



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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CHIBARIYO!

By Laura Shinto, Okinawa City-Goeku

On February 23, 2007, Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA)'s Club Sustainment and Development Committee organized and carried out Chibarana (Let's go for it together). This gathering encouraged leaders to share ideas on how individual

clubs and our umbrella organization could encourage new membership and

implement activities that would stir interest in the Okinawan culture and implement programs and activities.

As a way of underscoring the importance of supporting our member clubs and for the longevity of the HUOA, **Chibariyo!** was presented on April 4, 2008, by members of HUOA's 2007 Leadership Study Tour.

In October 2007, a group of 15 young leaders from HUOA's member clubs traveled to Okinawa as the HUOA Leadership Study Tour. In a three-way sponsorship including HUOA, the respective HUOA clubs and the individual, each member was able to immerse themselves in Okinawan culture, history, customs, a homestay segment and meetings with government and business leaders.

The experience of the Study Tour invigorated each member to further encourage networking amongst club members, other HUOA leaders and newfound friends and relatives in Okinawa. As a first group project, the Leadership Study Tour became the committee, or better described as a team of comrades, that spearheaded **Chibariyo!** The group designed the event to encourage all participants especially HUOA's youth members to think about their ethnic roots and how each individual had the potential to become involved with their club and HUOA's activities.

While David Tokuda served as the chair of the event, each Leadership



Chibariyo organizers and participants enjoyed an educational and fun-filled day of activities.

Mahalo to clubs who participated in Chibariyo!

- Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai
- Aza Yogi Doshi Kai
- Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai
- Club Motobu
- Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai
- Ginowan Shijin Kai
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- Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai
- Urasoe Shijin Kai
- Yomitan Club
- Young Okinawans of Hawaii



Team Shiisaa intently trying to identify Okinawan Foods. Photo by Leslie Dang

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President's Message

By Jon Itomura



Hai Sai!

Shinai Gukuru – "Hearts in Harmony"

A single grain of sand, so insignificant, yet so significant. Heritage is like a beach, comprised of so many grains of sand, rolling in and out with the tide, ever changing and evolving. I like to believe that we can all realize that we are part of an evolving heritage that makes up our culture. The significance of Culture does not stop in the past, perish with our forefathers, depend on just a few grains or wash into the surf, never to return. We represent the heritage that we continue to pass on to those who follow. That has been my observation in the first three months of this year.

President-elect Ford Chinen and I traveled to Okinawa in February for our Aisatsu trip. I had the opportunity of witnessing Ford's first experience to Okinawa. As any child would learn through all their five senses, Ford heard, tasted, sniffed, felt and gazed upon all the island had to offer for the first time. Music drifted out of storefronts, every restaurant was an Okinawan delicacy, the scent of a brisk morning was followed by the aroma of fish, rafute and ashitibichi. I am assuming that if his experience is anything like my first, even with all that, it is only when a friend, relative or loved one greets you, holds you and lets you look into their heart through their eyes that you know you are somewhere special. He only heard about an island where his father played. Now he has experienced the beauty of Oojima (Oo Island), a tiny island similar to Coconut Island in Kaneohe Bay, connected by a bridge about 50 yards offshore from Tamagusuku. Only he knows what his emotions were as he heard how his grandfather was a postwar hero for constructing and donating the only vehicle in the South side, walked to his grandfather's old home site, and spoke to a stranger who grew up with his father. I do not doubt that he will want to share this experience with his family.

We met the Governor, we met Mayors, and we met Presidents of educational institutions and businesses. But the significance was not who we are or who they are, just that we were all fortunate that fate allows us the opportunity to have these face-to-face meetings. We get a sense that Okinawa is struggling to survive economically and culturally and they get a sense that we are struggling to perpetuate a culture, both divided by a vast ocean, both divided by opinions and perspectives. We are allowed a brief glimpse into Okinawa and have a chance to interact with those who seemingly strive to repay a debt to Hawaii Okinawans that does not require repayment. But maybe they do realize that it is not a debt, not an obligation, just one grain resting next to others. Just as we journeyed to Okinawa, no less than three waves of prefectural officials and university professors visited Hawaii in the last three months to share and learn. Either side always willing without any expectation of repayment, just the willingness to share, sacrifice or donate time and money to help the other. I hope I can continue that part of my heritage.

