



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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HOKULE'A TO OKINAWA: BRIDGING CULTURES

Stories and Photos by Jon Itomura

The Hokule'a arrived in Itoman Harbor early Tuesday morning, April 24, 2007, at around 1 a.m. The crew was greeted with great Aloha by surprisingly cold wet weather and a large gathering of supporters from Itoman and others representing all of Okinawa and Hawaii. I was fortunate to be in Okinawa on behalf of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for the annual Aisatsu trip, so the timing of the canoe's arrival early Tuesday morning was wonderful news.



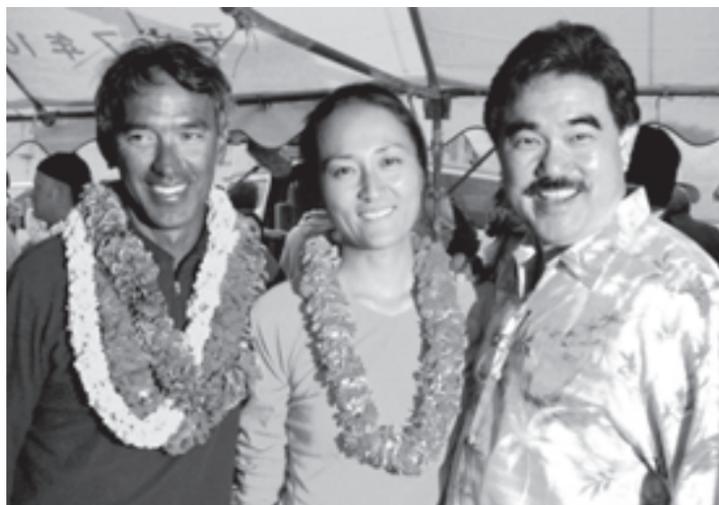
Okinawans welcome the Hokule'a at Itoman Harbor.

As the Hokule'a and its escort vessel the Kamahale re-entered the harbor for the Welcoming Ceremony on Wednesday, there were a few canoes and Okinawan haari boats paddling alongside. Vice-Governor of Okinawa Katsuko Asato and Itoman Mayor Gayu Nishihira were in attendance to witness wonderful hula performances by a hula halau from Okinawan and

energetic eisa (drumming) performances by young students in the Itoman area, including a couple students who participated in the 2007 DOE/HUOA Student Exchange Program.

The crew greeted the harbor crowd with their own unique "haka" on the deck of the Hokule'a describing their respect for the ocean and their vessel. Among others, President of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and Nainoa's high school classmate, David Arakawa, presented a wonderful speech about kizuna (bridging) that truly represented this historic occasion.

Crew members Kanako Uchino and Taku Araki couldn't hold back their



Master Navigator Nainoa Thompson, crewmember Kanako Uchino and President David Arakawa at arrival ceremony in Okinawa.



Taiko drummers herald the arrival of the Hokule'a in Okinawa.

emotions as Nainoa described the challenges they both faced and overcame on the ocean and reminded everyone there that the key was to remember that Kanako and Taku were doing it for not themselves but for others. The crew was then treated to a feast of different foods ranging from curry rice and andagi to kalua pig and ono beef and chicken teriyaki. They had a busy schedule in Okinawa and even joined up with Hawaii locals at Camp Foster for a local Hawaii-style potluck.

Back in January, I participated with the Young Okinawans of Hawaii, performing the Okinawan Lion "Shishi" as part of the Hokule'a departure ceremony in Honolulu and was greeted by Kana Uchino who graciously took photographs of us. She was equally excited to see me there and promised to do a photo presentation of her experience at the Hawaii Okinawa Center upon her return to Honolulu, as she is spending time here on the island working in Kaneohe on Coconut Island.

I had hoped to see Kana's arrival in Itoman and capture the expressions of the crew and the Okinawans for her. I'm glad my wish came true.

The crew greeted the harbor crowd with their own unique "haka" on the deck of the Hokule'a describing their respect for the ocean and their vessel.

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President's Message

David Zen-yu Arakawa



HOKULE'A WELCOMING CEREMONY

Itoman Harbor, Okinawa, Japan

April 25, 2007

Excerpt of speech given by Dave Arakawa
President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Haisai Gusuyo and Aloha!

Congratulations and welcome to the crews of the Hokule'a and Kama Hele for their safe and successful voyage to Okinawa. Also, thank you for using this voyage to share the Hawaiian culture with Okinawa and Japan. A special welcome to Nainoa Thompson, the captain of the Hokule'a, who is my high school classmate.

This year, the theme for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association is "Kizuna," which stands for renewing and strengthening the connections and ties between Okinawa and Hawaii.

Indeed, Hawaii and Okinawa are connected by many similarities. Both were independent island kingdoms. Both had their own unique language, religion, music, dance, clothing and traditions. Both share a deep reverence and respect for the sea and its beauty and power. In both Hawaii and Okinawa, foreign powers tried to abolish the culture, language, religions, music, dance and traditions. Now, both are trying to take back their culture and preserve it for future generations. Both Nainoa's father and my father have taught us that "to preserve our traditions for the future, we must first understand our past."

The voyage of the Hokule'a reconnects the heritages and cultures shared between Hawaii, Okinawa and Japan, which are over 100 years old. We all know that the Okinawan and Japanese immigrants to Hawaii have had a large impact on Hawaii's government, music, art, education and business. Nainoa, myself, and many others of you know that Hawaii has gone through a Renaissance with its own culture, language, music, dance and traditions. These are all now well, alive and are taught to students in all Hawaii's schools. However, Okinawan culture and traditions are not taught in Okinawa's schools.

What is the most valuable lesson that Hokule'a can share with Okinawa? Nainoa and his mentor, Mau Pialug, believed that the most important thing is to teach our children about our traditions and culture. Hopefully, the Hokule'a will bring this lesson to Okinawa so that the next time the Hokule'a sails into Itoman Harbor Okinawan schools will also be teaching every Okinawan child about Okinawa history, culture, language, music and dance.

There is an Okinawan proverb that seems appropriate for this very auspicious event, it is, "Ichariba chodee." Translated, this means "Once we meet, we become brothers and sisters forever." Okinawans believe that if this proverb is followed, the world can live in peace and harmony...

We hope that the lessons of this voyage, the friendships made, and the stories shared, will be passed on to future generations in Okinawa, Japan and Hawaii.

Ippee nifee deebiru.

HUOA Seeks Executive Assistant

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is accepting applications for the position of Executive Assistant. The Executive Assistant will provide a range of administrative and organizational support services to the Executive Director (ED) and Executive Committee members of the HUOA.

A high school diploma or GED is required; an Associates Degree is desired. Applicants should also have three years of progressively responsible experience in a position of similar duties, including supervisory responsibilities. Strong verbal and written communication skills - with good interpersonal skills - are important, along with a high degree of proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. For more information, please go to huoa.org.

Interested parties are encouraged to email their resume and salary requirements to: edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com, or mail them to: Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, HI 96797, Attn: Executive Director.



UCHINANCHU

Ippee Nifee 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.

Every dollar donated - along with the valuable income from advertising - helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a sincere *ippee nifee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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Hawaii Bids Aloha to Akira Sakima at HOC

Hundreds of people stood in a line that snaked in front of the Teruya Pavilion of the Hawaii Okinawa Center on April 29. It was a bright Sunday afternoon, and a steady breeze cooled the crowd as they patiently made their way into the Legacy Ballroom to pay their respects and bid a fond aloha to Mr. Akira Sakima and offer condolences to his bereaved family.

As the line of people moved slowly past tables lining the long wall of the Legacy Ballroom, they could see dozens of commendations, certificates of appreciation and merit, and gifts and medals recognizing Mr. Sakima's career in public service and his humanitarian efforts on behalf of communities in Hawaii and Okinawa.

Whispered words of the people waiting could be heard echoing through the procession: "Miidusanu..., eh, long time no see...obisashiburi desune." Warm hugs and hearty handshakes embraced these greetings, which served as openers for stories from the past that revealed tidbits of each person's background and their connection with Mr. Sakima.

The mourners came from all walks of life – past presidents and officers of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, colleagues and junior members of the State Legislature, barefoot football teammates, fellow parishioners, sanshin masters, and Okinawan musicians and performing artists. There were leaders in the banking and commercial sectors, along with fellow farmers whose historic unification elevated the status of the state's pork industry more than a half century ago. The combination of personalities reflected entire communities whose lives and livelihood were touched by Mr. Sakima. Now, with great reverence, those of many different collars and caps gathered to honor their great mentor.

April 29 was a day when the entire community celebrated the life of Mr. Akira Sakima. Governor Linda Lingle declared that flags be flown at half staff in his honor, State legislators presented a resolution, condolence messages were received from Okinawan dignitaries, including Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, as well as Hawaii's Congressional representatives. Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann gave a touching, personal message honoring Mr. Sakima, who gave him inspira-

tion and guidance. Mr. Sakima's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren also participated in the services, sharing their personal experiences and expressions.

In 1993, Mr. Sakima was invited by the East-West Center Alumni Association to be the keynote speaker at their conference, "Think Globally," in Naha, Okinawa. In his message entitled, "Hawaii's Involvement in the Post-War Development of Okinawa," he detailed the numerous efforts that Hawaii's Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart made to help their "brothers and sisters" in Okinawa. He credited the leaders and grassroots community for their spirit and application of *chimumukuru* (heart and love) and *ichariba choodee* (once we meet, we are brothers and sisters, forever) that moved masses of people in Hawaii to rally and support the people of their beloved ancestral homeland. These seem to be the valuable Okinawan principles that Mr. Sakima carried out with success, his lifelong endeavors in public service and volunteerism to help and lead those in need.

During Mr. Sakima's term as HUOA's president (1972-1973), there were historic changes in Okinawa and Hawaii. Beginning in 1971, performing groups of Okinawan musicians and dancers were organized to give concerts in Hawaii. Locally, "Cultural Jubilees," predecessors to the Okinawan Festival, were organized and held. Hence, a Renaissance began for our community to take pride in their Okinawan culture and to applaud the accomplishments and convey an appreciation to the pioneering issei and their nisei children. Mr. Sakima participated in friendship missions from Hawaii to Okinawa, while his family also hosted scholars, trainees and students from Okinawa studying in Hawaii.

Mr. Sakima's term as HUOA president in 1972 also coincided with Okinawa's formal reversion to Japan, becoming a prefecture of that country and marking a significant time of political, social and economic change in Okinawa.

