



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

November/December 2007 Issue #111 Circulation 11,512

25TH OKINAWAN FESTIVAL MAHALO

By Jon Itomura, Festival Chair

It was the eve of the Festival and all plans had been made, Kalakaua Avenue was filled for the International Okinawan Festival Parade.

The parade participants came from the U.S., Brazil, near and far, many from Okinawa and some from nearby Waikiki bars.

The parade made its way through thousands of waving bystanders, young, old and many mainlanders.



But many in attendance were anxious, Kapiolani Park beckoned, they all knew that the Okinawan Festival was soon to be awakened.

David Arakawa gave a great speech, Vice-Governor of Okinawa Nakazato was already impressed.

The Aloha Party followed, all who attended felt the spirit of *Kizuna* refreshed.

Saturday morning was alive with sunshine and energy, the participants and audience truly represented an impressive study in sociology.

Odori, Eisa, Karate and Hula took to the stage, it didn't matter who they were, where they came from, nor their age.

The audience cheered, clapped, and marveled, as the amazing program was delicately unraveled.

Diamond Head provided a backdrop for the festival that was nothing short of grand, not to forget the largest bon dance and the return of the awesome Rinken Band.

Hokama, Yamashiroya, Ikehara, the weekend had many heroes, Shiroma, Higa, Oshiro, Arashiro, Miyashiro and even a great emcee Cyrus Tamashiro.



Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha Grand Prize "Performance Art" by Reid Shimabukuro

"A performer from Okinawa prepares backstage for her upcoming number."

What started as a humble idea from Roy Kaneshiro, has evolved into an annual celebration of culture and fellowship that continues to grow.

But none of this can be done without the dedication of so many volunteers, the months of planning, discussion and fears.

All come together on one weekend demonstrating undeniable conviction, to a culture requiring the assistance of all to accomplish Uchinanchu, Shimanchu, and Uminchu promotion, perpetuation and preservation.

So *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to everyone and to all please have a great year, for before we all know it, the next Okinawan festival will be here.

Let us all hope and believe that together we will always strive, to view the Okinawan Festival as a symbol of *Kizuna* and keep the dreams of our heritage alive. 🇺🇸



Okinawan dignitaries meet Mayor Hannemann during their visit to the 25th Okinawan Festival. (L-R): Yoichi Seki, Treasurer of Urasoe City; Takeshi Gibu, Mayor of Kin Town; Zenki Nakazato, Vice Governor of Okinawa Prefecture; Takeshi Onaga, Mayor of Naha City; Seiyu Arakaki, Mayor of Nishihara Town; and Michael Gin, Mayor of Redondo Beach, California. (Photo by Tom Hisamura, City & County of Honolulu)

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Hawaii United Okinawa Association
94-587 Uke Street
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25th Okinawan Festival Chair Message

Jon Itomura



It was truly an honor to receive the opportunity to serve as Chair for the 25th Celebration of the Okinawa Festival. It is beyond words to describe the efforts of so many dedicated volunteers who made the largest Okinawan Festival possible. That we can all work through all the issues and unanticipated surprises is both amazing and heartwarming and allows me to believe that the Chimugukuru (true heart) of the Okinawa spirit still runs strong through and beyond the Okinawan community here in Hawaii.

It is unfortunate that so many praises that were uttered over the weekend may never be heard or documented for our volunteers to hear and see. All I have to offer is my sincere "Mahalo" and "Ippee Niffee Deebiru" for working together to educate and impress so many visitors from all over the island and the world.

Ippee Ippee Niffee Deebiru

All traces of the 25th Okinawan Festival are now gone from Kapiolani Park. It is hard to believe that just two months ago thousands upon thousands of people gathered to enjoy a special weekend with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

Yuimaaru is a valuable Okinawan principle of mutual cooperation in which one applies his or her efforts to a cause without expectation of any reward other than having the satisfaction of doing one's best to fulfill a mission or goal, especially for a friend in need. When our courageous issei, crossed the waters from Okinawa to begin a new life in these islands, practicing the principle of yuimaaru helped them to survive and maintain their ethnic identity. More than one hundred years later, yuimaaru is still what fills the hearts and joins the hands of our community to put out its best for one of Hawaii's largest and long-running ethnic events.

To the grand corps of volunteers who shared their time and resources to make the 25th Okinawan Festival, Ippee Niffee Deebiru. To the hundreds of performing artists who gathered from across the east and west of the Pacific and Hawaii to showcase their talents of Okinawa's unique aesthetic culture, Ippee Niffee Deebiru. To the dignitaries and friends who chartered a special flight from Okinawa, to fellow Uchinanchu who trekked across the U.S. continent, South America and our neighbor islands to be a part of the celebration, Ippee Niffee Deebiru. To all of you who help to market delectable konbu or write a name in beautiful brushwork, put together displays to introduce different aspects of Okinawa's history and culture, Ippee Niffee Deebiru. To each and every one of you who offered an applause at the 25th Okinawan Festival, Ippee Niffee Deebiru.

All of you would proudly fill the hearts of our issei for applying yourself in the spirit of yuimaaru.



UCHINANCHU
Ippee Niffee 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*. HUAOA sends a sincere *ippee niffee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

(July 1 to September 30, 2007)

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Hawaii United Okinawa Association's bimonthly member newsletter, circulation 11,512

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UCHINANCHU

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2007 Legacy Award Luncheon Held

In any volunteer organization there is never enough time to properly thank all of its supporters and leaders for their dedication and commitment to the community, association and its goals. Though there are many individuals we must thank, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) is pleased that we have been able to recognize a few of its outstanding individuals within our community through the Legacy Awards.

On September 23, 2007, the HUOA held its third Legacy Awards Banquet at



(L-R): Legacy Honorary Co-Chair James Iba, HUOA President David Arakawa, 2007 Legacy Honorees Rev. Chikai Yosemite, Katsumi Shinsato, Violet Ogawa, Wally Yonamine and Maurice Yamasato, and Legacy Honorary Co-Chair Dr. Ryokichi Higashionna.

the Sheraton Hotel Ballroom. Over 500 attendees witnessed a spectacular show of dance, music and personal video presentations featuring our honorees: Sensei Violet Ogawa, Sensei Katsumi Shinsato, Maurice Yamasato, Wally Yonamine and Reverend Chikai Yosemite.

Our first honorees in 2003 were: Seian Hokama; Kikue Kaneshiro; Shinsuke Nakamine; Harry Seisho Nakasone; Akira Sakima; Albert Teruya; and Yasuo Uezu. Honorees in 2005 were: Zenpan & Tsuru Arakawa; Charles and Francis Higa; Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone; Yoshino Majikina Nakasone; and Wallace Takeshi Teruya.

This year's Legacy Awards Banquet was generously supported by the following table sponsors: Platinum - Yamasato, Fujiwara, Higa & Associates, and Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyu Sho; Gold - Central Pacific Bank, Island Insurance Company, Ltd., and Yamasato, Fujiwara, Higa & Associates; and Silver - Engineering Dynamics, Haneji Club, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Hui Makaala, Hui O Laulima, Ronald K. & Lella E Migita Foundation, Pacific Buddhist Academy, Pacific Transfer, Shinsato Shosei Kai, Tommy S. Toma Contracting, Inc., Yamasato, Fujiwara, Higa and Associates, and The Yosemite Family.

Congratulations to our honorees, thank you to our guests and a very big mahalo to the committee members who made this an incredible event to remember!

Akira Sakima Recreation Center Dedicated

Many friends and admirers from the Okinawan community joined members of Akira Sakima's family and government officials at the Kalihi Valley District Park Recreation Center on October 6 to dedicate the building in honor of the late legislator and beloved community leader.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann officiated over the ceremonies, which included City Councilman Romy Cachola, who introduced the resolution to rename the building the Akira Sakima Recreation Center. Sakima's widow, Jane, his son, Howard Sakima and wife, Sue, of Elk Grove, California, and his daughter, Ellen Higa, attended with their families to accept a plaque from Mayor Hannemann and a resolution from the state House of Representatives.

