



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

August 2004

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OKINAWA + HAWAI'I = TOP-NOTCH OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

Next month's Okinawan Festival at Kapi'olani Park will feature the best of the best — performances by Hawai'i's Okinawan performing arts groups and schools and top performers from Okinawa. The Festival, which will be held Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 and 5, will be preceded by a parade that will step-off at 9:30 a.m. at Fort DeRussy and travel down Kalakaua Avenue to Kapi'olani Park. HUOA member clubs are urged to call the HUOA office with the name of the person who will carry their club banner in the parade. A bus will be provided for those needing a ride to Fort DeRussy. It will leave Kapi'olani Park at 7:30 a.m.

This year's Festival is again being supported with grant monies from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the City and County of Honolulu, which believes the Festival has the potential of becoming an international festival for the State of Hawai'i. Tour companies in Okinawa are busy at working, signing up people who want to come to Hawai'i for the Okinawan Festival.

A good portion of the Saturday entertainment time is being set aside for performers from Okinawa, so that they can enjoy the Festival and discover Hawai'i on Sunday.

The Saturday entertainment schedule will feature performances on a new and bigger stage that will be erected to the right of the Kapi'olani Park Bandstand. The Festival program will run until 6 p.m., followed by the Festival's popular bon dance in the park. And then at 8 p.m., one of the top recording and performing groups in Okinawa and Japan—Begin—will put on a free concert. It is a score for Hawai'i and its Okinawan community. Begin's performance for the Okinawan Festival concert is supported by friends and businesses in Okinawa. Festival program co-chair Isaac Hokama, who traveled to Okinawa in June to negotiate the group's performance for the Festival concert, said Begin—Masaru Shimabukuro, Eisho Higa and Hitoshi Uechi—have wanted to perform in Hawai'i since last year and are looking forward to their September performance.

J-Pop aficionado—and Begin fan—Richard Yamashiroya has been following the group's rise over the years and shared the following information on Begin.

The group is comprised of three members: Eisho Higa on vocals, sanshin and guitar; Masaru Shimabukuro on guitar, chorus and ichigo-ichie and Hitoshi Uechi on keyboards and chorus. They were all were born in 1968—making them 35 years old—on Ishigaki island in Yaeyama. The three have been friends since their hanabata days in elementary school.

They appeared as a group for the first time in

1988 when they performed for a friend's wedding party, where they were discovered by the owner of a nightclub, or "live house," as they are referred to in Okinawa. The owner invited them to perform regularly on-stage. A year later, the group appeared in Japan.

The year 1990 marked the trio's professional debut



Practicing their shakas—Okinawan Festival program co-chair Isaac Hokama and translator Junko Ishihara with the members of Begin—Masaru Shimabukuro (in sunglasses), Eisho Higa (in aloha shirt) and Hitoshi Uechi (in white T-shirt).

with the release of their single, "Koishikute," which was used as an image song for the Nissan Motor Company. "Koishikute" is still one of Begin's most well-known and popular songs. Interestingly, their style then was more bluesy than their current shimauta, or island song, style. Shimauta is now categorized as J-pop.

The group's career really took off in the year 2000, following cameo appearances in the hit NHK series, "Churasan." Begin was in the right place at the right time as 2000 marked their entrance into the shimauta genre of music with their album release, "Begin no Shimauta: Omototakeo" and more importantly, the release of the song, "Nada Sou Sou."

The music for "Nada Sou Sou" was composed by Begin; Ryoko Moriyama wrote the lyrics. Na Hoku Hanohano award-winning recording artist Kealii

Reichel's borrowed the song's melody for his award-winning song, "Ka Nohona Pili Kai." Reichel credits Begin for the song on his Hoku award-winning album, "Ke'alaokamaile." A slack key version of the song was also recorded by Hawai'i Uchinanchu guitarist Ozzie Kotani and his recording partner, Steve Sano, on their CD, "Omoide — Remembrance." Kotani and Sano will perform at the Okinawan Festival on Sunday.

In 2002, Begin's shimauta-inspired song, "Shimanchu nu Takara," was used as the theme song for an NHK program marking the 30th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japan. Later that year, the group made its first appearance in NHK's annual Kohaku Uta Gassen.

Since their debut with Teichiku in 1990, the group has released eight singles, 11 maxi-singles, 11 original albums, two shimauta albums and one "Best of" album. Begin signed with BMG Funhouse in 1992 and recorded three singles and three albums before returning to the Teichiku label in 1997. They released a new CD and DVD in July titled "Reef Line," and a maxi-single, "Chikai," this month.

Also scheduled to perform at the Festival with be the award-winning eisa group, Naha Taiko, which was organized in 1997 among Naha City employees to perpetuate traditional Okinawan culture with eisa as its foundation.

The group has performed at the Naha Matsuri Minzoku Dentoh Geinoh parade; at hospitals, seniors citizen homes, pre-schools, youth centers and community centers and provides volunteer instruction for elementary school groups in Naha City. Naha Taiko has also performed in mainland Japan, in Niigata and Miyazaki prefectures, as well as outside Japan, in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea.

More performers from Okinawa were still being confirmed at press time. The Okinawan Festival is just a month away, so spread the word among your family and friends and get ready for an Okinawan Festival you'll long remember. 🇺🇸

CHARLIE AND FRANCIS HIGA INDUCTED INTO CULINARY HALL OF FAME

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association congratulates Zippy's founders Charles "Charlie" Higa and his late brother Francis on their induction into the Culinary Hall of Fame.

A group of HUOA leaders attended the tribute, which

highlighted the fifth annual "Taste of the Stars," a benefit for the Leeward Community College Culinary Arts Program. Francis Higa was represented by his son Jason. Also inducted into the Hall of Fame were former "Let's Go Fishing" and "Hari's Kitchen" host Hari Kojima; Helen Chock, owner of Helena's Hawaiian Food and hospitality industry veteran Myrtle Lee.

The April 30 event was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village — a shift from its usual staging at LCC's Pearl City campus because of renovation and expansion of the school's existing kitchens and bake shop.

A silent auction featured vacation getaways, restaurant certificates, jewelry, artwork, beauty baskets and the high-ticket item: a 2004 Nissan 350Z.

Charlie and Francis Higa started their business in 1966. They envisioned a round-the-clock, dine-in restaurant, plus a fast food counter. Inspired by the U.S. Postal Service's introduction of the zip code, which expedited mail delivery, they decided to name their business Zippy's.