I enjoyed meeting so many new and familiar faces among the numerous Shinnen Enkai celebrations. They all had their own traditions and personal style, however, each club also had their own challenges...but all recognizing their identity, their heritage. Many strive to preserve music, dance and song as they drum with precision, others can sing with conviction, still others can dance so gracefully accompanied by more who can artfully strum the sanshin. All the while, not to forget those who excel at cooking so many wonderful dishes and desserts, organizing and coordinating without expectation of applause and praise, and of course, those who just want to meet and share stories that they've already told to so many others. Attending the Kohala Shinnen Enkai was special as I knew I would be meeting, for the first time, those who knew both my grandfather and father. I learned, only now, that grandpa Jiro Itomura was a talented taiko drummer who energetically led their Obon festivities. Their memory lives on in the stories I heard. It's unfortunate that often, only as an HUOA officer do you get to see and compare so many celebrations. I plan to take that drive out to Kohala again next year to sit and listen to many more stories.

Grains wash ashore, get covered by other grains, from afar, one would never know which has been replaced. But the beach retains its beauty if we all allow each to rest next to the other. Heritage is defined as something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor. The key is understanding and acknowledging that we all have our own "predecessor" our own heritage and we all have those we wish to pass along our own thoughts, practices and traditions. No one tradition being more right or wrong than the next as strife and negativity have no place on these beaches. To all I have met, old and new, Mahalo and *Ippee Niffee Deebiru* for all that you have shared. As the tides come and carry me to my next beach, I hope that I may be able to share something and anything and have another grain take my place.

Shinai Gukuru-Hearts In Harmony



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*. HUOA sends a sincere *ipppee niffee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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

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Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ Home Tel: _____

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UCHINANCHU

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UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Uchinanchu Spotlight: Henry Isara



An organization such as the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) depends heavily on the energy of volunteers. Henry Isara is a sterling example of a volunteer whose heart and soul are reflected in the good work that he does. Since the 1960's, HUOA's early years as the United Okinawa Association of Hawaii, Henry demonstrated his dynamic leadership in his Kochinda Club. He is very proud that the Kochinda Club was involved in starting the HUOA Volleyball and Softball Leagues. Leadership roles were to follow and Henry was also pillar in the capital campaign project to fundraise and build

the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

A mature sansei, Henry has for nearly a half century volunteered his time and talents to help the HUOA. Henry's passion has been to actively pursue projects and events that focus on the preservation and perpetuation of the Okinawan culture.

Henry has manned the backstage needs of major cultural presentations at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. He was a strong assistant to the late Shoei Moriyama, who created and constructed beautiful backdrops and props for countless Okinawan Festivals and stage productions. Henry also chaired HUOA's Program Sub-committee in the mid-90's. Many of the important policies and procedures developed by his committee are part of the HUOA's basis for supporting all Okinawan cultural organizations in Hawaii.

Henry is one of the original members of HUOA's Video Production Team, which began in 1997 to record events and fellow Uchinanchu in our community. Over the years, he has chaired the Video Sub-committee and continues to produce, direct and edit many of our programs that everyone enjoys on Oceanic's Hawaii Okinawa Today.

Uplifting kachashi music is often heard as a highlight to auspicious occasions. Everyone rises and moves to the lively rhythm of the uta-sanshin and taiko. You can be sure that if Henry is at that gathering, he will be one of the first on stage doing his personal kachashi rendition colored with the movements of "Singing in the Rain." You can't miss him because he'll be wearing his trademark red shirt and pair of red socks.

As the kachashi is performed in appreciation to the gods for the success of a bountiful harvest and successful event, we applaud Henry Isara with that same expression of kachashi with HUOA's deepest *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!* 

Raise Money For HUOA – At No Cost To You! Goodsearch.com Fundraiser

For all of you Internet users out there, what if you could earn a penny for HUOA for every search you did? What if a portion of your purchases at Amazon, eBay, Macy's, Zappo's and many more online retailers were contributed to HUOA? Can this be done without taking any personal information from you, nor requiring any additional fees from you? Absolutely Yes with GoodSearch.com!

GoodSearch.com is a search engine with a unique social mission. It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great search results, but each time you do a search, GoodSearch makes a donation to HUOA! 50 percent of GoodSearch's advertising revenue goes toward charities.

The second tier of raising money is from GoodShop.com. GoodShop.com is an online marketplace that donates a percentage of your online purchase to HUOA.

You can choose from hundreds of popular online merchants. The experience of shopping through GoodShop is the same as going to the retailer directly, and a portion of your purchase price goes toward HUOA! GoodShop earns commission from the retailer, part of this commission goes toward charities.