Akira Sakima was born in Hilo and grew up on a pig farm in Kalihi Valley. He rose to prominence and represented the district in the House of Representatives from 1959 to 1976. A strong supporter of public education, he later served on the state Board of Education from 1984 to 1986. Sakima died in April of this year.

Throughout his life, Sakima was a leader and supporter of many social and community groups in Kalihi, as well as the broader Okinawan community. In 1985, the HUOA named him its "Uchinanchu of the Year." In 2000, the Akira Sakima Endowment Fund was established with the Kalihi Valley Community Foundation to endow programs for children and families in Kalihi Valley. That same year, the government of Japan awarded him The Order of the Sacred Treasure - Gold Rays with Rosette for his contributions to strengthening the ties between Japan and the United States. He is also remembered for his role in transporting of 600 milking goats from Hawaii to Okinawa to provide food relief in 1949.

The newly renamed center includes a gym, boxing facility, kitchen, complex office, recreation classrooms, and community meeting rooms. Mayor Hannemann remarked, "Having grown up in Kalihi, I am very familiar with the gym, having played and coached there. I also know firsthand the good works that



(L-R): Sue and Howard Sakima, Jane Sakima, Ellen Higa and Mayor Mufi Hannemann stand before the plaque honoring the late Akira Sakima. (City & County of Honolulu photo by Tom Hisamura)

Akira Sakima did for Kalihi residents, many of whom were immigrant families. I take personal pleasure in honoring this great man for his contributions to his neighbors and his community."

IPPEE NIFEE DEEBIRU! DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU! MAHALO! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our many members, volunteers, chairpersons, officers and community partners for their tireless support and dedicated commitment to preserving, perpetuating, and promoting the Okinawan culture. Without your selfless acts of volunteerism and love of our culture, events like this year's tremendous 25th Okinawan Festival, Okinawan Festival Parade, Kin Town's Toyama Kyuzo production, Children's Okinawan Cultural Day Camp, Legacy Awards Banquet, Autumn Dance Festival, numerous Craft Fairs, HUOA invitational golf tournament, HUOA Leadership Study Tour, community outreach project, and many cultural performances at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and at other venues in the community, could never have been accomplished.

Ipppee niffee deebiru to our dedicated, reliable, energetic and "young-at-heart" gardeners, who carefully manicure and clean our Takakura and Issei gardens. Not only do our gardeners take care of the landscaping at Hawaii Okinawa Center, they occasionally dabble in moving boxes, trash hauling and assisting the office staff. Hawaii Okinawa Center is also fortunate to have the office volunteers, gift shop volunteers, Japanese translators, docents and many others who come when they can to help.

We salute you, our members and partners, for your Uchinanchu spirit and thank you for enhancing our 2007 theme, *Kizuna* - Perpetuating Ties to Our Uchinanchu Culture and Heritage!

UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Matsuyoshi "Mat" Arashiro



In this issue, the Uchinanchu Spotlight shines on Matsuyoshi "Mat" Arashiro who has been an extremely active volunteer since the 1970s, contributing endless hours of service in support of HUOA activities and events and as past president of the Gushikawa Shijin Kai.

Mat was a soldier with the famed 442 Regimental Combat Team, which earned military honors in Europe in World War II. After his tour of duty, Mat graduated with an engineering degree from Kansas State University and began his long association with the U.S. military before retiring as the Pacific Area Facility Engineer based at Pearl Harbor.

Mat wholeheartedly supports the projects of the Gushikawa Shijin Kai and other HUOA member clubs. His many contributions include chairing the program committee for the Okinawa Cultural Jubilee in 1980. In 1987, Mat became the chief solicitor of funds in his club to build the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC). Mat's commitment and spirit benefited the Okinawan community and HUOA, as he significantly raised the level of donations from his club. He also introduced computers for our fund solicitation office, as the level of donations rose quickly and substantially.

Anyone who volunteers at the HOC and the Okinawan Festival knows how valuable Mat is. As a festival maintenance person, Mat used his expertise to set up the drainage system for the food booths and assists in many other areas, before, during and after the festival. As a volunteer at HOC, Mat directs the set up of HOC tents and sinks for food booths at HUOA craft fairs, maintains the sidewalks around Legacy Hall, and coordinates the volunteer club cleanup crews at HOC on Sunday mornings.

In 2006, Mat Arashiro was selected as Gushikawa Shijin Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year. The Uchinanchu Spotlight focuses on Mat Arashiro for his Uchinanchu spirit of volunteerism.

Consul General and Mrs. Kunikata visit HOC

A gentle rain joined the afternoon sun to enhance the lush foliage and blanket the freshly swept lawn of the Takakura Okinawa Garden on September 21. Volunteer gardeners at the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) outdid themselves in an extra effort to "tidy-up" the gardens for the special guests who were scheduled for a visit.

At precisely 2 p.m., Consul General Toshio Kunikata and his wife Hiroko Kunikata arrived for their requested appointment at the HOC. The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) usually invites the Consul General to its major events such as the Installation Banquet and the Okinawan Festival, and we appreciate the strong show of support by the gracious participation of the Consul Generals at our gatherings. However, it was truly a rare and humbling request by a Consul General to visit our HOC.

Volunteer docent/researcher Robert Kishaba offered information about our membership and some of the uniqueness of Okinawan surnames which our guests seemed quite interested in. Our leader of the volunteer gardeners, Minoru Teruya, also added his insight and interesting personal history of a kibeinisei.

Consul General Kunikata expressed his interest in the activities of the HUOA. HUOA staff and volunteer hosts explained that the organization offers many different activities to encourage wide participation from our community. Sports, including golf, bowling, softball, and volleyball, cultural education, including the Children's Cultural Day Camp, our community outreach projects, support to the various Okinawan performing arts organizations, major events such as the Okinawan Festival were some of the activities that were shared with the Consul General and his lovely wife.

Our guests were keenly interested in knowing the importance of HUOA's current capital campaign project, which led to a discussion of HUOA's Okinawa Plaza project and how the income from the Okinawa Plaza would help to support future activities of our Association.

Consul General and Mrs. Kunikata enjoyed a tour of the Teruya Pavilion, the Higa Building and both the Issei and Takakura Gardens. Their interest in the HUOA is truly appreciated. We extend our best wishes for their successful and memorable assignment in Hawaii and welcome their participation in our future activities.



HOC volunteers join our guests: Joan Gushiken, June Arakawa, Robert Kishaba, Mrs. Kunikata, Consul General Kunikata, Minoru Teruya, Hatsuko Morales, Masa Shinsato and Toshimitsu Matayoshi

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 between July 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007.

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In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. M. Arashiro by Aileen Arashiro
In Memory of Matsu Tamashiro by Matsue Fujioka

OTHER

Laura T. Chun
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Tsuruko, Harold & Gilbert Higa
June S. Omura

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

November

1) u-shirashi, n. [oshirase] An oracle; an inspiration; a revelation; a divine message.

December

2) tama-kugani, n. [tama-kogane] Gems and gold; things that are precious as gems and gold.

(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.

2007 HUOA LEADERSHIP STUDY TOUR TO OKINAWA

For 12 memorable days, 15 young adults representing various clubs in Hawaii experienced Okinawa as few ever get to see it – visiting historic sites, cooking and tasting popular Uchinanchu foods, immersing themselves in the culture, learning Eisa and kachashi, homestayng with families and, for some, even finding and connecting with long lost relatives.

The support of Okinawa Governor Nakaima and his team at the Okinawan Prefectural Government (OPG) was overwhelming. The HUOA leadership group was treated royally for five days, traveling in an OPG bus escorted by Okuda san and translator Gabriel Crawford.