Francis passed away in 1999, but Charlie remains active in the business. In 2000, the corporation changed its name from Zippy's Inc. to FCH (Francis and Charles Higa) Enterprises, Inc. In addition to its Zippy's restaurants, FCH owns and operates

zippys.com, Napoleon's Bakery, Osaka Okazuya, Kahala Sushi, Food Solutions International, A Catered Experience and ACE Express. Zippy's chili is one of the company's most successful innovations and has become its signature menu item.

The restaurant chain now has 23 locations, with the 24th Zippy's set to open in 'Ewa next year—and a Neighbor Island location on Maui next year.

A Catered Experience is the exclusive caterer for the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The Higa family has generously supported the

Hawaii United Okinawa Association in many ways, including the gifting of the HUOA's administrative building, which is named in memory of their issei parents, Yeiko and Kameko Higa.

Previous inductees into the Culinary Hall of Fame have included Michel Martin (Michel's at the Colony Surf and Chez Michel at Eaton Square), Chef Martin Wyss (Kahala Hilton and Swiss Inn) and chef/instructor Jimmy Sueyoshi (Gourmet Restaurant, Michel's at the Colony Surf). Sueyoshi started LCC's Food Service Department in 1971 and retired in 1989.



Taste of the Stars Culinary Hall of Fame honorees Myrtle Lee, Charlie Higa, Jason Higa (representing his father, the late Francis Higa), Helen Chock, and Hari Kojima.

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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 \$1,395.00 in contributions for Uchinanchu from February

through May, including two donations from Kaua’i, two from the Big Island, one from Maui and two from California. 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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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by Cheryl Okuma-Sepe
2004 President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association
Gushikawa Shijin Kai

“Warai Fukui.” Good fortune has been smiling upon us. It was over a year ago that we met with Gushikawa City Mayor Tsuneo Chinen about bringing the musical, “Pigs From the Sea,” to Hawai’i for a premiere showing. The musical is based on the incredible story of the heroism, hard work, passion and dreams of the Hawaii Rengo Okinawa Kyusaikai (United Okinawan Assistance Association) and seven Hawai’i men of Okinawan heritage. Ryoshin Akena, Shohei Miyasato, Ushikichi Nakama, Shinyei Shimabukuro, Genbi Tonaki, Yasuo Uezu and Dr. Yoshio Yamashiro sailed from Hawai’i to Portland, Ore., and then to Okinawa with 550 pigs. We are fortunate that Yasuo Uezu, the youngest of the seven, is still with us today.

After a year of coordination between Okinawa and Hawai’i, the curtain went up on “Pigs From the Sea (Umi Kara Buta ga Yatte Kita)” at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on April 30. The show received a standing ovation from the local audience, which packed the Concert Hall. The musical production exceeded our expectations. It is truly one of the most endearing stories in our history. The musical took us back to war-torn Okinawa and captivated our hearts and minds. The songs captured both the sorrows and joys of those who lived, struggled and became our heroes during those most difficult times.

At the encouragement of Gushikawa City, over 20 of our young children had roles in the musical — four of whom were direct descendants of one of the seven men. They practiced diligently with director/choreographer Mifune Ikeuchi. Mifune and others from Okinawa made several trips to Hawai’i for the practices with the children. Also, the incredible feat of building the musical’s set, a ship, involved two carpenters from Okinawa. We are fortunate that Masa and Jane Shiroma made their home available for this construction, and are grateful to Masa and the men who came out to help. Our condolences to the Shiroma family on their loss of Jane several weeks after the performance.

There were several opportunities for fellowship with the Okinawa cast and crew at the Hawaii Okinawa Center when they first arrived, and later at Ala Moana Park. Thank you to Darryl Uezu for helping to make the gathering at Ala Moana a wonderful success, and for opening his home to our Okinawa guests. We are grateful to Gushikawa City for their wonderful gift to us. Thank you to Calvin Nakama (Gushikawa Shinjin Kai) and Dorene Niibu Tengan (Aza Gushikawa), co-chairs for this event, and their many committee members for doing an outstanding job.

Congratulations to Charles “Charlie” Higa and his late brother, Francis—who was represented by his son Jason—for being inducted into the “Culinary Hall of Fame” at the “A Taste of the Stars” fundraiser for Leeward Community College’s culinary arts program at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on April 30. Charlie and Francis have made many contributions to Hawaii’s food industry and to the Okinawan and Hawai’i communities as well.

The Spring Craft Fair was a great success. The day couldn’t have been more perfect. We are grateful for the continuing support of our many vendors. Our hard-working chair, George Miyashiro, spent weeks planning the event with Tomigusuku, Urasoe, Wahiawa Okinawa and Yagaji clubs. Our Gratitude in Action project was the Hawaii Blood Bank drive, which went very well. We appreciate the dedicated efforts of these club members and volunteers for supporting this event.

Victor Yamashiroya and Henry Isara did a great job of chairing “Uta Ya Sanshin, Udui Haneekachi—A Grand Celebration of Music and Dance,” performance by Nidaime Teishin Kai, Hawaii Shibu, at Leeward Community College in celebration of the Hawaii shibu’s fifth anniversary. The shibu is led by Kiyoshi Kinjo Sensei and Ryosei Oshiro. This memorable recital’s two shows were a sell-out and a tremendous success. We are grateful for the tireless work of these talented performers.

The 15th Kariyushi Variety Show was a non-stop show with terrific talent. We appreciate Dorothy Shiroma Hoe’s efforts to showcase our senior citizens in song and dance, and for having started this program 15 years ago. Dorothy Hoe had turned over coordination to Oroku Azajin Club member Nelson Yoshioka for the last three years. This year she dedicated the program to Nelson. Also recognized was Keiko Ura, who has emceed the program every year since its inception. This year’s program had something for everyone’s musical taste. Kudos to all our talented seniors, and congratulations to Dr. Rick Higashionna for leading his team to victory in the run-off between the red and white teams. Proceeds from this event fund improvements to the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The “With Love From Lorraine” luncheon program couldn’t have been held on a more perfect day. This touching program was chaired by Isaac Hokama, who with his committee members, put together this memorable event to support a cultural grant program celebrating the life of a beautiful woman who inspired many people then, and now. These funds will be devoted to a program supporting students pursuing advanced certificates in the Okinawan performing arts. We are grateful to her family—husband Arthur and her children — for sharing Lorraine with the community, and we are thankful to Lorraine for her gift to the Okinawan community.