In October 2006, Mr. Sakima made what was to be his last trip to Okinawa to attend the 4th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival. Although wheelchair-bound, he was determined to introduce his beloved Okinawa to his grandson, Derrik. People in Okinawa were truly



Jane and Akira Sakima

humbled by the love and spirit that Mr. Sakima exemplified in making the long trip to his "second home." He graciously received a continuous stream of visitors to his hotel room. Many of those great masters and artists were fledgling musicians and dancers who first performed in Hawaii 35 years before.

As hundreds gathered in the Legacy Ballroom to pay their final respects on April 29, one participant recalled another gathering held in that very room more than 15 years earlier. Mr. Sakima was at the microphone greeting Governor Junji Nishime, a delegation from Okinawa, and an audience of our local membership, she said. In a clear voice, he began by addressing Governor Nishime, "Haisai...yu no tujigwa chaganjuka?" You could hear the sound of jaws dropping along with a few nervous chuckles over Mr. Sakima's rather "unrefined" way of asking the Governor of Okinawa, "Is your wife in good health?" Instead of shock, Governor Nishime had a beaming smile on his face. It was just one more example of how Mr. Sakima could always get away with saying things that no one else would dare say to dignitaries. Conveyed without malice and meant in every way to be honest and sincere – with a touch of courage – these were some of the ingredients for his success that few if any could possibly duplicate today.

To Mrs. Jane Sakima, the HUOA thanks you for enabling Mr. Sakima to fulfill his quest to carry out the mission of the HUOA – to preserve, perpetuate and promote the culture of Okinawa in Hawaii. We hope that the support of family and friends have helped to comfort you and your family in your time of loss. We hope that you will all find solace in knowing that Mr. Akira Sakima's legacy will continue in the service and programs that the HUOA provides to the community.

2007 Legacy Award Luncheon to be Held September 23

By Laverne Higa Nance, Chairperson

Throughout the first 50 years of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, many special individuals have made significant contributions to the Uchinanchu and Hawaii communities. HUOA has often acknowledged the wishes of these individuals to reserve recognition to a simple "thank you."

However, a valuable opportunity to perpetuate and promote the Uchinanchu spirit in Hawaii is missed when special individuals are not conscientiously recognized for their personal accomplishments and generous contributions to the Uchinanchu community and to all of Hawaii. Therefore, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Legacy Award was established to provide family and friends the unique opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude. The first Legacy Award Luncheon Banquet was held in 2003, the second in 2005, and now our third in 2007 will honor recipients on Sunday, September 23, 2007, at the Sheraton Waikiki Ballroom. This will be a gala luncheon event.

More information is forthcoming.

Preserving Our Legacy 2007 ANNUAL DRIVE

DONATIONS

Mahalo to the following individuals and organizations who have generously contributed towards the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and its center. The following donations were received from March 1, 2007, to April 30, 2007.

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UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Serikaku Named HUOA Executive Director

By Karleen Chinen



Jane F. Serikaku has been appointed Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). She had been serving in the position in an interim capacity since June 2006.

Serikaku will manage the day-to-day operations of the HUOA and its four-member staff. She will work closely with the organization's many volunteers in the execution of the HUOA's numerous programs aimed at preserving, perpetuating and sharing the Okinawan cultural heritage. Serikaku will also be responsible for the Hawaii Okinawa Center, the organization's homebase located in the Waipio

Gentry Business Park. The Hawaii Okinawa Center opened its door in 1990. It was built as a living tribute to the Okinawan immigrants who began arriving in Hawaii in 1900.

Serikaku is no stranger to the HUOA. She has been actively involved in the organization since the 1980s. In 1993, she became the first woman to be elected president of the HUOA. As 1993-94 president, Serikaku initiated the Leadership Study Tour, which has provided opportunities for many young Hawaii Okinawans to travel to their ancestral homeland, learn about Okinawa's rich culture and connect with their ancestral roots through a cost-sharing plan. It involved having the young adult participant and his or her locality club sharing the travel costs with the HUOA. Most of the young people who have participated in past Leadership Study Tours have since become active members of the organization.

Serikaku also served as the HUOA's volunteer coordinator for the Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program. The homestay program for students was started 16 years ago. It is a partnership between the Hawaii and Okinawa

departments of education. The program has been invaluable in building people-to-people friendships between young people in both Hawaii and Okinawa. Serikaku is also currently co-chairing the HUOA capital campaign fundraising drive.

Last October, the Okinawa Prefectural Government designated Serikaku as a new "Uchinaa Goodwill Ambassador" at the Fourth Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa. The Festival was attended by over a thousand Okinawans and "Okinawans-at-heart" from Hawaii, including Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann and State Representative Dwight Takamine. Serikaku served as the HUOA's coordinator, working with four Hawaii travel agencies and the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

"The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is extremely fortunate and pleased to have Jane direct the day-to-day operations of our very large volunteer organization," stated 2007 HUOA President David Arakawa. "With Jane's multitude of talents, it is no wonder that her appointment was unanimously approved by the HUOA's Board of Directors. We could not have asked for a more ideal candidate to lead our staff."

Serikaku recently retired as principal of Iliahi Elementary School. In 1998, she was awarded a prestigious Milken Award for Outstanding Educator/Principal in Hawaii. Since retiring, she had been working part-time as Transition Program Director for the Moanalua/Aiea Community School for Adults.

"I am very honored to have been selected as the HUOA's Executive Director," said Serikaku. "This organization and the Okinawan cultural heritage it strives to perpetuate and share with our larger Hawaii community are near and dear to my heart. I look forward to working with the HUOA's leadership and our many dedicated volunteers, Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart."

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association was established in 1951 and is the umbrella organization for 49 locality clubs organized according to the origins of their immigrant ancestors. Combined, they represent a membership of approximately 10,000 households. The most visible of the HUOA's numerous activities is its annual Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani, which will celebrate its 25th year this Sept. 1 and 2.

Okinawan Festival Website Now Online!

By Mark Santoki

Individuals interested in getting the latest Okinawan Festival information can now bookmark www.okinawanfestival.com

The Website features sections on the culture, food, entertainment and children's activities offered at the Festival. Visitors can also download and print out the most current program schedule, map and information on shuttle transportation.

More Festival information will be added as it becomes available.

The site will serve as a convenient resource for the local and international media interested in covering the Festival. Journalists will be able to access press releases and photographs directly from the site 24-hours a day.

Visitors and potential visitors from Okinawa and Japan can also access Festival information in Japanese.

The Okinawan Festival Web site was created at minimum expense to the HUOA thanks to the expertise and time volunteered by HOC translators and members of the HUOA Communications and Festival Publicity committees.

HONORING our Seniors

Uchinanchu received these photos too late to include in the last edition's pictorial feature, "Honoring Our Seniors." We are pleased to include them at this time.



Orokua Aza Jin Kai also honored its senior members at its Shinnen enkai, held March 11, 2007, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. (First row, seated L-R): Wilfred Masaichi Taira (Uchiuebaru), Alice Teruya (Giruma), Doris Haruko Uyehara (Agarikumushi), Masue Watada (Minakagushikuda), Elsie M. Teruya (Hewitera), Barbara Chiyoko Ashimine (Agariniya), Lillian T. Teruya (Agariuehanjame), and Harukuo Takara (Miofuya). (Second Row, standing, L-R): Susan H. Takara (Mirigushikuda), Grace A. Sagami (Kushinkagwa), Majorie Uyehara (Irimijigwa), Ethel Mitsue Teruya (Uyehanjame), Judy Kimie Teruya (Hewitera), Hatsue Teruya (Giruma), Minoru Watada (Minakagushikuda), and Doris K. Uehara (Kushinkagwa). (Third Row, standing, L-R): Robert Taro Ashimine (Agariniya), Jane Ashimine Koki (Agariniya), Samuel Y. Kakazu (Nishikakazu), Hitoshi Irinaka (Mikumushigwa), and Kenyei Teruya (Heasagi). Photo by Seitaro Kawawa.



Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai honored their members who 80 years old and older: (Top Row, L-R): Saburo Nishime, Hatsuko Gushiken, Barbara Serikaku, Masayo Yabiku, Tetsuo Yabiku, Robert Yonamine, and Senjin Ueunten. (Front Row: L-R): Toshiko Lee, Kimiko Kinjo, Chiyo Yabiku, Jane Matsuda, Elsie Yonamine, and Arata Chinen. Others who attended the New Years Party but are not in the picture are: Masao Kinjo, Harry Oshiro, Charles Terukina, Genchu Tonaki, and Sharon Yonamine. Photo by Daniel Chinen.

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2007 Okinawan Festival Bringing Waves to Honolulu's South Shores

By Jon Itomura, Festival Chair

There is no longer a "ripple" making its way through the local community about the upcoming Okinawa Festival. That "ripple" that is usually started every year as Labor Day weekend approaches has been replaced by a thunderous growing surge of enthusiasm and anticipation for the 2007 Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 25th Okinawan Festival.

Past HUOA President Roy Kaneshiro's novel and sincere idea to promote the Uchinanchu culture in Hawaii back in 1982 is now primed to march to the mighty beat of eisa drums and uplifting sounds of sanshin strings from among our Hawaii Uchinanchu, Uchinanchu "at heart" and Uminchu from beyond the "chura-umi" or beautiful sea where many of our Issei, Nisei and those with kindred Uchina Spirit have rediscovered their cultural heritage.

On October 12, 2006, Mufi Hannemann skipped a rock across the pond by inviting the world to our shores. Ripples from that invitation have surged into waves of interested performers, visitors, guests, friends and family members looking to share in the experience we all know as the Okinawan Festival.

JAL Okinawa has confirmed that there is at least one charter flight filling up and many more individuals and groups are making personal plans. Groups are expected from Brazil and the mainland U.S.A. As summer approaches and words of encouragement spreads from community leaders and local businesses, the Okinawan Festival will be sure to experience the biggest crowds in its 25-year history.

This past April, David Arakawa and myself described the 2007 Okinawan Festival to government officials and business leaders including Okinawa Governor Nakaima, Vice-Governors Nakazato and Asato, numerous mayors of towns and cities such as Chatan, Urasoe, Uruma, Kin and Itoman, executives at Okinawa Television (OTV), Ryukyu Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Okinawa, FM 21, Ryukyu Shimpo, and the Okinawa Times, amongst others.

As we shared our excitement about this year's Festival, it was clear that many of them were already making their plans to join our parade through Waikiki and witness the spectacle at Kapiolani Park. During our visit, I also spoke with Daiichi Hirata, Director of the Fourth Worldwide Okinawa Festival Opening and Closing Program, and confirmed his commitment to bring his Toyama Kyuzo play to the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Thursday, August 30, 2007. The performance by high

school students from Kin is made possible through the generosity of Kin City. Hirata-san reminded me that he wants proceeds from ticket sales for this creative and innovative musical to be donated to the Capital Campaign Project.