The cost of participating in this very special program is split: 1/3 by the participant's club, 1/3 by the HUOA, and 1/3 by the individual.

PARTICIPANTS	SPONSORING CLUB
Russ Awakuni	Urasoe Shijin Kai
Daniel Chinen	Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai
Leslie Dang	Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai
Daryl Goto	Itoman Shijin Kai
Dexter Higa	Nishihara Chojin Kai
Valerie Kato	Hui Makaala
Jennifer Kokuba	Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club
Dean Oshiro	Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai
Troy Sakihara	Hui Okinawa
Laura Shinto	Okinawa City-Goeku
Tavia Ann Shiroma	Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai
Courtney Takara	Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
Rena Takushi	Hui Makaala
David Tokuda	Kochinda Chojin Kai
Jennifer Waihee	Hui Makaala 

REFLECTIONS: HUOA Leadership Study Tour

By Tavia Shiroma, Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai

Hai Tai! It was a privilege and an honor to be a member of the 2007 Leadership Tour.

Out of the many awesome experiences from the trip, the one that means the most to me was meeting my great-grandmother's family. My Aunt Mitsuko Tamayose, my great-grandmother's sister-in-law, gave me the names and phone numbers of family living in Okinawa. I gave this information to Lynn Miyahira, a fellow Gaza member who works for the Okinawan Prefectural Government and who is fluent in Japanese (which was invaluable to me because I don't speak any Japanese). Lynn contacted them and made arrangements for me to meet them and visit my family's burial site. When she told me this good news, I was overwhelmed with emotion because I knew that this was something that my Great-Grandma would want me to do. It would also make my Grandfather, her son, very happy because I could re-establish our ties to family in Okinawa, which we feared were lost when my Great-Grandma passed away. Lynn was able to take the afternoon off to accompany me on this family reunion and thank goodness because she was the translator. Thank you Lynn, I will never forget that you made this possible.

When we arrived at the burial site I was amazed. It was a massive, ancient-looking structure resembling the shell of a gigantic turtle (characteristic of the Chinese influenced burial sites that can be seen throughout Okinawa) nestled amongst a cluster of modern-day apartments that had been built all around the tomb. At that moment, I truly felt my ties to Okinawa because that tomb represented my family's history and generations in Okinawa. I felt humbled and very proud at the same time. It gave me tears and chicken skin. Okinawa no longer felt like a foreign country, it felt like home and I have no doubt that I will be back to visit many more times. My Great-Grandmother, Edna Higa, passed away September 20, 2006. I miss her and I felt her presence during this trip.

To HUOA and Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai, I offer my heartfelt thanks for this wonderful opportunity and I pledge lifelong service to the development and sustainability of the Okinawan community. To the Okinawan Prefectural Government, thank you for welcoming us so warmly and enthusiastically, I am confident that the bonds between Hawaii and Okinawa will remain strong. To Jane Serikaku, Laverne Higa-Nance, and David Arakawa, I owe my sincere appreciation to each of you for your guidance, inspiration, and friendship. To my fellow tour members, it was an honor to take this journey with all of you and I am so grateful for the lifelong friendships we have formed. 

Excerpt from REFLECTIONS:

By David Tokuda, Kochinda Chojin Kai

One of my most memorable moments in Okinawa was our visit with producer, director and performer Daiichi Hirata. I knew that we were going to dance the hula there and learn a paranku dance, but I had no idea that Hirata's students would be performing for us. To my surprise, the students performed the finale of their upcoming musical drama, Amawari. I was so impressed at how talented, enthusiastic and passionate these students were. This was definitely a "chicken skin" moment that I will never forget. 



HUOA Leadership Study Group had the rare opportunity to meet with Governor Nakaima, Vice Governors Nakazato and Asato all at the same time.

REFLECTIONS: HUOA Leadership Study Tour

By Laura Shinto, Okinawa City-Goeku

From the time I first met the participants of the 2007 Leadership Tour the experiences have enlightened my life on many levels...especially spiritually and emotionally. When I signed up for this tour I had expectations of becoming more knowledgeable about Okinawa's culture and history...on a journey that had a beginning and an end. That expectation has been fulfilled and then some through some highlights such as having the honor of meeting with the Governor of Okinawa...experiencing cooking Okinawan cuisine...participating with the renowned energetic Daiichi Hirata...treading on castle grounds where ancestors have walked before us capturing snippets of Okinawan history...and participating in Okinawan craft work (I made a cobalt blue vase). All of these experiences were truly delightful to all of my senses. And yes I have countless pictures and a handful of souvenirs as proof that I was there.

On a personal note, these experiences have unexpectedly sparked my interest in learning Okinawan songs and sharing Okinawa through this venue. Additionally, quite expectedly upon my return home I found myself on still another journey inspired by the Okinawan Spirit that has indeed touched my heart. However, this journey has no "end." The Peace Memorial Park has impacted me spiritually and emotionally. Okinawans experienced the atrocities of war yet their strong attitude towards life is self evident. The Cornerstone of Peace which is at the site of the last fight in the Battle of Okinawa commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa. It is an example of how they conceptually convey the spirit of peace to the world. It is a collection of large stone walls shaped like folded screens configured in concentric arcs beginning from the Flame of Peace as if to evoke the motion of waves...to send out waves of peace to the world. The plates are inscribed with the names of those who have fallen because of war regardless of nationality whether soldiers or civilians (more civilians died than soldiers). It reflects the expression of hope for

peace for the souls who passed, serves as a prayer for eternal peace, and a place to foster the reverence for peace and human life and a place to learn about the tragedy of war. I have come to embrace this mission of worldwide peace which is the underlying factor embodied in the Okinawan Spirit. Entwined with this spirit is a special kind of human resiliency as a response to the sufferings of war and rejecting war while cherishing culture and peace. This journey has no "end" but is meant to resonate for generations to come.

A few months ago our group took our first steps on Okinawan soil together simply as Okinawan acquaintances, but upon return to Hawaii the many hearts have naturally evolved into ONE HEART; deeply etched with the Okinawan Spirit, Vision, Energy, and Kinship... the sum being greater than its parts.

A mammoth thank you to the Okinawan Prefectural Government, HUOA, Jane Serikaku, David Arakawa, and Laverne Higa-Nance, to my club Okinawa City-Goeku, and to my fellow participants for their concerted efforts to make this tour materialize. The experiences have been rich and the camaraderie simply awesome. 



One of the four leadership teams kick back to enjoy the food that they had prepared, including goya champuru, sata andagi, jushime and tempura.

Check out
our website
at
www.huoa.org
for
photos and
reflections from
all participants.

Serikaku Chaya's New Executive Lounge Aids Cultural Exchange

By Carl Nakamura

A much-needed executive lounge was created in the Serikaku Chaya at the Hawaii Okinawa Center for the use of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's (HUOA's) president, executive director and other leaders of the organization to meet with dignitaries and guests. The lounge is also available to members whenever they visit the center and the lounge is not being used.

Creation of the lounge was made possible by part of the additional \$10,000 donated by James Serikaku, donations of \$400 by Serikaku's relatives in Okinawa, and \$200 from the Yeitoku Higa family.

According to architect Maurice Yamasato and Ad Hoc Serikaku Chaya Committee Chairperson Gladys Tokunaga-Asao, a portable partition will be added to provide more privacy for the lounge. In the meantime, however, the lounge is very usable. Other members of the committee are Dorothy Hoe, Rodney Kohagura, Thelma Lam, Gainor Miyashiro, Carl Nakamura, James Nakasone, John Nuha, Helen Oh, Cheryl Okuma, James Serikaku, Jane Serikaku, John Tasato, and Jane Tateyama.