The Okinawa Diet Plan fundraiser at the HOC was a tremendous success. We thank Bradley J. Willcox, M.D., and Craig Willcox, Ph.D., for their interest in and support of HUOA. Their book, “The Okinawa Diet Plan,” is a fascinating book based on 25 years of scientific study of Okinawans, one of the healthiest people in the world. Also featured in the book are some great recipes!

HUOA’s 34th annual golf tournament was a success. Wayne Miyahira and his committee did an outstanding job to ensure that participants enjoyed themselves. Thank you to the participants and those volunteers who came out in support of this event. The Committee is already gearing up for next year’s tournament. Congratulations to Craig Uyehara of Oroku

continued on page 3

PLEASE KOKUA!

Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

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Prices reflect camera ready ads. There will be a \$25.00 minimum fee for production work. Please contact Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400 or 676-7811 (fax) for more information.

Uchinanchu

Uchinanchu is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to Uchinanchu Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawai’i 96797. E-mail articles to Kchinen@lava.net

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

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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 February and May 31, 2004. Your contributions help us maintain the Hawaii Okinawa Center as well as fulfill our mission of preserving, perpetuating and promoting the Okinawan cultural heritage in Hawaii. Ukazi deebiru — Because of you...

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President's Message (continued)

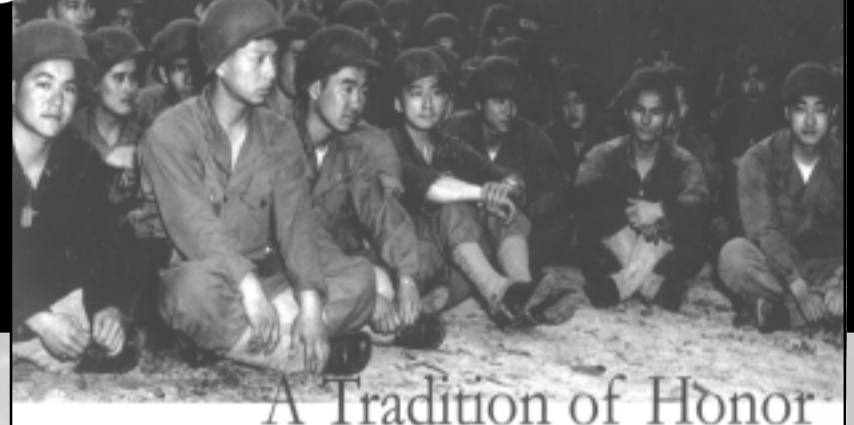
Azajin Kai for winning this year's Perpetual Trophy, and to all our other winners in the different categories.

The Administration Committee recently presented the concept of the "Patron's Pavilion," which is a proposed extension of the Higa Building. This project is aimed at strengthening our clubs, one of HUOA's missions. This can be done by providing a meeting place for our members. Current facilities are not available to many clubs for their meetings and social events. The Executive Council and Board of Directors approved moving forward with development of this project concept. The Board of Directors also approved expending \$10,000 to begin undertaking the preliminary conceptual design phase for the "Patron's Pavilion." During this preliminary conceptual stage, meetings will be held for club members to provide their input regarding the project. Club presidents will be notified of these meetings, and all members are encouraged to participate in this important project.

And finally, as most of you know by now, Keith Kaneshiro, an HUOA vice president, has announced his candidacy for the office of Honolulu City Prosecutor. Keith, a member of Aza Gushikawa, Kochinda and Hui Makaala clubs, has served our Okinawan community well. Because of the time and energy Keith will have to devote to his campaign, he has decided to resign as an HUOA vice president. Keith will continue in his role as co-chair of this year's Okinawan Festival with president-elect Rodney Kohagura. We thank Keith for his many years of dedicated service to HUOA and wish him well in the future.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is a vibrant organization thanks to the dedication and labor of all our club members and supporters who come out for all our events and who give their time and generous donations to HUOA fund-raising efforts. HUOA's success is because of you. Thank you. Ippe Nihei Debiru.

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PLAN UNVEILED FOR NEW HIGA ANNEX

by Carl Nakamura

Chair, Facilities and Maintenance Sub-committee

HUOA Administration Committee

Ginowan Shijin Kai

An informational meeting to discuss a proposed addition to the Hawaii Okinawa Center's Higa Building was approved by HUOA President Cheryl Okuma-Sepe. Jimmy Toyama, chairman of the Administration Committee, announced that the meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, Sept. 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the Teruya Pavilion.

The purpose of the meeting is to go over the proposed design of the Higa Building Annex and obtain comments and opinions from the audience. Comments will also be accepted by phone, mail and email correspondence. Comments, however, should be received by the end of September 2004 if they are to be considered in the design of the project. Hawaii Okinawa Center architect Maurice Yamasato, who also designed the proposed annex, will be available to answer questions at the meeting.

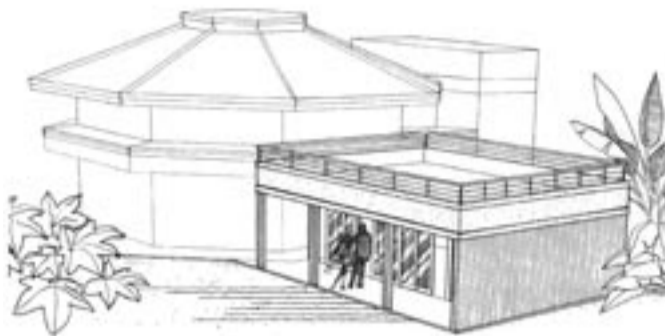
"This will be an opportunity to take part in meaningful discussion on our new addition to the Hawaii Okinawa Center," stated HUOA Executive Director Wayne Miyahira.

The proposed Higa Building Annex — which is a working name only — was approved by the HUOA's Executive Council and the Board of Directors at its May Board meeting.

This exciting project is being planned to provide facilities that will enhance member participation, improve cultural presentations, and create a rest and socialization space for our gardeners and other volunteers. It will also blend beautifully with the elegant architecture of the Center as

depicted in the renderings of architect Maurice Yamasato.