Isaac Hokama, Karleen Chinen, Mark Santoki and others on the Program/Publicity Committee are in the midst of a whirlwind of planning and creativity. This year, we all can expect to see Kalakaua Avenue adorned with banners welcoming visitors from around the world to our very own Okinawan Festival. After numerous performances by entertainers and artists from Hawaii and Okinawa, the festive annual Okinawan Festival Bon Dance will draw probably the largest bon dance participation ever. And just when you think the day is drawing to a close, the exciting energy of Rinken Band will pulse through all participants on Friday night as they return for an encore performance that many of us witnessed at their 2003 Rainbow Stadium concert.



The Festival Committee will also plan on holding an Aloha Reception to follow the closing of the Festival. This is an excellent opportunity to invite all family and friends to schedule to meet and greet your "Uchinanchu Choode" (Okinawan brothers and sisters) from Okinawa and abroad. It would be a great idea to start designing your very own club flags, banners or signs so that friends, family and potential new friends can find you at this gala event. As plans are finalized, we will provide applicable cost details. Please check out our Okinawa Festival page on the HUOA webpage and feel free to sign the "Guest Book." If you have questions

or comments about the Festival or for anything related to HUOA, there is also a "blog" site that will enable members and others to discuss a variety of topics.

A very warm Ippee Nifee Deebiru to Paul Komeiji, who is working very hard to reach every one of you to let you know exactly what is going on with HUOA and the Okinawa Festival. If you should have any questions about the 2007 Okinawan Festival, do not hesitate to call the Hawaii Okinawa Center and, if your question is not answered by one of our many dedicated volunteers, I will be sure to find out an answer for you.

A wise man once said, "...Know the purpose of the festival - and that is fellowship within the organization and the community." Roy Kaneshiro knows who this fellow is since he was the one to uttered those words to describe the ripple that will soon leave many wonderful memories in its wake.

What's Available Online at www.huoa.org?

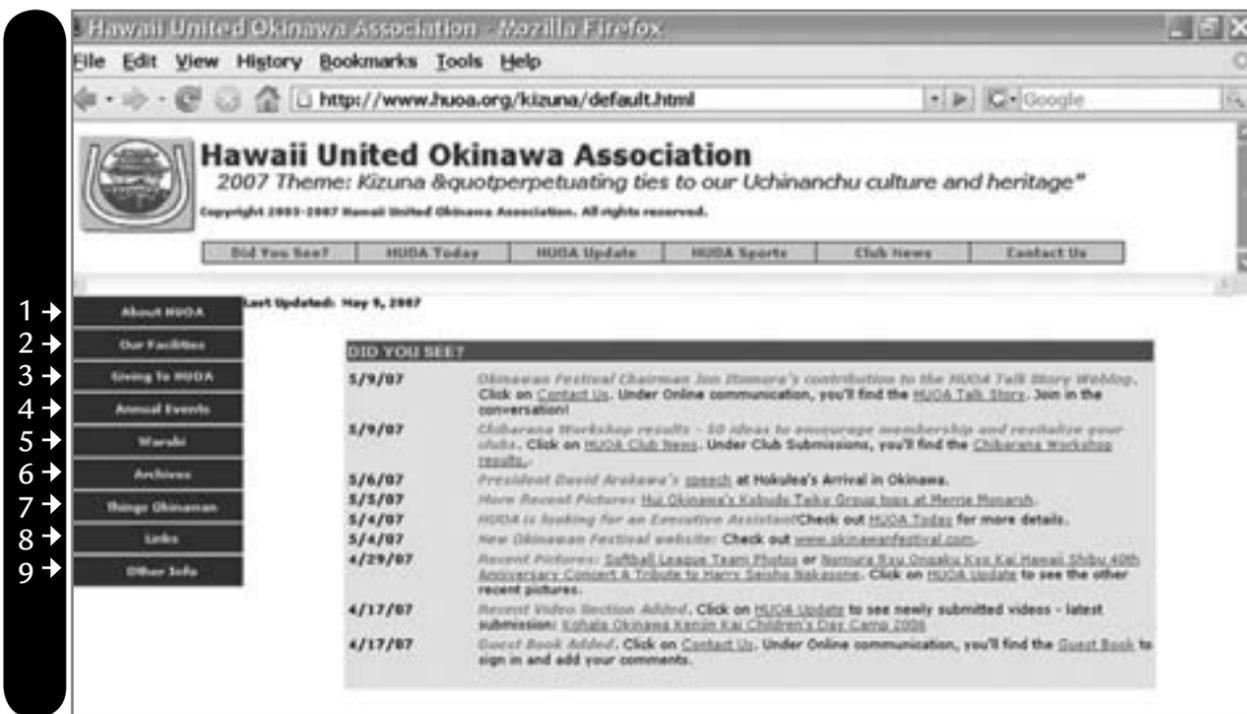
In the last issue of Uchinanchu, we introduced you to our redesigned HUOA website, including how to find out about the current HUOA and member club activities. In this article, let's investigate what else is available on www.huoa.org

As you may remember from the previous article, there are two navigation bars on the www.huoa.org website - the Current Information Navigation bar and the Reference Information Navigation bar. In this issue, you'll learn what is available from the Reference Information Navigation bar that runs down the left side of the page.

The Reference Information Navigation bar contains reference and historical information. You can use the Reference Information Navigation bar to find general information about HUOA, HUOA history and Hawaii/Okinawa culture.

By selecting...

1. **About HUOA:** you can read about HUOA's history, HUOA's Beliefs and Values, Member Clubs and their histories, current HUOA officers and information on contacting HUOA.
2. **Our Facilities:** you can read a description of the Hawaii Okinawa Center, the Legacy Ballroom (including contact information for handling an event), the Historical Gallery, the Gift Shop and the 94-1042 Ka Uka Boulevard property.
3. **Giving To HUOA:** you can read about the various fundraising activities including the annual fundraiser (known as Preserving Our Legacy), the Capital Campaign (known as Completing The Dream) and supporting the Uchinanchu Newsletter. Besides fundraising, there are other ways to contribute to HUOA. Learn about donating goods or volunteering your service.
4. **Annual Events:** you can read about the various HUOA events including the craft fairs, Okinawan Festival, Children's Day Camp and HUOA Installation Banquet.
5. **Warabi:** your children can read about the Children's Day Camp or visit various educational web sites.
6. **Archives:** you can read about various historical information. You'll find event histories, photo histories, Uchinanchu of the year honorees, Legacy Award honorees, Hui Makaala Scholar honorees, past HUOA officers, past Uchinanchu Newsletter issues, past Hawaii Okinawa Today TV schedules, Installation Banquet programs, past HUOA sports highlights and other interesting items submitted by club members.
7. **Things Okinawan:** you can find a Cultural Directory, that contains contact information for various Okinawan Cultural organizations. In addition, you'll find books, music and language related to Okinawa.
8. **Links:** you can find links to various websites, including links to Hawaii and Okinawan Government websites, interesting Okinawa and Hawaii related websites and other interesting websites.
9. **Other Info:** you can find other information including a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ).



If this seems a bit overwhelming and you don't know where to start, a good place to start may be to look at your club's history (found in About HUOA). If your club's history is not available, not accurate or needs updating, please feel free to submit information to the webmaster@huoa.org

Or, go to the archives and become an HUOA historian by learning about past activities or club members. Seeing past Uchinanchu of the Year honorees may stir up memories for you - Kizuna, remember your connection to your past.

CLUB NEWS

our clubs, our future

Tamagusuku Club News

By June H. Arakawa

Aloha from a long-time member of Tamagusuku Club. I wanted to share a heartwarming story about one of our newest Tamagusuku members.

Recently after her retirement, Hatsuko Kinjo Morales, joined our Tamagusuku Club. She is originally from Aza Aichi of Tamagusuku. Although Hatsuko-san is new to our club, she immediately immersed herself in the activities of Tamagusuku and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). She is also an avid volunteer at the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) and has generously volunteered her time to help whenever and wherever possible for our organizations.



Hatsuko Kinjo Morales

Last summer when Nanjo City (consolidation of Tamagusuku Village, Chinen Village, Sashiki Town and Ozato Village) sent their junior and high school students to Hawaii, Hatsuko-san and her family graciously opened their home to host several students. She assisted and participated in Tamagusuku's annual picnic, which was also enjoyed by the Okinawan students. Hatsuko-san is also an active member of the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii and energetically takes the initiative to help in many areas of the club's functions.

HUOA receives many requests from Okinawa and overseas persons looking for their relatives in Hawaii. When Teri Haruko Nakata Kim's relatives in Okinawa wanted to find her, they e-mailed a request to HUOA for assistance. The Okinawa relatives desperately wanted to grant their aging matriarch's wish to contact her only remaining sibling who had moved to Hawaii more than a half century ago. Luckily, Hatsuko Kinjo Morales was already volunteering her time at the HOC. Her detective instincts were stirred and she contacted another Uchinanchu living near her home and was able to find Ms. Kim at her part-time job at the Waikiki's Duty Free Shops. Fortunately, the Okinawa relatives had sent some photos of Ms. Kim, which helped to identify her.

A half century without any contact with her Okinawa family is a long time and Ms. Kim's memory and connection with Okinawa were virtually lost. Although Hatsuko-san lives in Kunia and Ms. Kim lives in Kapahulu, Hatsuko-san drove to Kapahulu for lunch dates with Ms. Kim, transported her to Karaoke Night at the HOC so that she could listen to Okinawan songs, showed her pictorial books on Okinawa, etc. With each Okinawan melody that she heard and with each photo that she saw, Hatsuko-san said that Ms. Kim's tears flowed, washing away a barrier that time had built. With her gentle, loving persuasion and encouragement, Hatsuko-san successfully helped Ms. Kim to regain her memory.

With her memory greatly restored, her relatives in Okinawa sent Ms. Kim the plane fare to visit them but travel by herself would have been impossible. However, with the finest example and application of chimugukuru heart and spirit, Hatsuko-san, at her own expense, accompanied Ms. Kim on her journey home in mid-April. After more than 50 years, Teri Haruko Nakata Kim was able to embrace her older sister and her family and visit a reconstructed, modernized Okinawa.

Recently, we have had so many horrific events and much sadness in our American communities and the world, so I hope that this heartwarming story within our midst truly restores our faith and belief in genuine human kindness. I am so proud and encouraged that the Tamagusuku Club has such a selfless member who is willing to do what she can, to be involved, and to exemplify the true Uchinanchu spirit. Hurrah for our new member, Hatsuko Kinjo Morales!