James Serikaku - known as "Jimmy" by his friends - has given generously for the Serikaku Chaya named in honor of his parents, Shigeru and Soyo Serikaku. Although he is known for his quiet and unassuming personality, Jimmy is very passionate about preserving the Okinawa culture. His donations to the HUOA reflect this deep commitment to give back and preserve the Okinawan culture in Hawaii and to pass this commitment on to the younger generation.



Ad Hoc Serikaku Chaya Committee enjoying the new Executive Lounge, which now offers a comfortable and elegant place to meet and exchange ideas with visiting guests and dignitaries.

HUOA DONATIONS: July, August, September 2007

HUOA sends a sincere ippee niffee deebiru to the following donors.

Tom and Amy Asato
Yasuko Eastland
Ginowan Club
Donna Higashi
Jean E. Matsuda and Family
James and Jane S. Miyasato
Okinawa Women's Jr. College
Momoko Shimabukuro
Yumiko Tanaka
Momoko Miyagi
Ai Arashiro
Yui Yonashiro
Aimi Nakaema
Yui Nishigata
Sakurako Yoneha
Rika Nakamoto
Betty Y. Shimabukuro
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Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai

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Come and take advantage of this service, free of charge during the Winter Craft Fair at Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 24 & 25. The Project Vision mobile unit will be parked on Ukee Street, near the entrance to the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

holiday fairs at the Center

Winter Craft Fair November 24th to 25th

Hawaii Okinawa Center
Saturday, 9am to 3pm
Sunday, 9am to 2pm

- ~ Shopping galore, over 160 crafters, Silent Auction, Santa & Good Food
- ~ Parking available at Leeward Community College, free bus shuttle available
- ~ Donate \$5.00 at the door and enter the Craft fair at 8:30am.
- ~ Organized by Oroku Azajin Kai, Oroku Doshi Kai, Osato Doshi Kai & Tamagusuku Club.
- ~ Volunteers are needed - Please contact the HUOA office at 676-5400.

"An Evening in Waipio" December 5th

Hawaii Okinawa Center
Wednesday - 5:30pm to 9pm

- ~ Personally selected vendors, over 60 crafters booths
- ~ Santa, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Entertainment, & Good Food
- ~ Organized by Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai, Urasoe Shijin Kai & Wahiawa Kyoyu Kai

For additional information, please contact the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400, located at 94-587 Ukee St., Waipio Gentry Business Park.

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Jon Itomura To Be Installed As 2008 HUOA President

The 58th Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) Installation Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Legacy Ballroom. The doors are scheduled to open at 9:30 a.m. for registration; lunch will be served at 10:30 a.m. Jon S. Itomura, a member of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, Ishikawa Club and Young Okinawans of Hawaii, will be installed as HUOA President along with the slate of officers for 2008.

Each year, this Installation Banquet provides HUOA members, family and friends, a unique opportunity to recognize each HUOA member club's Uchinanchu of the Year honoree. These honorees are selected by club members because they contributed much of their time, talent and heart to preserve and perpetuate the Okinawan culture and spirit within their clubs and here in Hawaii. Please do not forget to provide Uchinanchu of the Year information to the Installation Banquet committee as soon as possible!

This year's program will also include special guest appearances by Daiichi Hirata, Nakasone Dance Academy, Nidaime Teishin Kai, KZOO's 2007 Karaoke Grand Champion, an inter-island Shishi-mai ensemble and others. Please join us in celebrating the beginning of HUOA's 58th year.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$35 per person and will be distributed to all clubs. Seats are limited and seating priority is based on timely responses so please contact your club president or the HUOA if you are interested in purchasing tickets. 

Awamori Fest Event on December 6

The annual Awamori Fest event, a benefit fundraiser for the Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, will be held on Thursday, December 6, at Alan Wong's Pineapple Room, Macy's Third Floor, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Proceeds from this event help our Okinawan dance school stage future recitals, purchase costumes, and, most of all, provide scholarships for students who are interested in furthering their skills by taking the certification test in Okinawa. So please come and enjoy Awamori drinks and mouthwatering cuisine, silent auction, and exciting cultural experience filled with Okinawan music and dance!



Presale tickets are \$50 until November 30, \$60 at the door (no refunds for no shows or cancellation).

Make checks payable to:
Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii

Mail to: P.O. Box 10446 Honolulu, HI 96816

For tickets and information, contact Melissa at 497-3037,
Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo
info@senjukaihawaii.com
www.senjukaihawaii.com



Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai
Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyu Sho

We wish to thank you for all of your support. Please join us at our mahalo concert created just for you ...

"Chimugukuru"
The Soul of Okinawan Dance



Harry Nakasone Mitsuko Toguchi
Advisor Kaishu

DECEMBER 1, 2007

2:00PM - SATURDAY

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COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE - SEE BELOW)

*Featuring the dancers of Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai
Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyu Sho and
guest dancers from Okinawa.*

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THAT WILL BE FOLLOWING

DINNER TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$20.00.

FOR TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER AT 676-5400, NOBUKO OSHIRO AT 754-0947 OR NANCY AKAMICHI AT 595-4006.

Congratulations & Best Wishes

2007 Legacy Award Recipients

Violet Ogawa

Katsumi Shinsato

Maurice Yamasato

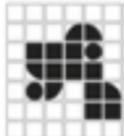
Wallace "Wally" Yonamine

Bishop Chikai Yosemite



Hawaii Okinawa Center

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Festival Crowd. Photo by: Alan Isara



Energetic and cheerful taiko performer. Photo by: Joey Itagaki

25th Okinawan Festival

SHARING UCHINANCHU ALOHA

Reflections



Bon dancers enjoying the festivities. Photo by: Joey Itagaki



Shishimai enjoying the sanshin performer. Photo by: Joey Itagaki



What a Day in the Life of the Okinawan Festival!

Thank you to all who submitted photos to the "Day in the Life of the Okinawan Festival Photo Contest." The committee had a difficult time determining the winners because of the quality of the photos submitted.

Congratulations to our talented winners!

We will archive the pictures to help us document the 25th Okinawan Festival. We hope that these photos capture the essence, spirit and fun of the Okinawan Festival.

Behind the scenes
First Place
"The Reefer Crew"
by Gina Nakahodo



"Every year the Arakaki family pulls together to man the reefers where all the food is kept. You can find them there from Friday setting up and organizing all the way until the end of the festival, making sure the booths receive their food!"

Festival Activities
First Place
"Dance Performance -
Kyuzo Toyama Musical"
by Marlys Nakata



"I think this was from scene 2 of the Kyuzo Toyama Musical. I thought it looked nice with the dancer and the huge taiko drum in the background."

Festival Food
First Place
"Andagi!"
by Reid Shimabukuro



"Andagi!"

To fully appreciate the photos, check out the full color pictures online at www.huoa.org or www.okinawanfestival.com.

"Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai members Ellen Saguibo and Irene Higa at Jefferson School shredding pork for Oki Dog" by Jo Ann Matsunaga
"Sisters Ellen & Irene shred pork for the Oki Dog at Jefferson School Cafeteria on Saturday 9/1/07 (first shift) which started at 7:00 am."

"Waiting" #2 by Remy Nakama
"Taken on 9/2/07, Sunday. My family was by the stage waiting for my mother-in-law's dance troupe to perform. I noticed these girls with their taiko drums waiting to perform. It was Hot! I think you can tell from the looks in their eyes."

"Want some shave ice?" by Christopher M. Hall
"These Okinawan youths were doing a fine job running this shave ice booth. It appears that strawberry is the most popular flavor."

"The answer to the summer heat" by Ronald Kiyabu
"Shaved Ice was a popular choice to help deal with the summer sun and heat. The near perfect cone shaped shaved ice decorated in assortment of colors made this an appetizing treat."

Festival People
First Place
"Performers waiting backstage."
by Ryan Sugamoto



"Performers waiting backstage."