The purpose of the project is to provide a place for members to meet and socialize. The Legacy Ballroom in the Teruya Pavilion isn't always available because, due to



economic necessity, it is often rented for other events. It is also expensive to operate and maintain. The Higa office building, which was gifted to the Hawaii Okinawa Center by Zippy's owners, Charles "Charlie" and Francis Higa, in memory of their parents Yeiko and Kameko Higa, was not designed to accommodate club activities and for many reasons, is not a good place to hold meetings. The new annex, on the other hand, will be more accessible to members, less expensive to operate and a much nicer setting for all, including the physically impaired.

Another important reason for the project is to improve the Okinawan cultural displays and the storage of these valuable assets. Due to space limitations, the display and storage areas in the Higa office building are being shared with other activities. For visitors, local and tourist alike, the cultural

display is one of the most interesting aspects of the Center. Restoring the display area will noticeably enhance the image of the HUOA.

When planning the Higa office building, Yamasato studied the storage facilities at the Bishop Museum and incorporated some of its features into the original design. Restoring this storage area is therefore a priority in this project to preserve the valuable collection of the HUOA.

The beautifully manicured Takakura Garden reflects the very essence of the theme and culture of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Volunteer gardeners, led by Minoru Teruya, perform an outstanding job of maintaining the landscape. The project will provide much needed space for their equipment, supplies and a place to rest.

There is still much work to be done before the actual design and construction of the "Higa Building Annex" can begin. Even the name at this point is a work in progress and needs more thought. Architect Yamasato will consider the views presented at the Sept. 14 meeting and try to incorporate as many of them as possible into a design that will be functional as well as esthetically attractive and affordable for our community.

Your participation is very important to the success of the project and I hope that as many members as possible will attend the Sept. 14 meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may call the HUOA office at (808) 676-5400 and ask to speak with Executive Director Wayne Miyahira, who will log your comments; or you may email your views to edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com, or mail your comments to Wayne Miyahira at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, HI 96797. 📧

HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

by June Arakawa

The completion of the Hawaii Okinawa Center in 1990 finally gave the Hawaii United Okinawa Association a place to call "home." The word, "home," has a very warm and comforting feeling to it. It makes us feel that our Okinawan community has a place it can always come home to and be welcomed with open arms and a true sense of "Mensoree!"

The Hawaii Okinawa Center was built through the generosity of each member club and supporters from the general public and our ancestral homeland, Okinawa.

Upon its opening, the Center received many books — over 500 initially, most of them in Japanese — and artwork by Okinawan artists. Some of the artwork can be seen around the Hawaii Okinawa Center complex. We also received videos, photos, Okinawa ceramic pieces, lacquerware and many other items.

The first collection of 500 books were processed

and placed on shelves for people to borrow. Many more books were donated after the initial processing — these books must still be processed. Since some of the English-language books on Okinawa are rare — and our English-language collection limited — these books can only be used at the Center.

We have also set up four document files at the Center:

- an individual personnel file being collected from newspapers or other printed materials
- an HUOA presidents file according to the year they have served
- a file about the various Okinawan club information, which have appeared in local newspapers; and
- a miscellaneous information file concerning many areas of our heritage.

Our research volunteers are asked a variety of questions, so we have to be on our toes in order to help people searching for information. For students, we have compiled a packet with information on the Okinawan heritage. Professors and students from universities in Okinawa and from mainland Japan have used our collection at the Hawaii Okinawa Center for their research. They say our files are valuable and that they have acquired much information needed for their work.

We have been fortunate to have the assistance of the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii, which has collected a wealth of materials. This club receives

inquiries not only from people in Hawaii but from the mainland U.S. as well. Club members volunteer at the HOC on Fridays and on their meeting days, which is the third Saturday of the month, to help people with their questions regarding their genealogy.

A card file of the issei who came to Hawai'i between 1908 and 1920 is now being organized into a database for easy access. Hopefully, in the near future, we can complete the database, with information on the immigrants who arrived in 1900, the start of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i, and 1924, when immigration from Japan was halted. Photo collected by Hui O Lulima when the club participated in Cultural Jubilees are available. These old photos are very precious and should be preserved.

The videos are categorized by their subject matter. Some are in English; others in Japanese. Recently received videos have not yet been processed, and volunteer help is needed to record information on the new videos. There are many articles which need to be filed — this work is endless, so volunteers are needed to help in this area. We would greatly appreciate more bilingual volunteer assistance. Volunteering is a very satisfying experience because you have an opportunity to learn a great deal as well as meet new and interesting people. The reward of volunteering is to see the happy faces of those we have helped. 📺

June Arakawa is a member of Tamagusuku Club. A retired librarian, she has headed up the Hawaii Okinawa Center's research collection since the Center opened in 1990.

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OUR CLUBS . . . OUR FUTURE

HUI OKINAWA . . . by Amy Shiroma

Hui Okinawa extends heartfelt congratulations to 86-year-old Kiyoko Miyashiro on being presented the 2004 Personal Achievement Award by the County of Hawai'i Older Americans Month Committee on Aging. The award recognizes her new interests, endeavors and accomplishments after reaching the age of 60. Miyashiro was presented the award at a special luncheon held in May at the Waikoloa Beach Marriott. She was also recognized for her outstanding participation in activities that support this year's theme, "Aging Well, Living Well."

Miyashiro was lauded as a respected healer blessed with the "healing touch" who offers her assistance and positive thoughts to anyone in need. She worked at developing her inner strength by taking aikido classes where she holds shodan level, which is equivalent to a black belt.

After turning 60, Miyashiro learned to quilt and is an active participant in Hawaiian quilting clubs in Waimea and Kea'au. She has exhibited her work at Parker Ranch and the Wailoa Visitor Center. Miyashiro is also active with bonsai classes, takes line dancing class for relaxation and fellowship and Japanese dancing from the Hilo Tomono Kai. She also learned to develop her spiritual health and inner strength through the Harmony of Shining Women.

In 1995, she was recognized as Hui Okinawa's "Uchinanchu of the Year." And, of course, Kiyoko Miyashiro is synonymous with andagi-making. In fact, she has shared her andagi-making skills to help many other organizations.

Also recognized at the luncheon were Hui Okinawa members George and Shirley Ito, who received the Partnership Theme award. Hui Okinawa is proud of this husband-wife team.



The 2004 County of Hawai'i Older Americans Month Committee on Aging Personal Achievement Awardee Kiyoko Miyashiro with her son Reynold. (Photo courtesy of George and Shirley Ito)

YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII . . . by Val Zukeran

It continues to be a very busy year for the Young Okinawans of Hawaii. We started off with our annual shinnen enkaï at Ala Moana Hotel with again, lots of craziness, tons of laughs and some heartwarming episodes that reinforce why we continue to put our efforts forward for the Okinawan community.