Yonashiro Chojin Kai

Members of the Yonashiro Chojin Kai were honored to have HUOA President David Z. Arakawa attend the club's 2007 Shinnen Enkai on February 17 at Masa's Cafeteria. David gave a preview of the year's programs and activities - with "Kizuna" as the inspiring and motivating theme. "Kizuna" means preserving and perpetuating the ties, bonds, or connections, which are nurtured from the heart.

On behalf of the club membership, Club President Gainor Miyashiro presented David with a \$1,000 check to be used in the Land Acquisition project. The funds represent proceeds from our club's 2006 New Year's Party Silent Auction, 2006 Summer Picnic Bake Sale and 2007 New Year's Party Country Store. It was a total club effort - from all generations - that involved planning, baking, coordinating, donating and buying the goods. Some of our youngest members were able to participate either by donating their used toys and books to buying bargain prices toys and books. Thanks to Elaine and George Maemori for their hard work in planning these activities.

We look forward to our Summer Picnic Bake Sale & Country Store to be held on Sunday, July 15, 2007, at Ala Moana Park.

Young Okinawans to Host Workshops

The Young Okinawans of Hawaii will be hosting a series of workshops throughout 2007. The first, entitled "Understanding Our Identity Through Music and Dance," will be held on August 25 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Jikoen Hongwanji Hall on School Street.

This workshop will be conducted by Norman Kaneshiro and Eric Wada. The fee will be a minimum \$5 donation to Jikoen Hongwanji. If you are interested, please register with Traci at 389-3787 before August 10, 2007.

This is Your Newsletter

Please send us your club news items, member spotlights, and photos. Email us at info@huoa.org. Mahalo!

Hui Okinawa Enjoys Busy First Quarter

By Patti Taira-Tokuuke, President

The first quarter for Hui Okinawa has been very busy as usual. On January 20, 2007, the officers and board of directors met for a day-long leadership training seminar, which included discussion of the goals for the upcoming year, committee assignments, projects and events for the year, a by-laws review, parliamentary procedures instructions/review, and a kachashi lesson.

The annual Shinnen Enkai and Keirokai luncheon was held under sunny skies on January 28, 2007, at the Hilo Hongwanji koreisha members honored during the

special guest performers, including Mr. Daiichi Hirata, who played the taiko drum, fue, sang and danced. Mr. Hirata produced the opening and closing ceremonies of the Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival held this past October in Okinawa. The Young Okinawans of Hawaii Shishimai (Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta) performed to insure good luck for the coming year and Ms. Traci Toguchi (former Miss Hawaii) entertained the crowd with her beautiful vocal abilities. Members and guests of Ryusei Honryu Yanagi no Kai prepared an elaborate formal program enjoyed by all. And, to round out a full day of entertainment, the Shinsei Kai, Soshin Kai, and Hui Okinawa's Kobudo Taiko all showed off their wonderful talents. Thank you to Cynthia and Kent Inouye and their committee for putting on such a great annual event.

Over the President's Day weekend in February, Nancy Nakaishi and her crew held a successful andagi fundraiser at the Chinese New Year's Festival at Kalakaua Park. Despite Hilo's "liquid sunshine," the line for andagi never slowed down. No one could resist hot delicious andagi. In March, Hui Okinawa hosted exchange students from Okinawa. This event was chaired by Lani Yamami. Congratulations to Hui Okinawa's Kobudo Taiko for placing first in the float division in the annual Merrie Monarch Parade. Thank you to Roy Hokama and Joni Urasaki for chairing our annual grad's night celebration in May. Check out the HUOA website: <http://www.huoa.org> and click under club news for latest pictures and information from Hui Okinawa.



Hui Okinawa's Kobudo Taiko took first place in the float division of this year's annual Merrie Monarch Parade in Hilo.



Sangha Hall. Over 75 club (those over 80 years old) were Keirokai. There were many

Hui O Laulima Announces 2007 Cultural Grant Recipients

Hui O Laulima is pleased to announce that its 2007 Cultural Grants have been awarded to: Aki No Kai, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko, and the University of Hawaii Foundation.

The goals in awarding these grants are to preserve, promote and perpetuate the Okinawan culture.

Aki No Kai received \$1,000 to help defray costs for its members to participate in a recital in Okinawa.

Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii will use the \$800 awarded to them to help pay for expenses for their students participating in a study tour to Okinawa in October 2007.

Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko (Hilo, Hawaii) will use their \$1,000 grant to help pay travel expenses for members performing at the 25th Okinawa Festival in Honolulu, September 1-3, 2007.

The University of Hawaii Foundation, Sakamaki/Hawley/Ryukyu/Okinawa Collection, is awarded \$3,000 towards the restoration of a rare Okinawan scroll from this collection.

Congratulations to all the recipients as they pursue significant and genuine ways in which to preserve, promote and perpetuate the Okinawan culture. We look forward to future opportunities when they can share with us the knowledge/skills that they have gained through our support.

The 2007 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Committee members are: Eunice Dela Cruz, Bobbi Kuba, Gayle Jitchaku, Ellen Shimabukuro, Harriet Takaesu, Valerie Teruya and Wendy Yoshimoto, Chair.



Hui Makaala Club News

Hui Makaala is proud of its Annual Scholarship Program, which has awarded hundreds of scholarships since 1947. This year, our recipients will be honored at an awards luncheon to be held on Sunday, July 22, at the Ala Moana Hotel.

This year's Hui Makaala Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2007, at the Kapolei Golf Club and Resort beginning at 11:54 a.m. (first tee-time). Format will be a 4-person modified scramble and the sign-up sheet can be found on the HUOA website (www.huoa.org) by going to the Hui Makaala link. Please join us in some fun and fellowship.

Hui Makaala's Scholarship Fundraiser and Fashion Show are celebrating its 60th year anniversary since its charter. Okinawan couture and fashion designer Mitsuko Yamauchi will be honoring us with her presence and unique designs.

Yamauchi Sensei has also invited Jeanie Chun to share the stage with her to serve as a bond between East and West and because of her high regard for the talents of Ms. Chun. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 21, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Boutiques begin from 9 a.m. and doors to the ballroom open at 11:30 a.m. Entertainment is being produced by Keiko Ura, so we are in for a treat!

2007 Club Picnic Dates

Have you heard? Members have covertly started training for picnic H games: three-legged races, *geta* races, potato sack hop, golf ball and spoon relays, water balloon tosses, and more. Some seniors are already conditioning for the vegetable pick-up, too. Ah, watermelon should be the sweetest in two to three months, too.

Here is the list of HUOA clubs and their respective picnic dates and locations. Don't fall behind in training, and have a wonderful and safe picnic with your families and members.

Affiliation	Picnic Date	Location
Awase Doshi Kai	pending	
Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai	7/15/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Aza Yogi Doshi Kai	none	
Bito Doshi Kai	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai	7/1/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Club Kobashigawa	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Club Motobu	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai	7/7/07-Sat	Ala Moana
Ginowan Shijin Kai	7/22/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Ginoza Sonjin Kai	7/8/07-Sun	Kapiolani
Gushichan Sonjin Kai	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Gushikawa Shijin Kai	none	
Haeburu Club	7/29/07-Sun	DAV-Keehi/Memorial
Haneji Club	8/5/2007-Sun	Kapiolani
Hawaii Katsuren Chojin Kai	8/5/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Hawaii Shuri - Naha Club	7/15/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Hui Alu Inc.	none	
Hui Makaala	none	
Hui O Laulima	none	
Hui Okinawa	7/22/07-Sun	Wailoa State
Hui Uruma	none	
Ishikawa Shijin Kai	none	
Itoman Shijin Kai	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai	none	
Kin Chojin Kai	7/22/07-Sun	Kapiolani
Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	none	
Kochinda Chojin Kai	7/28/07-Sat	Ala Moana
Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai	tba	Kam Park
Kuba Rosei Kai	7/8/07-Sun	Sand Island
Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai	7/29/07-Sun	Wailuku Community
Nago Club	7/22/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	7/22/07-Sun	Kapiolani
Nishihara Chojin Kai	7/8/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Okinawa City-Goeku Son	7/22/07-Sun	Kapiolani
Okinawan Genealogical Society	none	
Onna Sonjin Kai	none	
Oroku Aza Jin Kai	7/8/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Oroku Doshi Kai	7/8/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Osato Doshi Kai	7/29/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Tamagusuku Club	8/5/2007-Sun	Kapiolani
Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai	7/15/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Urasoe Shijin Kai	7/22/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai	8/12/2007- Sun	Waialele Community
Yagaji Doshi Kai	6/24/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Yomitan Club	8/12/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Yonabaru Chojin Kai	7/22/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Yonashiro Chojin Kai	7/15/07-Sun	Ala Moana
Young Okinawans of Hawaii	7/7/07-Sat	Malaekahana

Community Service Project

By Ford Chinen

The Club Development and Sustainment Committee has announced plans for another HUOA community service project similar to the Uchinanchu-style picnic coordinated last year for the residents of the Weinberg Transition Center in Waimanalo. Roy Kaneshiro, chair of the committee, has announced plans to bring the same type of event to the Waianae Homeless Shelter. The event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 28, 2007, at the Waianae Shelter's Kapolei facility.

The service project last year brought the Okinawan culture, picnic games, good food (of course) and the sharing of the Okinawan spirit to the 80 residents of the Waimanalo Weinberg Center. It also provided an opportunity for younger club members to take charge and lead the planning and coordination for the event. The best "thing" about the event, however, is the good feeling everyone who worked so hard on this project had when it was over. You could see it in the eyes of the residents - lots of gratitude and a little amazement that a group that they had not heard of would take the time and resources to share with them.

This year, we are again looking for volunteers to serve on the committee to plan this event. So if you don't mind sharing a little of your time for a worthwhile community service project please sign up by contacting the HUOA at 676-5400 or email: huoa@huoa.org



**Marchers
Wanted**

call us
huoa office
676-5400

PAN-PACIFIC FESTIVAL MATSURI IN HAWAII PARADE

DATE: Sunday, June 10, 2007
TIME: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
ROUTE: Fort DeRussy to Kapiolani Park
ASSEMBLE AT: Fort DeRussy - 4:00 pm
 (across Nike Town)

**SCHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FOR
HUOA PARTICIPANTS**

Bus No. 1
 Hawaii Okinawa Center - 3:00 pm
 Pearl City Recreation Ctr - 3:15 pm

Bus No. 2
 Jikoen Hongwanji - 3:15 pm

**PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE
A SEAT ON THE BUS.
HUOA OFFICE AT 676-5400**



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Kuuyu Madin

A Capital Campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

A New Start Campaign pushes forward in 2007

By Alan Chinen

Chairman, HUOA Fund Development Committee

Traditionally, the arrival of Spring heralds new beginnings and the promise of things to come. At this time, our capital campaign is in the Spring of its life, ready to move into Phase II with renewed strength and a redoubling of our efforts.