Sharing Aloha
First Place
"Sharing aloha through music"
by Robert Itoman



"Visiting Okinawans sharing their aloha in Hawaii"

"Goya ikaga desu ka?" by Ryan Sugamoto
"Goya for sale at the Country Store."

"Generations" by Reid Shimabukuro
"An elder member of the performing group from Kin Town helps a younger member prepare for his upcoming show."

"Happy parade participants" by Robert Itoman
"Happy girls from Okinawa participating in the festival."

"Hanayakara Jump!!" By Christopher M. Hall
"I caught this highly spirited dance group, Buyo Shudan Hanayakara, as they were all jumping into the air during their performance on Sep 1st."

"In Step" by Remy Nakama
"Taken on Sunday, 9/2/07. This is a photo of my mother-in-law's dance troupe performing at the 25th Okinawan Festival."

Bridging from Generation to Generation

Ikuyu Madin

A Capital Campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Coming to the Crossroads

In certain times in our lives we will come to a crossroad, where we will decide whether to take the easy path and accept the future as it comes or travel the more difficult and challenging path and create our own destiny.

Two years ago, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association decided to determine its own future - to seek a solution that would address the financial challenges that faced the Association and the Hawaii Okinawa Center in the years to come.

The Idea - Hawaii Okinawa Plaza

To commercially develop the property across the street, that would generate stable and steady revenue for us. This would give the Association the funds needed to sustain and meet the growing financial needs of the Hawaii Okinawa Center and to continue the operations of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

The Solution - "Ikuyu Madin - from Generation to Generation" Capital Campaign

Our "Capital Campaign" started in 2005. While there was an initiative to move as quickly as possible, there was also understandable hesitation and caution among HUOA members, core volunteers and Board of Directors. As anticipated, it was imperative that the HUOA move as quickly as possible as all the vacant properties in the surrounding Waipio commercial area were scooped up in a matter of a few months. There is no denying that HUOA would have lost an opportunity of a lifetime - to own a multi-use property adjacent to the Hawaii Okinawa Center - if action was not taken immediately. With very little time to prepare and discuss, the energy of the Campaign, however, was difficult to sustain.

The campaign has arguably slowed down due to a multitude of reasons and assumptions including but not limited to the fact that HUOA is a non-profit organization made up of individuals and clubs who are constantly being asked to donate generous time and money to HUOA, to their Okinawa locality clubs, and to their Okinawan cultural performance clubs throughout the entire year to support an ethnic heritage that is rapidly diluting in Hawaii's environment. This is all in addition to their personal support for other charities, churches, educational pursuits and family obligations.

Time is still critical and the goal to raise \$3.6 million to clear title and to raise an additional \$6 million to realize the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza in its final phase is overwhelming. So how do we get there?

Currently, HUOA has brought its relationship with the fund raising firm of Myerberg & Shain to a close in hopes that efforts in a new direction may rekindle energies to realize a dream. The reality is that many HUOA members are still unaware that the cost to sustain numerous programs along with maintenance, repair and operating expenses over the last 17 years have risen tremendously. Rising costs combined with delaying necessary repairs, the reality of decreasing revenues from craft fairs, Okinawan Festival and less donations from individuals seriously threaten the ability of HUOA to keep the legacy that is the Hawaii Okinawa Center a feasible and viable option over the next five to ten years.

In the past, the Board of Directors have been asked to vote "Yeah" or "Nay" on various technical issues and were left to their discretion to serve as messengers with information for their respective clubs. The initial Capital Campaign was understandably complex, mysterious and vulnerable to questions and criticism. The general consensus after two years of hard work ...that approach was not working. The purpose of the "Reinvigorating the Capital Campaign" project is to breathe new life into the Land Acquisition fundraising effort by involving the "HUOA CLUBS" directly at the most basic levels so that knowledge is open and shared. The "Clubs" must take ownership and responsibility in this quest to bring financial stability and support for HUOA. The concept is simple. There is no separation between "HUOA" and forty nine member clubs. The clubs are HUOA, HUOA is a collective representative of the clubs and subject to a difficult decision made by a majority of these clubs 2 years ago, to investigate and pursue this dream.

Going forward, we must stand united. The purpose of pursuing this specific dream is to relieve members and future generations of the burden to personally sustain the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This is not a question of additional benefits but rather an issue of survival. The Hawaii Okinawa Center arose 17 years ago as a result of a tremendous collective effort. At that time, it was realized and stated that something more was needed to ensure that the Hawaii Okinawa Center would not collapse under its own success. We have been fortunate to have had the past 17 years to enjoy this success. Now HUOA must contemplate whether the Hawaii Okinawa Center is truly a legacy worth preserving. This "Reinvigorating" project represents a "fluid/flexible" plan, subject to many adjustments, seeking to have the Clubs educate and support each other and develop a strategy to spur participation from each other rather than relying upon or waiting for a handful of select individuals to provide information and answers. This would demonstrate that a true "grassroots" effort can accomplish the goal of realizing the dream - that the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza may one day sustain and support the Hawaii Okinawa Center for all who follow in "our" footsteps to enjoy.

In the past week you may have received a call or a letter requesting your financial support for this Capital Campaign and our Annual fund drive. These campaigns are different and the funds received will be used for different purposes. At this time, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and generous assistance as a member of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Please feel free to call us at 676-5400 should you have any questions. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* - thank you very much. 🍻

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 niffee deebiru* - from our hearts, thank you very much.

Donors are listed in alphabetical order and reflect donations received from July 1, 2007 to October 15, 2007.

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Sidney Fuke
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Neal Y. Goya
The Members of Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club
Jason H. Higa
Richard Higa
Shigeo and Yoshiko Higa
Patrick C. & Belle P.J. Hodges
Robert, Doreen & Quentin Ikeno
Juliet Y. Jakahi
The Members of Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai Club
Betty Kaneshiro
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In Loving Memory of Mrs. Florence Kamiyama from Nago Club
In Memory of Jack S. Kaneshiro by Aileen A. Kaneshiro

In Memory of Masaichi Kobashigawa by Julie Kobashigawa
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In Memory of Jane M. Matsuda by George M. Matsuda
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In Memory of Shigeru & Soyo Serikaku by Stanley & Carol Matsuo
In Memory of Takeichi & Dorothy Shimabukuro by Edwin & Hope Shimabukuro
In Memory of Richard Y. Shiroma by Sandra J. Shiroma
In Memory of Grandpa and Grandma Yosuke & Kamato Shiroma by Clayton & Leigh Shiroma
In Memory of Grandpa and Grandma Yosuke & Kamato Shiroma by Darryl Shiroma
In Memory of Grandpa and Grandma Yosuke & Kamato Shiroma by Michael & Caren Shiroma
In Memory of my father Baiko Owan by Evelyn O. Stambler
In Memory of William Meiken Terukina by Gertrude Terukina
In Memory of Frank & Steven Watanabe by Ellen Watanabe, Scott & Patti Watanabe, Stuart & Lora Watanabe, Stacy Watanabe and Sheryl & Gary Miyama
In celebration of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Larry and Alice Morisako by Hideko Masaki

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Please make checks payable to HUAO Capital Campaign Fund. For more information please contact Karen Kuba Hori by phone: 808-676-5400 by fax: 808-676-7811 by email: huoa@hawaii.rr.com or by mail: Hawaii United Okinawa Association 94-587 Ukee Street Waipahu, Hawaii 96797-4214.



CLUB NEWS

Our clubs, Our Future

Haari Boat Races to Return to Hilo in 2008

By Patti Taira-Tokuuke, Hui Okinawa President

Hui Okinawa is pleased to announce that the Haari Boat Festival will make a triumphant return to the Wailoa River State Park in Hilo on August 15-16, 2008. Friday, August 15, will be for teams to practice, with the actual races to follow on Saturday, August 16.