So how can you help raise money for HUOA? It's easy. Go to www.GoodSearch.com. You can make searches from there, or add a search toolbar for ease of use. Make sure you select Hawaii United Okinawa Association as your charity of choice. You can even see how much money has been raised by clicking on "Amount Raised" on the GoodSearch homepage. Imagine, if 10,000 supporters (less than the number of households that this newsletter goes out to) make an average of two searches a day, we can raise \$73,000. If 10,000 supporters spend an average of \$500 online through GoodShop partners, we have the potential to earn \$150,000. Funds raised from GoodSearch.com and GoodShop are paid out on an annual basis and go towards HUOA operating fund.

Wow, all by doing what most of us do everyday – using the Internet. The key to making this fundraiser work is your commitment to using GoodSearch.com and spreading the word to your family and friends. Who do you Goodsearch for? Hawaii United Okinawa Association! 

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A Big Mahalo to Our Dynamic Duo!



(L-R) "Super volunteers" James Akamine and Ernie Tonaki dedicate their efforts at the HOC with pride and enthusiasm!

The next time you're in the Legacy Ballroom of the Albert T. and Wallace T. Teruya Pavilion, we're sure you'll notice something different...vaguely familiar, but hard to pinpoint? Well, your eyes are not playing tricks with you. Two new volunteers have worked wonders on our drapes, curtains and windows.

Recently retired from a career at the phone company, Ernie Tonaki wanted to help out at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. He brought his good friend, retired carpenter James Akamine, and the two men have painstakingly hand cleaned the drapes and hand polished the windows of the entire Ballroom. Thanks to their "can-do" spirit and lots of elbow grease our drapes are totally refreshed and windows glisten, clean as a whistle!

Ernie and James are committed to volunteering once a week and are now tackling the permanent stage curtains.

So much pride in their valuable work – Ernie and James exemplify the wonderful spirit of *YUIMAARUU* – *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to both of you! 



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Warabi Ashibi ~ Children at Play

Registration begins for Summer Okinawan Cultural Day Camps (CDC)



“Warabi Ashibi” is an Okinawan term meaning “children at play.” The spirit of this theme has governed the Hawaii United Okinawa Association’s Okinawan Cultural Summer Day Camp Program for Kids. This program is designed to teach children about the Okinawan culture and heritage in a fun learning atmosphere.

Campers (children from the ages of 7 to 13) are introduced to Okinawan history, dance, language, drumming, crafts, flower arrangement, cooking and plantation games. Projects are designed to provide a hands-on fun and educational experience for the participants. Special events are sometimes planned including excursions, family days and sleepovers.

First established by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association for Oahu, the program is now offered statewide with the assistance from Neighbor Island HUOA member clubs and a financial grant



from the State of Hawaii, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Coordinators from each island develop the program that will best suit their population.

Programs are available on Oahu and Hawaii. For additional and updated information, please visit our website at www.huoa.org or call the HUOA office at 676-5400.

LISTING OF CAMPS AND GENERAL INFORMATION:

OAHU

Location: Hawaii Okinawa Center
 When: June 10th - 13th (sleepover at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and an off-site excursion is scheduled on Thursday)
 Hours: Tuesday - Thursday: 9am to 2:30pm
 Friday: 9am - noon.
 Ages: 8 years to 13 years of age
 Number of Kids: 80
 Registration: \$85 (discount for multi-child households)
 Coordinating Club: Hui O Laulima
 Directors: Thelma Arakawa and Wendy Yoshimoto
 Contact: Karen Kuba-Hori, (808) 676-5400, kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com



(see Oahu application form provided on this page)

HILO, HAWAII

Location: Hilo Hongwanji Betsuin YBA Hall

(Excursion scheduled for Thurs - with a Weds Fun Night)

When: June 9th - 13th

Hours: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Ages: 8 years to 13 years of age Number of Kids: 48

Registration: \$70 (discount for multi-child households)

Co-Sponsoring Club: Hui Okinawa

Director: Ruby Maekawa

Contact: Ruby Maekawa, (808) 959-4855

KOHALA, HAWAII

Location: Hawi Jodo Mission Hall

When: June 28th and 29th

Hours: 9am to 3pm

Ages: 7 years to 13 years of age Number of Kids: 24

Registration: \$30 (discount for multi-child households)

Co-Sponsoring Club: Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai

Director: Kathy Matsuda

Contact: Kathy Matsuda, (808) 889-5801

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

Registration Form-Oahu

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 _____
 E-mail Address: _____

Each registered child will receive one free Camp T-shirt. Additional shirts may be purchased for \$7 (Youth) and \$10 (Adult) sizes. To receive the multi-child discount, children must belong to the same household.