To stimulate Phase II of the campaign, we have formulated a plan to build new leadership, infuse new energy, and involve increasingly broader segments of our community. That plan is now in place and we will soon be meeting with the members of our Executive Council and Board of Directors, honorary chairpersons, and senior members of our community. Together, we will promote new levels of promotional and fundraising activities, recruit additional campaign leaders, and move into Phase 2 with renewed energy and purpose. Based on our great success to date, we are certain that Phase 2 will continue to show ongoing high levels of involvement across all sectors of our community and organization.

As part of our plans to increase the awareness of planned giving, we have completed filming a number of short informational-related features. These videos will appear on a monthly basis on Olelo Public Television beginning this month. Help us spread the word, and encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to tune in.

In other campaign news, over the last 60 days we have been working on the release of grant from the State of Hawaii to supply additional funding for our land acquisition and development project. We are pleased to report that we are very close to completing this grant and are extremely optimistic about the outcome.

We would like to thank you all again for your support during the initial stages of our campaign, and urge you to do all you can to ensure our continued success during Phase II. If you, or anyone you know, would like to play an active part in our campaign leadership, please contact Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400 or via e-mail at kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com.

Our Supporters

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Capital Campaign. We are grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donation. *Magukuru kara ippee nifee deebiru* – From our hearts, thank you very much.

Donors are listed in alphabetical order and reflect donations received from March 1, 2007, to April 30, 2007.

Anonymous

Betty S. Chang

Michael Goshima

N.S. Gushikuma

Harold M. Higa

Hiroshi Higa

Misao Higa

Shirley T. Higa

HUOA Karaoke Club

M/M Seijun Kobashigawa

Mildred Kobashikawa

Charles & Kaneko Kubota

Easton & Nedra M. Manson

Robert S. & Violet S. Nago

Tokushin & Takako Nakamoto

Richard S. Nakasone

Ronald Nishihira

Laurence K. Omura

George K. Shimabukuro

Sadao & Rose Shimabukuro

Takeo & Betty Y. Shimabukuro

Hideki & Doris Shiroma

Seijiro & Gladys Shiroma

Dorothy K. Taira

Mildred N. Taira

Yoshiko Teruya

Barbara Toguchi

David Uno, Inc. dba Aiea Copy Center

Aleric C. Uyehara

Mitsuko Uyetake

Harold M. & Elsie A. Yonamine

Harold & Eleanor Yonashiro

Yonashiro Sonjin Kai

In Memory of my parents Mr. & Mrs. Hotaro Higa by Lillian S. Higa

In Memory of Mr. Koyu Higa by the Members of Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai

In Memory of Takehachi & Kiyoko Higa by Herbert & Elaine Higa

In Memory of Vicki S. Higa by Frederick T. Higa

In Memory of Harriet Yoshiko Iaela, Harry J. Arakaki & Kay Arakaki

In Memory of Marcelino T. Indiola by Kyoko Indiola

In Memory of Hideichi Miyahira by Fumiko Miyahira

In Memory of Mr. Michael Koei Miyashiro by the Members of Haeburu Club

In Memory of Florence D. Shain by Barry L. & Renee' Shain

In Memory of Grandpa & Grandma Yosuke & Kamato Shiroma by Michael & Caren Shiroma, Darryl Shiroma, and Clayton & Leigh Shiroma

In Memory of Taro & Kamechiya Shiroma, by daughters Hilda Toguchi, Ruby Tome, and Dorothy Shiroma Hoe

In Memory of Craig W. Taira by Faye, Alison & Garrett Taira

In Memory of My Husband, Terry A. Tamanaha by Grace S. Tamanaha

In Memory of Yeikichi & Ushi Tamanaha by Karen K. Tamanaha

In Memory of Yukichi "Fred" Teruya by Mrs. Sumiko Teruya

In Memory of Jiro & Kama Yamauchi by Harold & Toyo Yamauchi

On Behalf of Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai by Betty H. Kegley 



Recognition Program

DESIGNED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association, will recognize all donors on a computerized screen called the HUOA Donor Legacy Program. Envision your name or family highlighted on a large video screen mounted at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Envision your family's page being accessible to family members through the internet. Envision a short video clip or picture slide show on your family. In addition, donors contributing \$25,000 or more will also receive a permanent plaque mounted at the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. These are just a few of the possibilities available to our donors.

Please review the donation categories below.

\$25,000 or More

- Permanent plaque mounted at the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza
- A Family page with a video clip on the Legacy Donor Program
(Note: The size of the plaque will vary according to the amount of the donation)

\$10,000 to \$24,999

- A Family page with a video clip on the Legacy Donor Program

\$5,000 to \$9,999

- A Family page with multiple photographs on the Legacy Donor Program

\$2,500 to \$4,999

- A Family page with one photograph on the Legacy Donor Program

\$1,000 to \$2,499

- Half of a Family page with one photograph on the Legacy Donor Program

All other Donors

- Name listed on the Legacy Donor Program

HIGA FAMILY

"Iki" FAMILY

Issei
(arrived in Hawaii, 1906)
Shigeru Higa - 1879
Kamado Higa - 1885

Nisei
Henry Higa - 1907, married Julie Miyashiro, 1927
John Higa - 1909
Kiyoko Higa - 1912, married Jack Shiroma, 1932
Tomiko Higa - 1915, married Nelson Goya, 1935
Richard Higa - 1917, married Kimiko Taira, 1940
Frank Higa - 1920, married Jane Franks, 1945

Sansei
Henry Higa Jr. - 1950
Mary Higa Sonoda - 1952
Brian Higa - 1955
Jane Shiroma Carol - 1955
Caroline Shiroma Tanaka - 1957
Richard Higa Jr. - 1942
May Higa - 1948
Jason Higa - 1950
Francis Higa - 1952

Yonsei
John Higa - 1965
Karen Higa - 1964
Mary Carol - 1968
Dustin Higa - 1968
Carol Lee Higa Ota - 1970
Thomas Higa - 1970
Aimee Higa Johnson - 1971
Aston Higa - 1971
Philip Taira - 1971
Dawn Higa - 1972
Tammy Taira Miyahira - 1976
Jon Higa - 1985
Richard Higa III - 1986

Gosei
Nicole Higa - 1996
Julie Ota - 2000
Jason Ota - 2000
Ryan Higa - 2001
Mary Ann Higa - 2002
Susan Miyahira - 2004

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Weblog: Hokule'a Sights Okinawa

PVS Weblog Entry, 4/22:

Hokule'a Sights Okinawa



After a cloudy, windy night and morning, Okinawa appeared on the horizon at one o'clock this afternoon. Nainoa spotted the island during a break from the hazy, fog-like conditions. We were about 15 miles away, and Hokule'a was heading right for the majestic island, without anyone helping her to steer. Everyone could feel the mana of this wa'a, and we hugged each other with tears of joy and emotions we may not ever be able to put into words.

This 11-day voyage was not an easy one, and we all knew when we left Yap the challenges we could face. We were fortunate to have been clear from any threat of hurricanes, but we did experience a wide range of weather - from zero wind, flat water and extreme heat to near gale force winds, rough seas and intense cold. It was a challenge for any navigator, with all the factors of this difficult voyage, balancing weather decisions, keeping track of days of drifting, and trying to uphold schedules being made for us in Japan. Yet, Nainoa's confidence instilled the same in each of us and we all knew



The crew of the Hokule'a perform a ceremonial haka as they pull into Itoman Harbor. (Photo courtesy of Hawaii Tourism Japan)

he would raise Okinawa out of the sea. He could see the island before any of us could, and he knew exactly where it was since the time we left Yap. Our aloha and respect for this incredible man is immeasurable. Mahalo Nainoa, your magic is an inspiration.

Well, it's hard to believe that we're here, more than 6,000 miles away from Hawai'i sailing to islands that look like they could be home. For two of our crewmembers, Kanako Uchino and Takuji Araki, they are home. This is not the end of a voyage to Okinawa, but just the beginning of a journey for the people of the beautiful islands of Okinawa and Japan. We are all happy and proud to be a part of it.

A hui hou, malama pono,
Hokule'a apprentice navigator Kai'ulani Murphy



HUAOA President David Arakawa greets the crew of the Hokule'a. Photo by Jon Itomura



Children's halau offers a warm Okinawan greeting for the crew of the Hokule'a.

Weblog: Hokule'a Departs Okinawa

PVS Weblog Entry, 4/28:

Hokule'a departs Okinawa

Here we are in Japan, on the island of Okinawa. Here we were greeted as 'ohana, from the time we landed, until the time we set sail again for Japan proper. The weather here, although a bit rainy, was similar to Hawai'i, all be it a good bit colder. The cold, however, was overwhelmed by the warmth and graciousness of the people of Okinawa. We were greeted with hula from a local hula halau, and with some awesome taiko drum dancing. The bit of their culture that they shared was just amazing.



The few short days spent on land were filled with events and presentations. There was a welcoming reception, presentations given by our captains and local Japanese crew members at the local fisheries high school (fishing is a large part of the culture here), a couple of hundred school children and community members visited the canoe, we visited the canoe museum display at the Ocean Expo Center, we were hosted for a party and presentation at Camp Foster with the Hawai'i military families and local Hawai'i



Taiko drummer welcomes Hokule'a crew. Photo by Jon Itomura

ex-patriots, we were hosted for a dinner at Sam's by the owner Wyatt, a temple ceremony was held praying for a safe journey, and lastly a farewell ceremony was given near at a fish warehouse near the canoe.

Hokule'a navigator
Chad Baybayan



Hokule'a crew members, led by Navigator Nainoa Thompson, join their hosts in Okinawa in singing "Hawaii Aloha" at the welcoming reception. (PVS Photo)

Aisatsu 2007: Reflections of Kizuna

Photos by Jon Itomura

The Japanese word "Aisatsu" translates into the English word "greetings" and for HUOA President David Arakawa and President-Elect Jon Itomura, the annual "Aisatsu" voyage to Okinawa served a far more important role than just providing their greetings on behalf of HUOA.

For this Aisatsu trip in April 2007, HUOA's Executive Director Jane Serikaku and past HUOA Presidents Dr. Ryokichi "Ric" Higashionna and George Tamashiro donated their time and their own expenses for airfare and lodging to accompany David and Jon in order to provide a follow-up presentation of the Capital



HUOA Aisatsu Team meet with Okinawa Prefectural Government Leadership Team (L-R): George Tamashiro, Jane Serikaku, President David Arakawa, Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, Vice Governor, Katsuko Asato, Ryokichi Higashionna, Pres., Elect Jon Itomura, Vice Governor, Zenki Nakazato.