The Haari Boat Race and Festival traces its origins to 1989, when Hawaii County Councilman James Arakaki and a delegation of Hui Okinawa members requested three sabani (Haari) boats from Mayor Higa of Nago City, Okinawa (Hawaii County's Sister City) for the purposes of hosting a Haari Boat Festival.

The boats arrived in 1990 and were dedicated to the County of Hawaii. In August 1990, the first Haari Boat race was held at Wailoa River. Nago City sent their championship team. Current Nago City Mayor Yoshikazu Shimabukuro has committed to attending the 2008 Festival along with some of his cabinet members and the championship team from the Nago City's Mayor's Cup. The boat races help bridge the friendship between two seaside cities, Nago City and Hilo. There will be three divisions for the race including a division just for HUOA clubs/teams.

Hui Okinawa is currently planning the festival, which will also include Okinawan food concessions, andagi sales, Okinawan products, a cultural display and a golf tournament. So, save the date and plan to be there. For more information and team registration forms, you can go to the official festival website: www.haariboatfestival.com or contact festival general chairperson Margaret Torigoe at (808) 935-4071 or e-mail matori58@msn.com.



Hui Makaala Holds 60th Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show

It was a gala affair with 950 people in attendance on October 21 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The foyer was filled with boutiques sharing their goods and wares and the silent auction and raffle were in full force until the ballroom doors opened at 11:30 a.m.

Hui Makaala was honored by the presence of Linda Taira, the first woman news correspondent of Japanese ancestry to appear on national television, who served as guest emcee. Ms. Taira - a four-year Hui Makaala scholarship recipient - donated her time and travel to give back to the organization. We are certainly proud of her accomplishments.

Entertainment was produced and coordinated by the incomparable Keiko Ura. It was a half hour mix of incredible talent, stemming from taiko to Japanese star Koishiro Nishikawa, to local favorites Marion Arakaki, Aiko Sekiguchi, Dale Senaga, Frances Nakachi, Chieko Kawaguchi, and, not to forget our own "Singing Mayor" - Mayor Mufi Hannemann. The entertainment was just the beginning to the wonderful fashions that followed.

Traveling all the way from Okinawa, the mother-daughter designer team of Mitsuko and Kanna Yamauchi of Fashion Room Madonna awed the audience with their beautiful couture designs. Hui Makaala is so proud to have been able to sponsor the Yamauchis to commemorate the organization's 60th year of being chartered. Jeanie Chun closed out the show with a wedding portion of lace and dazzle.

Thank you to everyone who participated in or attended the show. You played an important part in continuing the legacy of the Hui Makaala Scholarship Program.

We have awarded hundreds of scholarships throughout the past 60 years. This school year alone, \$16,000 has been awarded to eight deserving high school students seeking higher education.

The co-chairs of the event were Karen Shishido and Patsy Takaesu.

Club News - Ginowan Shijin Kai

Ginowan Shijin Kai honored their members over 80 years of age at its annual picnic held on July 15, 2007. Everyone that came had a wonderful experience. Sincere thanks to all of the families who helped to plan the event: the Iha family, Sharlene and Keith Shimada, Max and Sharon Shinkawa for planning the picnic, Melvin Iha for the games and crafts, the Higa family, Tom and Wilma Ogimi, Claire Matsumoto, Donna Komagome, Alice and Larry Morisako for the prizes, vegetables and lucky numbers, Guy Miyashiro for tent set up, Gary Miyashiro and Garret Iha for collecting dues and donations, Pat Miyashiro for the shave ice, and Mark Matsumoto for being a terrific emcee. The highlight of the picnic was a potluck lunch dubbed The Taste of Ginowan, where members shared their favorite dishes.

A heartfelt mahalo to all who volunteered at this year's 25th Okinawan Festival! A lot of sweat and hard work went into cooking andagi on Saturday and Sunday, but we still managed to have fun, and it was great! Many thanks to those who came on Sunday morning to help mix more andagi batter; we sold out of andagi this year!

As the year closes, we want to thank each of our members for their tireless dedication. Remember to bring your families to celebrate with fellow club members at our club's next major event, the Shinnenkai on Saturday evening, March 15, 2008, at Hawaii Okinawa Center. We hope to see you there!



Ginowan Shijin Kai members over 80 years of age, 1st row (left-right): Yasuichi Zakimi, Seijiro Shiroma, Irene Shimabukuro, Nancy Arizumi and Violet Iha, 2nd row (left-right) Seihan Tamashiro, and Mitzi Miyashiro.

This is Your Newsletter

Please send us your club news items, member spotlights, and photos. E-mail us at info@huoa.org.

Mahalo!



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Dorothy Nakashima Consultant

お花は言葉では表せない思いを伝えてくれます。



Tom Nago
President

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455-2012

Charge by Phone



"Flowers Whisper What Words Cannot Express"

Introducing... Laura Nakasone



Just two weeks before the awesome 25th Okinawan Festival was to take place, a vibrant, youthful and energetic Uchinanchu walked through the doors of the Hawaii Okinawa Center to become our much-needed Executive Assistant for the HUOA. Meet Laura

Nakasone, a member of Urasoe Shijin Kai, who has already proven herself to be a blessing, a breath of fresh air, and a wonderful addition to our HUOA family.

Laura, who was formerly the Marketing Manager and Assistant General Manager for Chelsea Property Group's Waikale Premium Outlets, comes to us with a tremendous amount of expertise and experiences – and she is fluent in conversational Japanese. *MENSORE* Laura!

You can get a good sense for the type of person Laura is by reading in her own words her impressions of her first two months on the job:

Hai tai! Prior to working here, I felt the Hawaii United Okinawa Association was just an organization that put together the Festival, craft fairs and rented out the ballroom. After nine weeks of employment, I know now that there is so much more! Thousands of dedicated volunteers for the Festival, the dependable gardeners and office helpers, countless planning meetings, incredible energy and commitment from Jane and her staff, and, most impressively, the sheer amount of time lovingly given to our organization covers only a part of what the HUOA does.

Myself included, many are not aware of the organization's responsibilities to foster relationships with Okinawa and local government, partnership with schools, support of Okinawan culture and art groups, and commitment to community service. Many non-profit entities only dream of reaching our level of operations. I continue to be awestruck and proud of what our organization can do. The foresight to purchase property and build a for-profit entity to support the HUOA demonstrates a belief in its mission and shows the strength of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu at heart. I am thankful to be a part of such an outstanding organization and will do my part to preserve, perpetuate and promote our culture. *Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!*

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Ohana Ola O Kahumana Project Spreads Uchinanchu Aloha

By Ford Chinen

Very early on the morning of July 28, 2007, a small army of volunteers moved into action. One group was picking up blocks of ice near Pier 38. Another group was at Zippy's near the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) picking up trays of cooked rice and bags of chili. Others were at the HOC loading up supplies, equipment, donated clothing, and new and used toys to be given as gifts. Other volunteers were busy transporting groceries, prizes and cases of donated fruits and vegetables. At the same time, members of the Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai were gathering costumes and instruments for their performance.

When they arrived at the site in Lualualei Valley, Waianae, still more volunteers were busy setting up tents, tables and preparing an area for picnic games. When the supplies arrived, prizes and gifts for the children were sorted and organized. Gift baskets of fruits, vegetables and household items were prepared for each family. Gas burners were fired up to cook andagi and heat up hotdogs for the luncheon menu. The children's games area was set-up and prizes



Ohana Ola O Kahumana Photo credit by Clayton Arakaki

readied. On the outdoor stage, microphones and speakers were also being set-up. Near the stage, the shaved-ice machine, supplies and ice were readied under another tent. By 10 a.m. everything was ready.

All of these preparations were made in support of HUOA's second annual Community Service Project to bring an Okinawan style picnic to the families of Ohana Ola O Kahumana. This transitional shelter houses approximately 250 residents, mostly Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders who were previously homeless but now living in approximately 50 units constructed in coordination with the State of Hawaii.