We are finished repairing our odaïko drums! Of course, it would not have been possible without the help and expertise of Jay Iwanaga and manpower assistance from some of our dedicated members. Big mahalo to Jon Itomura and Guy Zukeran, who put in countless hours. Pete Doktor, Kip Nakamoto, Jon Ishihara, Shane Akagi, Donna Oshiro and Karl Sakamoto got hands-on experience repairing the odaïko.

We completed our two sessions of hapi coat-making, paranku drum-making, flag-making and yakamashi-making. So much fun! There are so many things to prepare for our upcoming bon dance appearances and fundraising events to help fund our Senior Luncheon event in December. Our shishi mai performers, Jon Itomura and

Eric Nitta, have been very busy with a full appearance schedule. You've got to see them with their new choreographed music and their awesome personalities — the shishi is at the best it's been in the last couple of years!

Our sanshin crew has benefited from the expertise of Norman Kaneshiro. Talk about a guy with awesome talent! We meet once a week (well, we try to) and give our sensei a hard time. But we know life will never be the same for him since he figured out from early on what he was dealing with. Playing the sanshin is one thing, but to sing *and* pluck them strings! Oh my goodness! And worse if you've heard Jinnah Nakatani sing! YOH! I mean Yow!

Our volleyball season is over and YOH 1 was again in line for the championship title, but they decided to let the other team have it instead. Such nice guys! Way to go YOH 1! YOH 2 had a better season than last year! Yeah!

YOH softball has been a blast. Between the cheerleading team and the players, we never fail to make the umpire and our opponents crack up. Now where can you get softball *and* free entertainment at the same time? Only YOH!

We are in the middle of bon dance practice and decided this year that we will try to swing it with fewer practices. Pressure! But we try to make it as fun and enjoyable as possible. It's been a heartwarming experience, especially since 95 percent of us have absolutely no background in the cultural arts. Talk about perpetuating the spirit positively, but then it's what we owe to our community.

Well, there are just too many things to talk about: Cosmic Bowling, moonlight tennis and picnic, Kiyoshi Kinjo's recital, our social with Hui O Laulima, the MS Walk, Honolulu Festival parade and much more. In all we do, we try our best to keep our culture and community positive, not to mention all the laughing and fun that goes with it.

Stay tuned for our next report in *Uchinanchu*. In the meantime, the following is our summer event schedule. For more information about the Young Okinawans and our various social events, send email to vzuckeran@hawaii.rr.com.

July 24: Kahuku bon dance performance

Aug. 1: Kuakini community service

Aug. 13 & 14: Pearl City bon dance performance

Sept. 18: HUOA Autumn Dance Festival performance at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

Sept. (dates TBA): Shiisa ceramics-making. Everyone is welcome to give it a try.

HUI O LAULIMA . . . by Karen Kuba-Hori

On May 31, 46 Hui O Laulima and Young Okinawans of Hawaii members enjoyed an outing to Haleiwa. We all boarded a yellow school bus at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and headed for the Dole Plantation Maze (fortunately, no one got lost). Then it was on to Haleiwa. After stopping for shave ice at the world-famous Matsumoto's, the group tore up the town, trying to find items for their scavenger hunt and Iron Chef cooking competition. When the group returned to the HOC, they utilized their culinary skills to prepare and display several scrumptious dishes for everyone to enjoy. (Our secret ingredient was tofu.) The event was fun, fun, fun.

Members, please mark your calendars for the following events:

Aug. 10: In partnership with Hui Makaala, we will be sponsoring a free public viewing of the video documentary, "A Tradition of Honor." This film follows the experiences of the Nisei soldier during World War II. A panel discussion will follow the viewing. Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. We are seeking donations of cookies to serve our guests. Please contact Karen Kuba-Hori if you have any questions or are willing to donate some cookies.

The Hawaii Farm Fair is back — this year in Kapolei. Hui O Laulima will again be working the andagi booth with the Young Okinawans of Hawaii. The Farm Fair dates are July 30, 31, Aug. 1, and Aug. 5-8. If you can volunteer to mix or sell our popular Okinawan doughnut, please contact Thelma Arakawa at 395-7769. Hui O Laulima is responsible for the mixing and morning and afternoon sales shifts. The Young Okinawans will take the second shift — late afternoon and evening.

Also on our calendar:

Oct. 9: General membership meeting and luncheon at Jikoen Hongwanji Mission.

Nov. 6: Something Special — to be announced in our next newsletter.

Dec. 11: Installation/Holiday Luncheon at the Willows restaurant.

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TAMAGUSUKU CLUB TRIP TAKES FIRST TRIP TO OKINAWA

by June Arakawa
Tamagusuku Club

The Hawaii Tamagusuku Club took its first trip to Okinawa in March. The 21-member tour group, which included one person whose ancestral roots are in Gushichan village, was made up primarily of sansei. Our tour was arranged by Barbara Maeshiro of Trans Pacific Tours, and we were fortunate to have George Kaneshiro as our tour escort. We stayed at the Hotel Sun Palace, which is owned by the Kinjo family, who are strong supporters of the Okinawan community in Hawai'i. Our hotel stay included a healthy buffet breakfast every morning.

We spent March 28 and 29 on a leisurely tour of historic sites in Tamagusuku village.

On our first day in Tamagusuku, Mayor Akira Oshiro invited us to a nice welcome party in the village office's second floor social hall. During the program, we presented the mayor a cashier's check for \$1,000. Our tour members also donated over 50 English language storybooks to the village as well as goodies from Hawai'i. English language will soon be taught from the elementary school level, so we thought it would be nice to donate books to their library. Former Japan Diet member and Tamagusuku native, Shinjun Oshiro, who was educated at a university in Missouri, made an impressive speech in English at the welcome party.

I was very impressed to learn what the Tamagusuku villagers had experienced during the war years in the Itokazu cave known as Abuchiragami. The cave is used to teach visitors about the war experiences and to remind them of the importance of peace.

We also visited the grave of King Shotaikyu and his son and daughter. Many Tamagusuku villagers are descendants of the first Sho dynasty. The remains of the king's son, Ashitomi-Kanahashi, are interred next to his father's. A side note about Ashitomi-Kanahashi: Many of his descendants live in Hawai'i.