Campaign.

Through the invaluable and tireless efforts of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai President Akira Makiya, Choko Takayama, Asami Ginoza and others, over two dozen meetings were carefully scheduled with Okinawa Prefectural officials, town mayors and influential Okinawa business executives. Masayuki Oshiro, Director of the Exchange Promotions Division for the Okinawa Prefectural Government also served as a gracious host and provided his staff to assist during our trip.



Seiichiro and Jimmy Inamine, along with two of Hawaii's strongest supporters, Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai President Akira Makiya and Asami Gimoza hosted a luncheon for Hawaii guests.

The pace was as hectic and harried as the changing weather. One day would be stifling hot with intense humidity, while the next would bring heavy and steady rainfall, and yet another day would reveal a cool brisk breeze.

These representatives of HUOA presented the three major projects to be undertaken during 2007: the ongoing Capital Campaign, the Leadership Study Tour, and the celebration of our 25th Okinawan Festival. This visit with newly elected Governor Hirokazu Nakaima and Vice-Governors Zenki Nakasato and Katsuko



Okinawa-Hawaii Kyokai member, Mr. Takayama (middle), facilitates FM21 Radio Program with members of the Hawaii contingent.

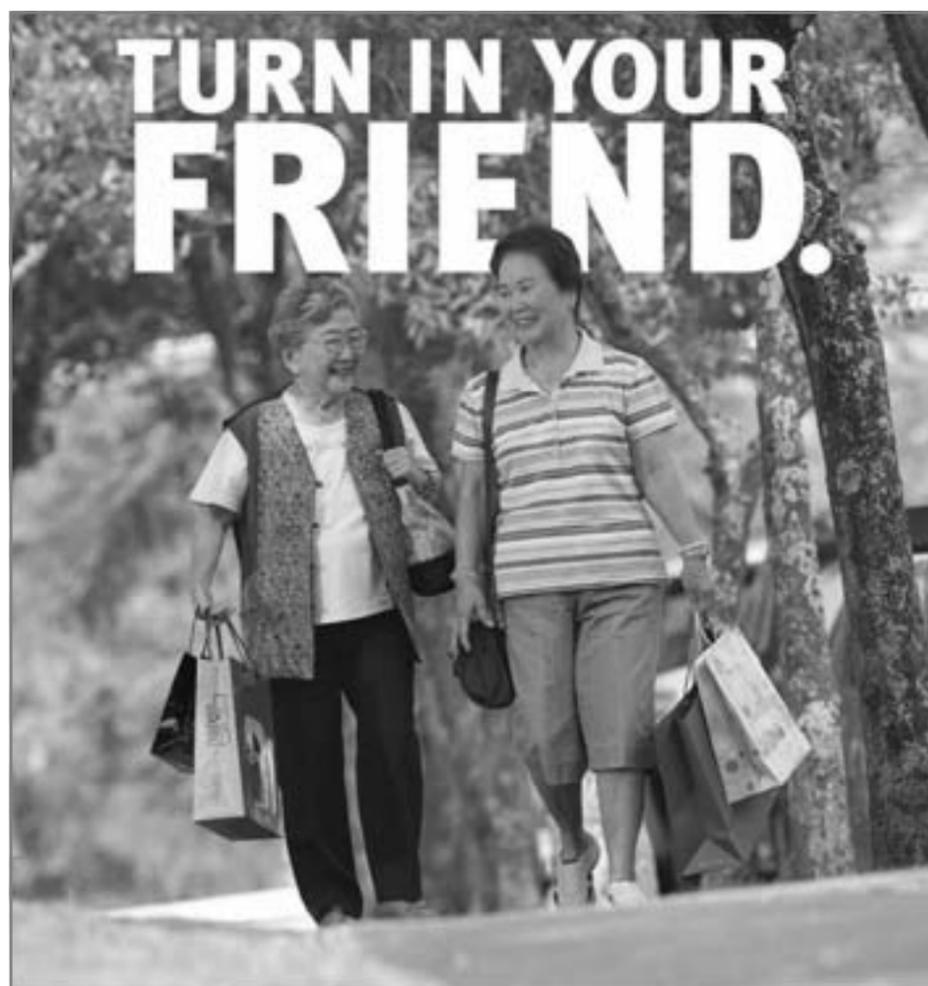


Uncle Yasuyuki Arakawa of Nishihara shows off his palaka shirt while Nishihara Mayor Arakaki accepts his original Arakawa Store Palaka shirt from President Dave Arakawa.

Asato received media coverage from newspapers and television. They also met with the Prefectural Assembly Chair and mayors of their respective ancestral cities and towns, including Nishihara, Kita-Nakagusuku (David), Chatan (Jon), Uruma-Gushikawa (Ric), and Itoman (George) and also spoke with Mayors from Kin, Urasoe and Naha, the Chairman of the Association of Mayors for Towns and Villages and the Naha Chamber of Commerce. The response from all involved was very positive and supportive of HUOA's efforts, goals and mission.

In the midst of scurrying from meetings, skipping meals, and dodging weather changes, the impact of David's theme for this year "Kizuna" was felt during the welcoming ceremony for the Hokule'a and Kama Hele crew in Itoman. David greeted his high school classmate Hokule'a Captain Nainoa Thompson and both offered sincere words of appreciation to hundreds in attendance for the "bridge" formed and existing between Hawaii and Okinawa. Lynn Miyahira, daughter of HUOA's Community Liaison Wayne Miyahira and staff member with the Okinawa Prefectural Government, served as the emcee for this historic occasion.

This "Aisatsu" was no mere greeting gesture but a confirmation by both HUOA and Okinawa that "Kizuna" does exist in so many forms and in so many hearts.



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True example of ichariba chodee, Daiichi Hirata and Jon Itomura only met this past February and have become like brothers forever.

Chibarana: Top-Ten Ideas to Encourage Membership and Revitalize Your Club

By Ford Chinen

One of the most valuable outcomes resulting from the Chibarana Workshop held in February was the gathering of 177 ideas or ways to encourage membership and strengthen HUOA's member clubs. Many of the ideas were similar, so the Club Development and Sustainment Committee reviewed all of the excellent ideas and grouped similar suggestions together. The original 177 proposals were distilled down to 50 distinct ideas and suggestions that HUOA club leaders can implement to strengthen and encourage membership in your club. A complete list of these 50 ideas has been provided to your club president; or, you can find them online at: www.huoa.org

Here is a list of the top-ten ideas.

10. Publish an anniversary booklet or a book on the history of the club membership, "original" and current families, and different generations. (This becomes a reference for later generations.) Note: For samples/ideas, check out some clubs who have published their anniversary booklets: Aza Gushikawa, Chatan, Ginowan, Nakagusuku-Tomari, Tamagusuku and Yomitan.

9. Have the more experienced members mentor the younger/newer members, and have younger members bring in their friends and peers to do important "work."

8. Have a network to inform members of activities: newsletters to all members, one-on-one phone calls.

7. Have a children's corner at shinnen enkai which includes small kid crafts, inserts for their binders - informational inserts each year include proverbs, stories,

foods, geography, current topics/events, and history.

6. Keep HUOA open to all, non-Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart.

5. Sponsor sports teams (volleyball, softball, bowling) and have the participants commit to volunteer with club events.

4. Have senior members share the culture by through storytelling, talk story sessions, meetings.

3. Find benefits for your members: community service, tying karate to Okinawa, cooking demos, teach how to "drop" andagi, promote food contests, i.e. best andagi, best goya champuru.

2. Provide opportunities for cultural and social outings: have a club excursion instead of a picnic, trip to Las Vegas, plays, movies as a group, movie night at the HOC.

And, the number 1 idea is:

1. Change the program format at shinnen enkai to include all ages: present skits that involve everyone, including children, on various aspects of Okinawan culture (appeal to their sense of relevance): history; children's corner with crafts and games manned by younger members of the club; recognize 80 + year olds with gift or plaque, free meal and lei; have good door prizes; do small craft projects for senior citizens; search for variety of entertainment, i.e. magician, Balloon Monsoon for keiki.



Come Out and Play!

Registration Continues for Okinawan Summer Program for Kids

Space is still available for a few energetic, fun seeking children interested in learning about Okinawan culture. Starting June 12, children throughout the state will have the opportunity to participate in "Warabi Ashibi - Children at Play," HUOA's summer program for children. This popular program offers a variety of fun and educational activities for kids. The date and times will vary from island to island, but all camps will offer a creative, fun-filled schedule. Activities could include drum making, dance, language, plantation games, crafts, cooking, flower arrangement, history and language. Neighbor Island camps have been supported by a grant from the Hawaii's State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for six years. The information below outlines each camp with direct contact numbers. If you have any questions please contact Karen Kuba-Hori at (808) 676-5400.

Note: Maui's Children's camp will occur in October of this year (see below).

OAHU

When: Tuesday - Friday, June 12 - 15
 Hours: Tuesday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 (sleeper at the Hawaii Okinawa Center scheduled on Thursday)
 Friday: 9 a.m. - noon
 Location: Hawaii Okinawa Center
 Who: Children ages 8 - 13 yrs.
 Registration: \$75 (discount for multi-child households)
 Directors: Thelma Arakawa & Wendy Yoshimoto
 Contact: Karen Kuba-Hori, (808) 676-5400
kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com
 (See application form provided on this page)



KOHALA, HAWAII

When: Friday - Saturday, June 15 - 16
 Hours: Friday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Location: Hawi Jodo Mission Hall
 Who: Children ages 8 - 13 yrs.
 Registration: \$30
 Director: Kathy Matsuda
 Contact: Kathy Matsuda, (808) 889-6450

HILO, HAWAII

When: Monday - Friday, June 11 - 15
 Hours: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Location: Hilo Hongwanji Betsuin YBA Hall
 Who: Children ages 8 - 13 yrs.
 Registration: \$70 (discount for multi-child household)
 Director: Ruby Maekawa
 Contact: Ruby Maekawa, (808) 959-4855

KAUAI

When: Tuesday - Thursday, June 12 - 14
 Hours: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Location: Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall
 Who: Children ages 8 - 13 yrs.
 Registration: \$50
 Director: Katy Miyashiro
 Contact: Katy Miyashiro, (808) 332-9929



Please contact the island coordinators where you live to register your child or if you are interested in volunteering.

