** Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Jan. 27:** Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- Feb. 1:** Hawaii Oroku Restaurants Exhibit at 'A'ala "Talk Story" Festival. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. @ Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Free admission.
- Feb. 2:** Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Feb. 11:** Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Feb. 14-15:** 26th Annual Maui State Okinawa Golf Tournament @ Waiehu Golf Course. Awards Banquet (Sunday, Feb. 15, 4 p.m.) @ Maui Okinawa Cultural Center. Entry forms available at HOC; deadline: Feb. 6.
- Feb. 15:** *From Bentō to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i* closing day and reunion @ Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Free admission.
- Feb. 16:** Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Presidents Day holiday.
- Feb. 16:** Programs Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Feb. 16:** Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Feb. 21:** Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii meeting. 9 a.m.–12 noon @ HOC.
- Feb. 23:** Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Feb. 24:** Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- Feb. 25:** Okinawan Festival meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Mar. 1:** Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- Mar. 6:** Okinawan students arrive for Okinawa-Hawai'i student exchange.
- Mar. 8:** HUOA Board of Directors meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).

GOT FREE TIME?

Volunteers are needed at the Hawaii Okinawa Center for a variety of tasks. If you have a few hours of free time, please contact HUOA Executive Director Wayne Miyahira at 676-5400, or email him at edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" (HOT) SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative program schedule for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" through February. "Hawaii Okinawa Today" airs Monday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. on 'Olelo: the Corporation for Community Television (Oceanic Cable) Channel 52. The program is a production of the HUOA's video team.

The latest schedule information on "Hawaii Okinawa Today" is also available on the HUOA's website — www.huoa.org — or by tuning in to Keiko Ura's radio program on KZOO on Sundays from 4:30 to 5 p.m.

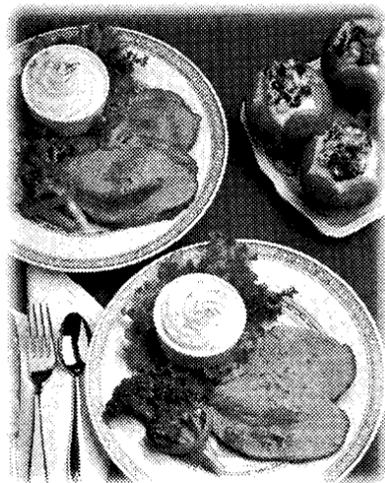
For more information on the HUOA video team, or "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs, call Henry Isara at 595-2773 or e-mail him at henryisara@hotmail.com.

- Jan. 5** Encore showing of highlights from the First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference, held Aug. 29 - Sept. 2, 2003, in Honolulu.
- Jan. 12** Encore showing of Part 1 of "Eisa Matsuri in Hawaii" and the Rinken Band concert, held Sept. 2, 2003, at the Les Murakami Baseball Stadium on the University of Hawai'i Mānoa campus.
- Jan. 19** Encore showing of Part 1 of "Umui Kanati: Wish Came True," a 1999 performance in Okinawa that featured paranku dancers and musicians from Hawai'i.
- Jan. 26** Premiere showing of Part 1 of the Hawai'i-to-Okinawa leg of the Kin Town "Voyage of Rediscovery," which took place July 18-Aug. 1, 2000.
- Feb. 2** Encore showing of "The Future of the Okinawan Performing Arts in Hawai'i" call-in show to the 'Olelo studios, featuring guests from the various Okinawan cultural schools in Hawai'i; and encore showing of Part 1 of the Hawai'i-to-Okinawa leg of the Kin Town "Voyage of Rediscovery," which took place July 18-Aug. 1, 2000.
- Feb. 9** Encore showing of Part 2 of "Eisa Matsuri in Hawaii" and the Rinken Band concert, held Sept. 2, 2003, at the Les Murakami Baseball Stadium on the University of Hawai'i Mānoa campus.
- Feb. 16** Encore showing of Part 2 of "Umui Kanati: Wish Came True," a 1999 performance in Okinawa featuring paranku dancers and musicians from Hawai'i.
- Feb. 23** Premiere showing of Part 2 of the Hawai'i-to-Okinawa leg of the Kin Town "Voyage of Rediscovery," which took place July 18-Aug. 1, 2000.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR HUOA VIDEO TEAM

The HUOA video production team is currently recruiting new members. Anyone interested in helping the team in any aspect of video production is welcome. Training will be provided. The video team strives to help preserve, promote and perpetuate the Okinawan culture in Hawai'i through video productions. Please call the HUOA office and leave your contact information with the staff or volunteers, or e-mail us at video@huoa.org.

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