Our tour also included the regular tourist attractions in northern and southern Okinawa and the Naha area. We had three days of free time after wrapping up our

sightseeing, so on April 4, which is known as *shimi* (visit to the ancestral grave), many of our members got together with their relatives and spent the day in Tamagusuku village. There, they visited the graves of their ancestors, cleaned the gravesite and offered flowers, incense and prayers to their ancestors. I think we all realize that we are here today because of our ancestors, so everyone came away feeling the warmth of having connected with their relatives and their ancestral gravesite.



Tour members at the Mifuda rice field at Ukinjyu Hainjyu in Tamagusuku. (Photo courtesy of June Arakawa)

Some of the tour members went exploring on their own to Heiwa Dori where they enjoyed shopping. I noticed quite a few people coming back with bags of omiyage. Unfortunately, I didn't have any time to shop at Kokusai Dori, but some members generously shared some of their omiyage with me, for which I am very grateful.

Tamagusuku member Nobu Takeno, who had done much of the advance work for this tour, fell ill and wasn't able to go at the last minute, leaving much of the responsibility to me to make sure that the trip was a memorable and worthwhile one. I'm happy to report that the trip was a success and that the members learned about Tamagusuku's history, which is very unique. The members were very appreciative of my efforts.

This trip was especially meaningful for us because next year, Tamagusuku will not be known as Tamagusuku Village. Plans call for Yonabaru, Sashiki, Chinen and Tamagusuku to be incorporated into one district. Tamagusuku will then be known as Tamagusuku-ku. Officials are soliciting suggestions for names for this new district and are also deciding where the central government office will be located.

Our thanks to the Hawaii Tamagusuku Club for supporting the group with a generous donation. Recently, our president, Takashi Tshuako, received a photograph and thank you letters from the principals of the four schools and their students. The donation was divided among four schools, each receiving \$250, which they used to purchase books for their library. We're glad that the donation was put to good use. 📷

2004 HUOA STUDY TOUR TO DEPART OCTOBER 17

Ten days of getting to know Okinawa, visiting relatives and shopping are on tap for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's study tour to Okinawa. The tour departs Honolulu on Sunday, Oct. 17 and returns on Wednesday, Oct. 27. An optional tour to Yaeyama is also being offered as part of the Okinawa tour. HUOA President Cheryl Okuma-Sepe and vice president Laverne Higa Nance will accompany the group to Okinawa. The tour is being organized and led by Nadine Shimabukuro of N & K Travel. Two optional tours — one to central Japan and the other to Kyushu — are also being offered after the Okinawa tour.

A detailed itinerary is available at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Tour details can also be obtained by calling the HUOA office at 676-5400.

The following are highlights of the Okinawa tour.

Sun., Oct. 17: Depart Honolulu for Naha, Okinawa (Japan Airlines), via Kansai Airport in Osaka, where tour members will clear customs.

Mon., Oct. 18: Late evening arrival at Naha Airport; two nights at the Seibu Orion Hotel on Kokusai Dori

Tues., Oct. 19:

- Visit Ken-Cho (Okinawa Prefectural Government) and the Congress buildings
- Tour of Shuri, ancient capital of the Ryukyu Kingdom, passing through Shurei no Mon (Gate of Courtesy) and Kankaimon (Gate of Joy) to Shuri Castle
- See early Ryukyuan life at the Okinawa Prefectural Museum

Wed., Oct. 20:

- Bus to Kin Town, where a bouquet of flowers will be presented at the Toyama Kyuzo statue (Toyama is known as the "Father of Okinawan Immigration to Hawai'i"), visit Kin Shonudo (cave) where Kin awamori, Tatsu, is stored
- Bus to Nago City and visit the Nago Pineapple Park and the Morino Gulasu factory

showcasing Ryukyuan glass.

- Bus to the Bankoku Shinryo Kan, site of the July 2000 G-8 Summit
- Spend two nights at the five-star Busena Terrace Beach Resort in Motobu

Thurs., Oct. 21

- Bus to Hedo Misaki (cape), the northernmost point of Okinawa island; and watch bashofu being made at the Ogimi Bashofu Center
- Stop at Kunigami Busan Center near Okuma for omiyage shopping

Fri., Oct. 22

- Return to Naha and Seibu Orion Hotel, stopping first at the coastline attraction of Manza Mo Cape
- Late lunch at Jimmy's Bakery & Restaurant, owned by longtime HUOA supporter Jimmy Inamine
- Evening: optional Ryukyu dance and dinner show, "Yotsudake," for special price of 4,000 yen

Sat., Oct. 23

- Southern Okinawa tour, stopping first at Gyokusendo Park-Ryukyu Okukumura, which features a large underground stalactite grotto and other cultural displays
- Visit Heiwa Kinendo (Peace Prayer and Memorial Hall)
- Visit Okinawa Prefectural Peace Museum and Cornerstone of Peace memorial wall, where the names of Okinawans, Japanese, Americans and other allies killed in the Battle of Okinawa are inscribed
- Himeyuri No To (Star Lily Memorial), built in memory of the high school girls who were killed in the Battle of Okinawa while serving as nurses for the Japanese military; and the adjacent Himeyuri Peace Museum

Sun.-Mon., Oct. 24-25: Yaeyama optional tour for those with reservations; free days for all others

Sun., Oct. 24: Yaeyama Optional Tour

- Hour-long flight to Ishigaki; overnight at the Hotel Miyahira
- Bus to Toujin Baka (Chinese Grave), a memorial to 128 Chinese laborers who took refuge on Ishigaki and were protected by its residents after being shipwrecked with over 250 others who were being pursued by their British slavelords
- Stop at Tamatorizaki Observatory Platform, a scenic point where both the Pacific Ocean and East China Sea can be seen
- Yaeyama Palm Tree Groves in Yonehara
- Stop at Ryukyu Pearl Center at Kabira Bay, Japan's only two source for black cultured pearls
- Stop at Mineya, which produces Yaeyama minsaori fabric

Mon., Oct. 25:

- 15-minute ferry ride to Taketomi Island
- Glass-bottom boat tour to see the coral tables that surround the island
- Tour to Hoshizuna Beach to see star-shaped sand
- Stop at Taketomi Visitor Center to see assorted corals
- In the center of town, return to the early days of Okinawa in an ox-drawn cart; pass simple houses with shiisaa on the orange kawara tile roofs and coral limestone walls
- Kihouin Museum to see its folk documents collection, including 2,000-year-old coins and other artifacts
- Return to Naha and overnight at the Seibu Orion Hotel