MAUI

When: Monday - Friday, October 1 - 5
 Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Location: Maui Okinawa Cultural Center
 Who: Children ages 7 - 12 yrs.
 Registration: TBA
 Directors: Jana Yamashiro and Traci Villarosa
 Contact: Jana Yamashiro, (808) 877-9074



Registration Form

Name of Child _____

Age _____ Sex _____ T-shirt size: Adult/Youth _____
circle one indicate size

Name of Child _____

Age _____ Sex _____ T-shirt size: Adult/Youth _____
circle one indicate size

Name of Child _____

Age _____ Sex _____ T-shirt size: Adult/Youth _____
circle one indicate size

Address _____

Phone _____

Parent or Legal Guardian's Name(s) _____

Work Ph _____ Home Ph _____ Cell Ph _____

Each registered child will receive one free Camp T-shirt. Additional shirts may be purchased for \$7 (Youth) and \$10 (Adult) sizes.

Registration Fees:

One child (\$75) _____

Two children (\$145) _____

Three children (\$215) _____

Additional children (\$70 each) _____

Please indicate additional shirt sizes

Quantity: _____ Size: _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to HUOA. Mail to:

HUOA
 Children's Day Camp
 94-587 Ukee Street
 Waipahu, HI 96797

Upon acceptance, additional forms will be mailed to you.

Ippee niffee deebiru



THE SCOOPS ON O-POP

Richie Yamashiroya
richieyamashiroya@mac.com



Ever heard of a song from Japan called “Shima Uta”? If you’ve been to a place that has karaoke, chances are pretty good that you’ve already heard someone belting out the chorus of the anthemic song by THE BOOM (who incidentally are from mainland Japan). The song’s popularity in Japan and overseas¹ gave rise to a new wave of interest in music from Okinawa, particularly its pop music – called Okinawa/n pop, Uchinaa pop, or simply “O-pop.” Unlike the majority of J-pop or K-pop, which most of you will probably be familiar with, the thing that sets O-pop apart is that it’s a fusion of old (with the use of traditional Okinawan instruments like the sanshin² and with lyrics often sung in the Okinawan language, or Uchinaa-guchi) and new (Western beats and instruments like guitar, bass and drums).

Of course, O-pop existed a couple of decades before the song “Shima Uta” (released on THE BOOM’s “Shishunki” album in 1992) hit radio airwaves when Shoukichi Kina & Champloose and Sadao China (pronounced chee-nah) hit the Japanese music scene in the ’70s, followed by Rincken Band in the ’80s, and Nenes (1st generation) and Parsha club in the 90s. A bit of trivia: Hawaii has had a taste of its own O-pop group with a very talented band called Namikaji who were active in the ’90s, and in South America there’s a band that’s currently releasing music called Ton Ton Mi and another fine band – that may no longer be together – called Niseta Ryu. Presently in Japan, artists like BEGIN, Rimi Natsukawa and indie duo Yanawarabaa – all three hail from Yaeyama – are keeping interest in O-pop alive.

Perhaps the greatest hurdle that’s always faced O-pop is that, well, not many people (Uchinanchu included) know that it exists. Luckily for those of us who live in Hawaii, we have a radio station that’s dedicated to broadcasting music from Japan and Okinawa called Radio KZOO (also check out KNDI Radio on Friday nights) and several TV stations like KIKU-TV and NGN/NGN2 that feature Japanese programming. (NGN features the ever-popular music show hosted by the legendary comedic duo Downtown called “Hey Hey Hey” and airs episodes of “Music Fair” from time to time. NGN2 is currently televising three popular music shows called “J-Melo,” “Music Japan” and “Music Station.”) CDs can be purchased at BOOKOFF, located in Shirokiya at the Ala Moana Shopping Center, where they have a section for music from Okinawa, but for the largest selection – without the price of an airline ticket to our lovely Uchinaa – you’ll want to shop online at English-friendly stores like iTunes (www.apple.com/itunes), CDJapan(www.cdjapan.co.jp) and YesAsia.com (www.yesasia.com).

Although we can bet that O-pop will never reach Hallyu (the Korean wave) like proportions or even match the fan base that J-pop enjoys outside of Japan, I think it’s important to, at the very least, get the word out that such pop music exists from Okinawa.

(Footnotes)

¹ THE BOOM’s official website has a page (http://www.five-d.co.jp/miyazawa/en/shimauta_body.tml) with the history of the song “Shima Uta”.

² *San-shin*, n. A three-stringed musical instrument with a roughly square sound box and a long neck -- Okinawan-English Wordbook by Mitsugu Sakihara, University of Hawaii Press.

Gedai Scholar: Mina Tamashiro

By Chikako Nago

Mina Tamashiro, daughter of Tetsushi and Kinuko Tamashiro of Honolulu, is currently attending the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai) in Okinawa. There, Tamashiro is studying Okinawan dance, *taiko*, and *sanshin*. Tamashiro, 24, left Hawaii for Okinawa in April as the recipient of the Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarship.

Although this is the first time that she is living away from her family, Tamashiro says she is enjoying life in Okinawa so far. Her fluency in Japanese enables her to communicate, learn and adjust more quickly to her new environment and lifestyle. Both of Tamashiro’s parents hail from Haneji, and she holds a degree in Japanese from the University of Hawaii.

Tamashiro has also been studying Okinawan dance under Frances Nakachi Sensei in Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai for five years. According to Nakachi Sensei, Tamashiro will take her *shinjinsho* (first certificate) test in Okinawan dance in this summer.

Good luck, Mina!



IREI NO HI: UCHINAA MEMORIAL DAY

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June 23rd is honored as a day of prayer and remembrance in Okinawa for all the precious lives lost, upon the closing of the infamous Battle of Okinawa in 1945, when over a quarter million lives were lost; the majority were Okinawan civilians caught in the war, killing almost a third of the Uchinanchu.

What makes this non-religious memorial unique is that it honors all those killed, particularly the unsung civilian casualties that often suffer the brunt of war. Come hear testimonies from living treasures, and the humbling experience of war. Robert Kishaba is one of the living treasures speaking, sharing his experience teenager life in war-torn Okinawa. The memorial in Okinawa honors all war dead, regardless of nationality or military status, in hope that all souls may rest in peace.

This will be the third year the Hawai`i Okinawa Alliance, a grassroots solidarity peace group between Okinawa & Hawai`i, has organized this annual event. Every year, participants praise the event and regret more of their family & friends did not come. Each year will be slightly different, so please bring new folks to learn & reflect on this “holocaust” experience that has shaped Uchinanchu identity & history; however, it has a universal lesson for all peoples.

For more information:
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SPORTS CORNER

Mixed Volleyball League

By Dana Takahara-Dias

After having a great time spiking, hitting and diving for volleyballs at the Waipahu High School gymnasium since January, the 28 teams in the HUOA Mixed Volleyball League are driving towards the season finale. New champions will be crowned on May 20 at the conclusion of the season at the league's luncheon banquet, which will be held at Waipahu gym with bento lunches, door prizes and awards. League president Cathy Miyashiro and her capable Board of Directors have run an exciting league filled with great sportsmanship and camaraderie.

2007 FINAL STANDINGS – FIRST ROUND

POOL 1	POOL 2	POOL 3	POOL 4
1 Nakagusuku	Urasoe	Kochinda	Hui Makaala
2 Katsuren	Hui Makaala 1	Ginowan	Kin 4
3 Itoman 1	Yonashiro 2	Itoman 2	Aza Gushikawa 4
4 Osato	Young Okinawans	Haneji	Kobashigawa
5 Awase	Aza Gushikawa 2	Kin 3	Yogi
6 Kin 1	Kin 2	Tomigusuku 1	Gushikawa
7 Aza Gushikawa 1	Tomigusuku 2	Aza Gushikawa 3	Yonashiro 1

Mixed League Bowling

By Dana Takahara-Dias

The Bowling League continues strong at Leeward Bowl on Sundays. As of April 29, the league standings were:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Hiki No | 6. Kochinda |
| 2. Dushi Guata | 7. Nakagusuku 1 |
| 3. Aza Gushikawa | 8. Katsuren |
| 4. Go-Tama | 9. Onna Sonjin Kai |
| 5. Young Nakagusuku | 10. Nakagusuku II |

Softball League

By Dana Takahara-Dias

The softball play-offs kicked off on May 6 at Halawa District Park fields and will run through June. Games were suspended on May 13 in observance of Mother's Day. The Softball Banquet will be held on June 30, place and time to be announced.



Softball league game photos can be seen at www.nakagusuku.com

Congratulations to MOKK Gateball Team #2 !

By Charlene Yamashiro & Nancy Sugino

The Hawaii Friendship Tournament hosted by the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK) Gateball Club under the leadership of Warren Nishida, Maui Director, and sponsored by the Hawaii Gateball Association, was held on April 20-21, 2007 at the Keopuolani Park in Kahului.

Twenty teams from Japan, California and the Neighbor Islands participated in this first international event. Competing from Maui were Makawao, Kula, Kahului, and MOKK Gateball Clubs. Mayor Charmaine Tavares had the honor of hitting the first ball through the first gate to start the tournament – which she did successfully.

First place was won by MOKK Team #2, made up of members Stanley Kunitake, Nancy Sugino, Stanley Sugino, Paul Wong (Captain) and Charlene Yamashiro. In second place was Southern California Team #1, captained by Katsumasa Toyama. The third place team was the Yanagi team from Japan, captained by Ikutomi Takayanagi. Finishing in fourth place was Gateball Friends, also from Japan, captained by Hiromitsu Higashi. All teams received koa bowls and a friendship gift bag.

Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu Golf Tournament

The annual Nidaime Teishin Hawaii Shibu Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at the Waialeale Golf Club. Check-in is at 10:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 12:30. No-host cocktails, dinner, entertainment and awards ceremony will follow the conclusion of the golf. Cost is \$150 per player. Format is three-player teams, modified scramble. Deadline for registration is June 11, 2007. Registration is limited to the first 144 players.

Nidaime Teshin Kai's mission is to increase awareness and appreciation of the Okinawan culture by playing the sanshin, promoting the Okinawan language through music, conducting and performing in cultural shows, and participating in community service.

Application forms are available at www.huoa.org or contact George Kaneshiro at 384-2224 for more information.

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Okinawa-Hawaii High School Exchange Program

Each year, Hui Okinawa members graciously host the Okinawa-Hawaii High School Student Exchange program participants. This year, 27 students and three adults from Okinawa enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner, fellowship with Hui Okinawa members, and entertainment provided by both visitors and hosts alike. The evening ended on a high note, with students learning the "Electric Slide" and the "Macarena."



This year's group from Okinawa included 27 students and three adult chaperones.