The program began with a *shishimai*

performance by the Young Okinawans of Hawaii. Many of the children gathered in front of the stage to get a better look, but when the shiisaa leapt off the stage, they scattered for cover into the arms of their families. A Bon Dance performance by the members of the Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai followed with many of the residents joining in. The residents of Ohana Ola O Kahumana reciprocated and shared their culture by performing the hula and other dances from the Pacific Islands. When the performances ended, the games began; children's games for the younger ones and picnic games for the older kids and adults. The picnic games for individuals and relays ended with the traditional water balloon toss which of course led to a traditional "good fun" water balloon fight for the older kids.

The guests were treated to shaved-ice and a lunch served up by volunteers that included chili, rice, hotdogs, salad and andagi. The lunch was a big hit, with many returning to ask, "More Okinawan doughnuts, please."

Through the generous donations of merchants and HUOA club members, gifts were provided to all of the children who attended and gift bags were provided to each family. Rev Philip Harmon, co-founder of Ohana Ola O Kahumana, said he was blown away by this event and he has never seen such generosity by any group like ours.

The project was chaired by Joan Gushiken with the assistance of her committee, which organized games, prizes, children's games, and food. *Ippee nifee deebiru!* to all of our hardworking volunteers and generous donors who made this event possible.



Joy of kachashi! Photo credit by Clayton Arakaki

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National Living Treasure of Japan to Perform in Hawaii

Hawaii audiences will have the rare opportunity to enjoy an Okinawan music and dance concert spotlighting a National Living Treasure of Japan in sanshin when Choichi Terukina Sensei from Okinawa headlines the "14th Annual Tobe Uta Sanshin 2007 in Hawaii!" The concert will be held on Tuesday, November 27, at the Hawaii Theatre. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.; doors will open at 6p.m..

The program is a commemorative performance marking Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai's 80th anniversary, and is presented by the Ryukyu Koten Afuso-ryu Ongaku Kenkyu Choichi Kai of Okinawa and its Hawaii school, Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu, headed by Grant Murata Sensei.

Joining Terukina Sensei and his students for this Hawaii performance will be four "Super Sensei" from the Tamagusuku School of Dance in Okinawa. This group, the "best of Okinawa's best," will be accompanied by a contingent of over 70 members and supporters of Terukina Sensei's sanshin organization. The four "Super Sensei" are Setsuko Tamagusuku Sensei, Mieko Kinjo Sensei, Hideko Tamagusuku Sensei and Yoshiko Tanita Sensei. The audience will also be treated to song and dance numbers by performers from Chinen Village, Terukina Sensei's home village in southeastern Okinawa. They will perform dances rarely seen outside of their village. Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann also has a cameo role



Choichi Terukina Sensei

in the concert.

"Tobe Uta Sanshin 2007 in Hawaii!" will also feature over 50 performers from Hawaii, including students from Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu, the only Afuso-ryu school of sanshin outside of Japan.

Proceeds from the performance will benefit the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's "With Love From Lorraine" cultural travel grant program, which provides financial assistance to Okinawan performing arts students who wish to advance their proficiency in their art by studying or earning certification in Okinawa. To date, the "With Love From Lorraine" program has funded 14 Hawaii students in their cultural advancement endeavors. The grant program is named in memory of the late Lorraine Kaneshiro, a prolific singer and accomplished Okinawan dance student who participated in and supported the Okinawan performing arts until her passing in 1999.

General admission is \$30. Hawaii Theatre requires that everyone attending, regardless of age, purchase a ticket. Tickets for students, senior citizens, military and Hawaii Theatre members are \$20; and VIP tickets, which include Premium Seating and a concert reception, are \$100. Please add \$2 to each ticket for the Hawaii Theatre Restoration Fee. Tickets can be purchased at the Hawaii Theatre box office Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (1130 Bethel St., phone: 528-0506), or on-line at www.hawaiitheatre.com.

For more information on "Tobe Uta Sanshin 2007 in Hawaii!" call June Uyeunten Nakama at 223-9703, Kenton Odo at 392-6969 or Grant Murata Sensei at 256-5919.

Sterling Accomplishment in the Performing Arts

The Ryukyu Shimpo Newspaper Company and the Okinawa Times Newspaper Company, two of Okinawa Prefecture's major dailies, sponsor annual performing arts competitions known as geinoo konkuru. The competition is open to Okinawan residents as well as overseas practitioners of Okinawa's traditional performing arts, including buyoo (dance), sanshin, koto, kuuchoo, fue and taiko. Over the years, quite a few people from Hawaii have entered and passed these konkuru in their respective classical performing arts medium in one of three successive levels of the examination - shinjin (newcomer), yuushuu (distinguished) and saikoo (supreme). This year was no exception, as a number of contestants participated and triumphed in their respective fields of study.

In the classical music category of sanshin in the Afuso style, Kenton Odo, June Uyeunten Nakama, and Calvin Nakama passed the highest level of 'konkuru' achievement as recipients of the coveted Saikoo-shoo (award) in Ryukyu Shimpo's competition, two of whom ranked first and third in the entire corps of Okinawans and overseas musicians. Kenton is the first foreigner to take top honors in the Afuso style of classical sanshin. Odo and Uyeunten Nakama have been invited to do solo performances in Okinawa at the Geijutsusai, a recital for all of the students who passed the Okinawan performing arts exams this year. They will be the first foreigners to perform solo in the Nov. 22 show in Naha City and will return to Honolulu in time to participate in the "Tobe Uta Sanshin 2007 in Hawaii!" concert on Nov. 27.

Other Hawaii residents who succeeded in the following categories and levels are:

Ryukyu Shimpo Newspaper Company

Sanshin (Afuso Style)

Yuushuu Shoo: Ryan Nakamatsu & Melissa Sakauye

Shinjin Shoo: Sean Sadaoka

Sanshin (Nomura Style)

Yuushuu Shoo: Seiichi Yagi

Buyoo

Yuushuu Shoo: Alison Yanagi

Shinjin Shoo: Mina Tamashiro & Misako Yagi



Kenton Odo, June Nakama and Calvin Nakama - all members of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai - were awarded the coveted Saiko-sho.

Okinawa Times Newspaper Company

Koto

Shinjin Shoo: Yoko Oishi-Menard

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association congratulates each geinoo konkuru honoree and their instructors for their efforts and sterling achievement. Best wishes for your continued success in carrying on the legacy of our Okinawan community. All of you are our bright hope for the preservation and perpetuation of the Okinawan culture in Hawaii. You've made all of us very proud!

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OPG Homestay Program

The Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) began a pilot Homestay Program this year by sending eight students and one adult to Hawaii to spend nine days with families in Hawaii. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!* to our host families: June Arakawa, Joan and Hatsuko Gushiken, Daniel and Hatsuko Morales, George and Emeline Tamashiro, Roy and Sally Tsuda, and Ronald and Emiko Yonemoto. Their enthusiasm and willingness to work together to provide exciting learning experiences for their "children" from Okinawa ensured a very successful Homestay Program.

Special thanks to Tamagusuku Club, who invited everyone to join in their summer picnic – games, ono potluck and fellowship... and to Haneji Club, who extended an invitation to their picnic to play volleyball and enjoy shave ice – Hawaiian style. It was a tiring but most enjoyable Sunday at Kapiolani Park.



OPG Homestay program participants visit the Hawaii Okinawa Center

At our Aloha BBQ party, through skits and presentations, all of the students shared information about Okinawa – the food, customs, cultural events, talent, etc. Everyone was choked with tears as they bid their host families a final aloha.

Okinawan Scholarship Available

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is accepting applications for students interested in applying for the Okinawan Prefectural Government - Foundation Scholarship for descendants of Okinawan immigrants. An academic scholarship to the University of the Ryukyu or a performing arts scholarship to the Performing and Fine Arts University may become available for next year.