Tues., Oct. 26: Free day for visiting relatives or omiyage shopping

Wed., Nov. 27:

- Depart Naha for return to Honolulu via Kansai Airport (and optional tours to mainland Japan)

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SPEND YOUR OKINAWAN FESTIVAL WEEKEND IN WAIKĪKĪ

Every year, many HUOA members and Festival volunteers spend their Labor Day weekend in Waikīkī, treating themselves and/or their families to a "mini-vacation." They stay in a Waikīkī hotel, where they are in walking distance to the Okinawan Festival at Kapi'olani Park as well as the many sights and sounds of Waikīkī. No need to hassle with traffic, or parking — and what a treat for the entire family! You can wake up with Waikīkī, take a leisurely early morning stroll along Waikīkī Beach, enjoy the colorful Okinawan Festival parade along Kalakaua Avenue, and then follow the parade to Kapi'olani Park for the Festival. If you're tired, you can simply walk back to the hotel for a short nap and then head back to the Festival grounds to Round Two of the great Okinawan Festival food, entertainment, culture, children's activities, shopping and the Saturday evening bon dance. The Festival is a two-day affair, so plan on spending your Sunday at the Festival as well.

To help you with your Okinawan Festival weekend planning, the HUOA has compiled a list of Waikīkī hotel rates to help with your planning. There is a wide range of offerings, so take your pick. The following are the hotels that responded to HUOA's request for rates.

When making your reservation, please ask for the special rate being offered at the hotel of your choice: i.e., "Okinawan Festival rate," "Labor Day rate" or "Kamaaina rate."

Hotel: Aston Waikiki Banyan

Address: 201 Ohua Ave.

Phone: 1-800-321-2558 for reservations

Rate: \$85 "Kamaaina rate": 1-bedroom suites with full kitchen for up to 5 people

Parking fee: \$7 daily

Notes: Air conditioner, rice cooker, microwave, pool, tennis court

Hotel: Doubletree Alana Hotel - Waikiki

Address: 1956 Ala Moana Blvd.

Phone: 941-7275 for reservations

Rate: \$98 "Kamaaina rate"

Parking fee: \$12 daily

Notes: Heated pool, exercise center, excellent restaurants nearby

Hotel: Ewa Hotel Waikiki

Address: 2555 Cartwright Rd.

Phone: 922-1677 for reservations

Rate: \$50 "Okinawan Festival" rate for studio superior. All other rooms offered at "Kamaaina rate": Standard \$70, Deluxe \$80, 1-bedroom \$120

Parking: \$6 per day, but limited

Notes: Located 5 minutes from Kapiolani Park; complimentary coffee and cookies available 7-9 a.m., 2nd flr.

Hotel: MARC Diamond Head Beach Hotel

Address: 2947 Kalakaua Ave.

Phone: 922-1928 for reservations

Rate: \$125 Property special

Parking: \$12 daily

Notes: Located at the end of Kapiolani Park, across from the fountain

Hotel: Ocean Resort Hotel Waikiki

Address: 175 Paoakalani Ave.

Phone: (808) 922-4671, or 1-800-367-2317

Rate: \$58 - \$67 "Labor Day weekend rate"; minimum 2-night stay required; \$58 (moderate) for 1-2 people, \$67 (superior with kitchenette) for 1-4 people

Parking: \$8 daily, limited

Notes: air conditioner, TV 2 pools

Hotel: Queen Kapiolani Hotel

Address: 150 Kapahulu Ave.

Phone: 922-4671 for reservations

Rate: \$58-plus "Labor Day rate": \$58 (1-2 people), \$63 (1-4 people) Minimum 2 night stay required. No charge for children under 17 sharing room with parents.

Parking: \$8 daily, limited

Notes: Located across from the Honolulu Zoo; restaurant, swimming pool

Hotel: Royal Grove Hotel

Address: 151 Uluniu Ave.

Phone: 923-7691 for reservations

Rate: \$58 - "Okinawan Festival Rate." Double-occupancy only, \$10 plus taxes for extra person.

Parking: \$6 daily in Pacific Monarch

Notes: Located 5 blocks from Kapiolani Park; pool

Hotel: Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

Address: 2552 Kalakaua Ave.

Phone: 1-800-367-5370 for reservations

Rate: \$139 "Kamaaina Rate"

Parking: free for one car

Notes: Located one block from Honolulu Zoo; air conditioned, 2 pools, weight room, tennis courts

Hotel: W Honolulu Diamond Head Hotel

Address: 2885 Kalakaua Ave.

Phone: 922-1700 for reservations

Rate: \$175-plus "Kamaaina Rate"

Parking: free for one car

Notes: Located across Kapiolani Park, Diamond Head beach access; restaurant, complimentary pass to nearby 24 Hour Fitness

HUOA AUTUMN DANCE MATSURI SET FOR SEPT. 18

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association's annual Autumn Okinawan Dance Matsuri will be held Primary Election Saturday, Sept. 18, in the Hawaii Okinawa Center's Teruya Pavilion. This matsuri is the last bon dance of the season and the only one held indoors. The event is open free of charge to the public and will feature great bon dance music, good fellowship, ono bon dance food—and of course, lots of opportunities to dance both Japanese- and Okinawan-style bon dance.

For bon dance enthusiasts from East Honolulu, a chartered bus to the HOC will leave the Kilauea Recreation Center at 4:30 p.m. Please call Mrs. Akamine at 734-6126 to reserve your seat. The bus will then stop at Soto Mission on Nuuanu Avenue at 4:45 p.m. Those getting on the bus at Soto Mission should call HUOA at 676-5400 to reserve their seat. The bus ride is free.

Those attending this year will again be able to purchase a keepsake HUOA Autumn Okinawan Dance Matsuri dancing towel. There will also be a donation table, with donations going to support the matsuri.

The dancing will start at 5:30 p.m. and run until 10. The food booths will feature traditional "bon dance favorites," such as Spam musubi, barbecue sticks, saimin, andagi and baked goods. The food booths will be operated by the Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Hawaii Taiko Kai and Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko-Hawaii Shibu.

The dance matsuri is held to express appreciation to our Okinawan Issei pioneers in whose memory the Hawaii Okinawa Center was built.