Photos by Patti Taira-Tokouke

Twenty Hawaii high school students will travel to Okinawa June 8-23, 2007, to engage in Phase 2 of the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program. They will attend school with their host students and participate in excursions to historic places such as Shuri Castle, Gyokusendo, Peace Memorial Park and Himeyuri no To. Teacher chaperones will be Ms. Gail Nishimura from Mililani High School and Ms. Stacy Kawamura from Kapolei High School.



Students from Okinawa learn the "Macarena."

Photos by Patti Taira-Tokouke

WUB Hawaii Expands Eligibility Criteria for Travel Grants to Brazil and Argentina

In 2003, the HUOA and WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association) Hawaii co-sponsored the 1st Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii. Approximately 2,000 people from abroad participated. At the close of that historic event, it was announced that the Brazil Okinawa Kenjinkai and WUB Brazil would co-sponsor the 2nd Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in August 2008.

WUB Hawaii is pleased to offer four \$1,000 travel grants to young Uchinanchu businesspersons who wish to participate in the 2nd Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Brazil, as well as the 12th WUB International Conference in Brazil, and the 100th year immigration celebrations in Brazil and Argentina.

The travel grants will be awarded to two male and two female applicants who meet the following criteria:

- * Member of Okinawan community or organization
- * Resident of Hawaii
- * Businessperson
- * Leadership ability
- * Overall potential for success
- * Community service
- * Maximum 45 years of age in 2008
- * Two letters of recommendation from non-relative
- * Willing to type 500-word report after trip

To apply or for more information, please contact:

Ed Kuba WUB Hawaii Grant Committee Chair
Tel: 941-0586

email: emkuba@yahoo.com

Bob Nakasone WUB Hawaii Advisor

Tel. 531-4309

email: nakasoner001@hawaii.rr.com

For more information or to download the application form see www.WUBHawaii.com

Applications will be accepted from June 1-30, 2007

Personal interviews may be requested in July 2007

Final decisions will be made by August 31, 2007

HUOA Study Tour: A Comprehensive Fun Learning Experience

By Jon Itomura

Approximately one year to the day after the Grand Finale of the 4th World Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa, the 2007 HUOA Study Tour will offer everyone a fantastic opportunity – whether it is a return trip to Okinawa or to visit for the first time. Nothing can compare to the feeling one gets setting foot in our "Home Away From Home" and hearing the sounds, seeing the sights, and meeting friends and relatives. People who are (or want to become) Uchinanchu at heart will be amazed at the impact that this particular

tour will have on them.

The HUOA Study Tour will take place October 1 – 11, 2007. Do not miss the chance to benefit from HUOA's special relationship with Okinawa and participate in the Naha Matsuri, featuring the famous Naha Tsunahiki (Tug-of-War) that invites thousands of people to challenge each other to the largest Tug-of-War you will ever experience.

HUOA President David Arakawa and study tour coordinator and President-elect Jon Itomura are planning a series of workshops for participants who sign up early. These workshops will be designed to help prepare you for a wonderful mix of sites and hands on experiences during the 10-day tour of Okinawa.

Check out our HUOA website: www.huoa.org for Study Tour itinerary. Save your money: approximate cost will be about \$2,700 to \$2,995. Please call Naka's Travel Service at (808) 522-0810 to make reservations. Sign up soon because slots are filling fast!

A New Spring Craft Fair for HUOA

By Karen Kuba-Hori

It is Thursday, May 10, and everything is quiet at the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC). Volunteers from Kin Chojin Kai are working in the gardens alongside George Nakasone and Mat Arashiro, and in the office HUOA staffers Jane Serikaku, Betty Kuwaye, Wayne Miyahira, Bonnie Miyashiro, Kaaren Takara and this writer are busily working at their computers. Who would have imagined that just 12 hours ago, the Center was in the midst of its first evening Spring craft fair.

Starting at 5:30 p.m. hundreds of shoppers entered the HOC to shop for goodies for Mother's Day. Greeted by the ladies of Hui O Lailima, all shoppers were given a door prize ticket at the door and an invitation to enjoy an evening of shopping pleasure. The selections included both fine and custom jewelry, clothing of all types – even ones that change color in the light – glassware, doggie treats for your favorite pooch, custom candy, and cookies, cookies, cookies. Among the highlights of the event were live music by Legros and Ro and a wonderful silent auction. All prizes and auction items were donated by generous vendors.

Under the leadership of Nago Club, Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai, Nishihara Chojin Kai and Okinawa City-Goeku Son, the HUOA event was very successful. A major concern for the committee was letting everyone know that HUOA was having a fair on May 9. Through a strong advertising campaign, committee involvement, and community support the craft fair attracted a sizable crowd for a spring fair. Both the vendors and committee members were pleased.

The HUOA wishes to thank the more than 70 volunteers who helped to establish a wonderful and potential annual fundraiser event for the HUOA. In particular, the Paranku Clubs of Hawaii, Hui O Lailima, Ginowan Shijin Kai and Wahiawa Kyoyu Kai turned out en masse to support the organizing committee.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

May

dikaishi, n. [<dikasun] Success; achievement.

June

suu-ji², n. [shuugi] 1 A celebration; a congratulation. 2 a congratulatory gift. -sun, v. To celebrate; congratulate; felicitate.

(Excerpted, with permission, from the *Okinawan-English Wordbook*, by Mitsugu Sakihara, edited by Stewart Curry, University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, 2006)

The *Okinawan-English Wordbook* (softcover) can be purchased for \$13 at the HOC gift shop.

With Love From Lorraine: Seiichi Yagi

Seiichi Yagi has been awarded the 2007 "With Love From Lorraine" cultural grant by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The \$1,000 grant will allow Yagi to travel to Okinawa to take the "Yushusho" proficiency test in the Nomura-ryu style of utasanshin, which is a combination of playing and singing classical sanshin songs.

Yagi was born and raised in Okinawa but moved to Hawaii as a young adult. He began studying utasanshin with Harry Seisho Nakasone in April 2000. For the last three years, he has been taking individual lessons with Nakasone Sensei, each lesson lasting two and one-half hours.

Yagi received his "Shinjinsho" certificate in 2003 and his kyoshi teaching certificate in May 2006. He currently teaches utasanshin at his home in Kaneohe. He plans to continue studying so that he can elevate himself to the "Saikosho" level and eventually to "Shihan."

The "With Love From Lorraine" cultural grant was established in 2004 in memory of the Okinawan community's songbird, Lorraine Kaneshiro, who passed away in 1999 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Kaneshiro generously shared her time and talents with the HUOA for many years. Proceeds from the "With Love From Lorraine" fundraising luncheon served as seed money for this unique cultural grant program which supports the preservation, perpetuation and sharing of the Okinawan performing arts by assisting students with travel expenses to enhance their skills.

Last year's award of \$1,000 was shared by Lisa Agarijo and Tahirih Ajimine, both of whom are students of Mitsuko Toguchi Sensei's Ryusei Honryu Yanagi no Kai, Hawaii Shibu. Agarijo and Ajimine used the grant to prepare for the "Shinjinsho" proficiency test in Okinawan dance – and passed!



An Invitation

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HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

May 2007
 May 26, 27 HUOA Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament at West Loch
 May 28 Memorial Day, HUOA Office CLOSED
 May 29 Administration Committee meeting, 7 pm, Serikaku Chaya
 HUOA Karaoke, 6:30 pm, Legacy I

June 2007
 June 4 Executive Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 June 7 Communications & Info.meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 June 11 Club Development meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 June 13 Festival Planning meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 June 16 Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg. 9 a.m., Serikaku Chaya
 June 18 Hogen Class, 7 p.m., Higa I
 June 20 Ikebana Class, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 June 26 Administration Comm. meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 HUOA Karaoke, 6:30 p.m., Legacy I

July 2007
 July 3 Executive Council Meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 July 5 Communications & Info.meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 July 9 Club Development meeting, 7 pm., Serikaku Chaya
 July 11 Festival Planning meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 July 16 Hogen Class, 7 p.m., Higa I
 July 17 HUOA Board of Directors' Mtg. 7 p.m., Legacy I
 July 21 Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg. 9a.m., Serikaku Chaya
 July 31 Administration Comm. meeting, 7 p.m., Serikaku Chaya
 HUOA Karaoke, 6:30 p.m., Legacy I

Other classes offered at the Hawaii Okinawa Center:
 ****HUOA Sanshin classes - every Thursday, 7 p.m.
 Call 676-5400 for more information
 ****Kobudo Taiko classes - every Monday, 7 p.m.
 Call Calvin Nakama, 224-7374 for more information

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

Watch "Hawaii Okinawa Today," Monday evenings at 7 p.m. on 'Olelo-Oceanic Cable Channel 53. You can also view our shows on Olelonet - simultaneous Web streaming. For updated information contact; hot@huoa.org or visit our website; www.huoa.org for detailed information.

May 28 Okinawan Festival 2006 - Show No. Three (at Kapiolani Park, highlighting Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai-Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo; Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu; and Wayne Takamine and the Two Ti Leaf Band. (Premiere)
 June 4 Hooqe Kai, Nakasone Dance Academy performance at Orvis Auditorium on July 29, 2000.
 June 11 24th Okinawan Festival 2006 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. Four, featuring Radio Okinawa - Miuta Taisho; Hooqe Kai, Nakasone Dance Academy; and Nuuanu Okinawa Shorin-Ryu/Shinden Kempo Karate Club. (Premiere)
 June 18 "History of Bon Dance & Eisa in Hawaii" according to Chika Shirota, and "Tenyo A Bon Dance" featuring Linda Asato, Bobbi (Kaneshiro) Brouillet, June Uyeunten and Bea Tokuhama.
 June 25 24th Okinawan Festival 2006 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. Five, featuring the Royal Hawaiian Band, The Uta-Sanshin Circle (Sanshin Ensemble), and Hawaii Taiko Kai. (Premiere)
 July 2 2000 HUOA Study Tour to Okinawa - Part Two
 July 9 "Okinawan Dance: The Beauty of Tradition" by Sensei Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone and the Nakasone Dance Academy, a performance at the University of Hawaii's Orvis Auditorium on July 29, 2000 - Part Two; ... Highlights of the HUOA 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on September 22, 2001.
 July 16 24th Okinawan Festival 2006 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. Six, featuring the Okinawa Buyo Club, Uta Sanshin Ensemble (HUOA Sanshin Class, Nidaime Teishin Kai, Hawaii and Hilo Shibu), and Calabash. (Premiere)
 July 23 1999 Okinawan Festival - Show No. Nine, featuring Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, the -Step Tacular-, and Bon Dance.
 July 30 24th Okinawan Festival 2006 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. Seven, featuring Ryukyu Sokyoku Hozon Kai-Sarina Sokyoku Kenkyusho, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, and Shinsato Shosei Kai. (Premiere)



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