The tenure of this scholarship will be from April 2008 through March 2009. This government-sponsored scholarship includes air transportation, tuition, books, room and board. Applicants must be high school graduates between 18 and 30 years of age, with sufficient knowledge of the Japanese language in order to conduct research work or to study at the university level.

Interested students are asked to contact the HUOA office at 676-5400, e-mail: huaa@huaa.org, or check out our website: www.huaa.org as soon as possible since the application deadline is the end of November.

Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program Phase 2: Trip to Okinawa

For two weeks in June, 21 high school students from throughout Hawaii stayed with host families in Okinawa, attended school with their host students, and engaged in field trips conducted by the Okinawa Board of Education. The following excerpts from two students' "Reflections" essays provide a glimpse into their experiences in Okinawa.

Excerpt from Danica Tamaye, Honokaa High School

The excursions that we took while in Okinawa were unforgettable and educational as well. The field trips taught me quite a bit about Okinawan culture and history. The opportunity to see and explore the grounds of Shuri Castle was so astonishing. One of my favorite places to visit was the Peace Memorial Park. The impact of what happened during the Battle of Okinawa came to life in the museum. The exhibit that made the biggest impression on me was the exhibit containing the logs of all the personal experiences of those who experienced the war first hand. The stories made me feel like I was actually there with these people, not an opportunity that I would be willing to witness.

Browsing the halls of Naha Commercial High School was a memorable experience. Everyone at school was so generous and openly kind to me. Although many students and teachers didn't understand English – and I couldn't understand Japanese – we were all willing to understand each other. It was really fun getting to know my peers in school and forming international relationships despite the language barrier.

My host family was so great! They were so willing to take me to places and accommodate my needs. They treated me with a warm welcome and accepted me as if I were one of the family members. I am so grateful that I was able to stay with this family and also have the opportunity to experience all of what Okinawa has to offer. I hope that I will get the chance to take part in this trip again.

Excerpt from Adam Akamine, Hawaii Baptist Academy

At first, I was very reluctant to even go on this trip because I thought it would interfere with my summer vacation. Instead, this trip ended up being the highlight of my summer! The friendships I made, the incredible new experiences, and the discovery of my family's history all changed my views of life in Okinawa.



Hawaii exchange students at Okinawa's Peace Memorial Park

My first impression of my host student, Rina Matsumoto, was that she was shy and highly devoted to school. I was right about the second, but Rina turned out to be a very outgoing person who introduced me to everyone!

School life at Kaiho High School was drastically different from my school life at Hawaii Baptist Academy. First of all, every student was required to wear a school uniform (white shirt and black pants for guys, shirt and skirt for girls). Next was the uwabaki, or Japanese slippers, that every student was required to wear in school. I also had to wear these slippers, which I later learned was used to keep the school clean.

The school hours were extremely long. Sometimes I would get to school at 7 a.m. and arrive home around 7 p.m.! Everyone in Okinawa was very friendly, especially my classmates at school. It seemed like they had their own "aloha spirit" because they were so kind and unselfish.

There were so many experiences that they seemed to pass in a blur. The aquarium in Hawaii pales in comparison to the Churaumi Aquarium's gigantic tank filled with hundreds of different sea creatures including the famous whale sharks. The Peace Memorial was a shocking reminder of the sacrifices that millions of men made in World War II and the hardships that Okinawans especially faced during the war. The shopping at Kokusai Street (the main street of Okinawa)

was great; I spent more money there than I do in a year! My host student and I, some students from Hawaii, and friends in Okinawa went everywhere from shopping centers, to bowling alleys, movie theaters, Yakinikus and the beach!

In addition to making new friends and going to new places, I was able to visit my cousins and great grandmother's nephew in Naha. I really enjoyed getting to know my relatives and shared about our family in Hawaii. I left their house with two big books about the history of Okinawa; feeling like a new part of me had been discovered.

The most memorable part of my trip was the time spent with my hostess and her family. I felt like we were a family because their hospitality and acceptance was so immense. Even their dog Muku welcomed me! (He would jump up and eat my breakfast on a regular basis!)

Leaving Okinawa was like leaving a part of me behind and I know that this trip will be a memorable milestone in my life. I learned more about my Okinawan family history and culture. I was able to experience "island-style" living the Okinawan way. My Okinawa friends and I are keeping in contact via MySpace and e-mail. I am looking forward to visiting Okinawa next year and I also hope that some of them will come to Hawaii soon!

HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

- Nov 2007
- Nov 19 Winter Craft Fair meeting; Serikaku Chaya 7pm
- Nov 20 Board of Directors meeting; Legacy I, 7pm
- Nov 24-25 HUOA Winter Craft Fair, Legacy I/II, 9am
- Nov 26 (no Kobudo Taiko practice)
- Nov 27 14th Annual TOBE! Uta Sanshin 2007 and Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai 80th Anniversary Commemorative Performance, Hawaii Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 2007
- Dec 1 Chimugukuru-The Soul of Okinawan Dance by the Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai; Hawaii Okinawa Center, 2pm
- Dec 4 Executive Council mtg; Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- Dec 5 HUOA's Evening in Waipio Craft Fair; Hawaii Okinawa Center, 5:30-9pm
- Dec 6 Communications & Information Committee meeting; Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- Dec 10 Club Development Committee meeting; Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- Dec 18 Administration Committee meeting; Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- Jan 2008
- Jan 12 Installation Luncheon & Recognition of Uchinanchu of the Year

Classes · Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- Ikebana; every 3rd Wed*
- Karaoke nite; last Tue, 6:30pm (none in December)
- Kobudo Taiko; every Mon, 7pm; contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg; every 3rd Sat, 9 am (none in Nov/Dec)
- HUOA Sanshin; every Thu*, 7 pm
- Uchinaaguchi; every 3rd Mon* *7pm; for information, please call 676-5400

Subject to Change (entries as of 10/17/07)

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 Oletonet - simultaneous Web streaming. For updated information contact; hot@huoa.org or visit our website; www.huoa.org for detailed information.
- Dec 3 2005 Okinawan Festival - Show #1, featuring the opening procession and ceremonies, Koten Gassho Classical Ensemble, Happy Seniors Dancing Club, and the Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii.
- Dec 10 2005 Okinawan Festival - Show #2, featuring the Kilauea Okinawa Dance Group, Jimpu Kai U.S.A. Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Taiko Kai, and Calabash.
- Dec 17 Short features on Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone, Seikichi "Chick" Takara, and Leroy Taba.
- Dec 24 2005 Okinawan Festival - Show #3, featuring the Okinawa Buyo Club; Ryukyu Koten Afuso-Ryu Kenkyuu Choichi Kai (Hawaii Shibu), Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai (Hawaii Shibu), Hawaii Sandaa Kai; Hooge Kai, Nakasone Dance Academy; and the Two Ti Leaf Band.
- Dec 31 2005 Jikoen Hongwanji Mission First Annual Talent Show held on July 10, 2005. (Premiere)
- Jan 7 "Umanchu Suruti Utati Uduyabira" - Part One, presented by Taiko Tae no Kai Zukeran Kaoru Kenkyusho at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 7, 2004.
- Jan 14 2005 Okinawan Festival - Show #4, featuring the Lanakila Senior Center Line Dance; Ryusei Honryu Yanagi No Kai, Hawaii Shibu; Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko, Hawaii Shibu; and Traci Toguchi.
- Jan 21 "Umanchu Suruti Utati Uduyabira" - Part Two, presented by Taiko Tae no Kai Zukeran Kaoru Kenkyusho at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 7, 2004.
- Jan 28 HUOA 2007 Legacy Award Luncheon honoring Violet Ogawa, Katsumi Shinsato, Maurice Yamasato, Wally Yonamine, and Rev. Chikai Yosemori-Part One, held at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel on September 23, 2007. (Premiere)

Happy Holidays from Hawaii United Okinawa Association



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