For more information on the event, call HUOA at 676-5400.

JACL TO HOLD NATIONAL CONVENTION IN WAIKĪKĪ

The Japanese American Citizens League will celebrate its 75th anniversary and hold its National Convention in Honolulu from Aug. 10 to 14, at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. "Our Legacy, Our Future: Ensuring Diversity in America" is the theme of the convention.

Convention events will include tributes to America's veterans and to Asian and Pacific Island American lawmakers and community leaders, as well as panel forums, cultural tours and workshops and other enrichment activities. The convention will provide an opportunity for the Hawai'i community to tie in to broader national issues and to show what Hawaii can contribute toward a greater understanding of civil and human rights.

The Japanese American Citizens League is America's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. Its mission is to secure and maintain the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and others victimized by injustice. The Honolulu Chapter, one of 112 nationwide, has earned a reputation for pushing the national organization to discuss and take positions on controversial issues, including native rights, same-sex marriage, hate crimes and reconciliation with World War II "refusers," who protested the internment of AJAs. Although some of these efforts caused consternation and heated controversy in the national organization, the JACL has survived these crises and looks forward to playing an ongoing role in the national debate on civil rights issues that affect all people.

A panel scheduled for Aug. 11 will feature some of the best and brightest minds on civil rights issues. Moderator Dale Minami and law professors Mari Matsuda, Eric Yamamoto and Chris Iijima will be joined by William Tamayo, regional attorney for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission in San Francisco. Matsuda, currently a law professor at Georgetown University, and UH Law School professor Yamamoto are Hawai'i natives. The panelists are all committed champions who have dedicated their professional and personal lives to the fight for justice and against racism and discrimination.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association will have a booth at the convention, and the Hawaii Okinawan Restaurant Project's Oroku Restaurant exhibit will also be on display.

Interested individuals can still register for the convention by logging on to the JACL-Hawaii website at www.jaclhawaii.org, or by calling registration committee chair Lori Amano at 523-8464, or emailing her at lamano@jaclhawaii.org.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- July 26: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 July 27: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
 July 28: Okinawan Festival meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 2: Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 9-11: Kaua'i Children's Cultural Day Camp @ the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall. Call Gary Ueunten at 332-8111.
 Aug. 10: "A Tradition of Honor" screening and panel discussion, sponsored by Hui Makaala and Hui O Lailima. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion). Free admission.
 Aug. 11: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 16: Programs Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 16: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 21: Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii meeting. 9 a.m.-12 noon @ HOC.
 Aug. 23: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 25: Okinawan Festival meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Aug. 31: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
 Sept. 2: Okinawan Festival T-shirt folding.
 Sept. 4-5: Okinawan Festival @ Kapi'olani Park.
 Sept. 6: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Labor Day holiday.
 Sept. 7: Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Sept. 8: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Sept. 13: HUOA Board of Directors meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
 Sept. 18: Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii meeting. 9 a.m.-12 noon @ HOC.
 Sept. 18: HUOA Autumn Dance Festival. 5-10 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
 Sept. 20: Programs Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Sept. 20: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Sept. 27: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 Sept. 28: Karaoke Club. 6:30 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

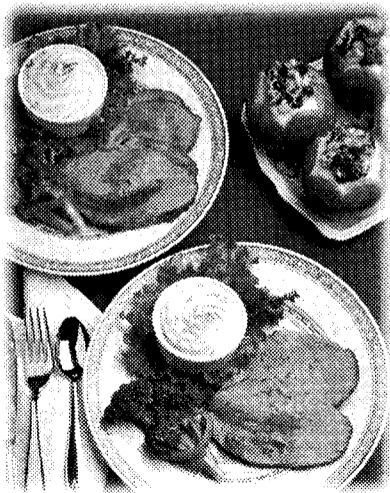
"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" (HOT) SCHEDULE

'HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY' — NOW ON CHANNEL 53 NATV!

- Aug. 2: A performance by the Hawaii Taiko Kai.
- Aug. 9: Premiere showing of Part 3 of the 2003 Okinawan Festival held Aug. 30 and 31, 2003, at Kapi'olani Park Bandstand. Highlights include performances by the Okinawa Buyo Club, Ryukyu Koku Matsuri Daiko, Ryusei Honryu Yanagi No Kai - Hawaii Shibu and Kaori Nakada from Okinawa.
- Aug. 16: Part 1 of the Hawaii-to-Okinawa leg of the Kin Town "Voyage of Rediscovery," which took place July 18 to August 1, 2000.
- Aug. 23: Premiere showing of Part 4 of the 2003 Okinawan Festival held Aug. 30 and 31, 2003, at Kapi'olani Park Bandstand. Highlights include performances of children's dances by the Kikue Kaneshiro Ryubu Kenkyu Kai, the Celebrity Kachashi, Nidaime Teshin Kai - Hawaii Shibu, the Radio Okinawa Miuta Taisho and the contemporary Okinawan musical group, Katareh.
- Aug. 30: Repeat broadcast of a call-in show addressing the future of Okinawan performing arts in Hawai'i. The show was taped on October 14, 2002, at the 'Olelo studio in Mapunapuna and featured a panel of guests from the various Okinawan cultural schools in Hawai'i.
- Sept. 6: Part 1 of "Dento No Bi" — Hooqe Kai Nakasone Dance Academy's 45th anniversary recital, which was held June 16, 2001, at Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall.
- Sept. 13: Premiere showing of Part 1 of "Ryu No Mai Nana Wudui No Yube," a recital by Mitsuko Toguchi Sensei's Ryusei Honryu Yanagi No Kai - Hawaii Shibu, held June 22, 2002, at the Hawaii Theatre.
- Sept. 20: Part 2 of "Dento No Bi" — Hooqe Kai Nakasone Dance Academy's 45th anniversary recital, which was held June 16, 2001, at Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall.
- Sept. 27: Premiere showing of Part 5 of the 2003 Okinawan Festival held Aug. 30 and 31, 2003, at Kapi'olani Park Bandstand. Highlights include performances of the Kilauea Okinawan Dance Group; Shiroma-ryu; Nuuanu YMCA Okinawa Shorin-ryu Karate Club; Jimpu Kai U.S.A., Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho; Hooqe Kai, Nakasone Dance Academy; Hawaii Taiko Kai; Jordan Segundo; Hokubei Paranku Club and Joseph Jones.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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