Registration Fees:

- One child (\$85) _____
- Two children (\$165) _____
- Three children (\$245) _____
- 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



Uchinanchu Pride At The Honolulu Festival

Honolulu Festival Grand Parade

The sun shined brightly Sunday afternoon over Fort DeRussy as over 60 parade participants dressed in colorful uchikake vests and readied HUAO's club flags and banner for JTB's Honolulu Festival Grand Parade. We proudly marched second in the parade, behind Mayor Mufi Hanneman and the Royal Hawaiian Band, led by bandmaster Michael Nakasone, who is coincidentally a Nago Club member. Leading the Uchinanchu were the Paranku Club of Hawaii, a wonderful group of lively seniors who not only marched down Kalakaua Avenue in tempo, but performed as well. As you passed through Waikiki, you could see parade goers, and some familiar faces, who cheered us on. Many were camped out on the sidewalk, or watched from balconies and restaurant lanai. The weather was great, the company even better, making an awesome parade for all.



Honolulu Festival Event at the Hawaii Convention Center

We had a very busy weekend participating in the Honolulu Festival activities. Not only did we participate in the parade, we had a booth at the Honolulu Festival Event at the Hawaii Convention Center. Four shifts of four generous volunteers manned the booth over two days. Many event attendees asked about Okinawan



culture, how to research their ancestors, and what does our organization do. Many more purchased Okinawan books, music CD's, and t-shirts. Income generated from sales go toward HUAO operating fund and Ikuyu Madin capital campaign. A special thanks to Ronlynn Arakaki, President of Yomitan Club who chaired this event with a little over a week to prepare.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the parade and convention center event. Your presence and actions proudly represented Uchinanchu Pride!

Natsumero Festival to Support Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project

(Featuring nostalgic melodies by Okinawa and Hawaii karaoke singers)

On Sunday, July 20, over 25 singers from Okinawa and Hawaii will grace the stage of the Hawaii Okinawa Center for "Natsumero Festival," a presentation of nostalgic Japanese and Okinawan karaoke renditions. Doors open at 10 a.m. and the program will begin at 10:30 a.m. Proceeds from this concert will benefit the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project. Guests will be treated to the song stylings of Hawaii's top karaoke instructors and their students, as well as noted karaoke singers from Okinawa.

Chairperson Keiko Ura has been working diligently to delight our Hawaii audience. Noted local singers Marion Arakaki, Dennis Oshiro, Craig Shimizu, Nelson Yoshioka, Brian Suzuki, Elsie Kawamoto, Jon Sakai, Ted Shimabukuro, Chiyoko and Haruo Aoyagi, Clyde Mikuni, Richard Shimabukuro and Itsuko Tagawa have already committed their talent and schools to the Festival.

Working closely with Keiko is Okinawa's coordinator, Keiju Kakinohana. Tetsuo Sakumoto, one of the 14 singers from Okinawa, wowed Hawaii audiences in the past. He wears a special male-female costume that enhances his singing of both genders in a single song - truly an awesome talent to enjoy.

All karaoke singers and supporters from Okinawa are covering their own travel, hotel and personal expenses so that as much of the proceeds raised by the Natsumero Festival will benefit HUAO's Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project. HUAO is truly grateful to all of the Okinawa and Hawaii artists and supporters for their generous application of yuimaaruu to help the HUAO. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru* to all of you.

Ticket information:

- Natsumero Festival: \$25 per person, includes a mini bento and bottled water
- After concert Aloha Party (fellowship with Okinawa guests): \$15 per person
- Tickets available at HUAO office (8:30am-5pm, Monday-Friday, except holidays) or through participating karaoke schools

For more information, please call HUAO at 676-5400 or check our website www.huoa.org.

In addition to this concert, a special "Aloha Party" following the performance is planned, which will allow you to meet and mingle with our guests from Okinawa. Aloha Party tickets are available at Hawaii Okinawa Center for \$15.



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"Natsumero Festival"

Singers from Okinawa and Hawaii

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10:30 a.m. (doors to open at 10 a.m.)
Cost \$25 includes bento lunch and bottled water
General Seating
After performance Aloha Party - \$15

Chibariyo!



Focus Group discussion. Photo by Leslie Dang

Study Tour member took an area of responsibility in **Chibariyo!** – from coordinating a wonderful pupu dinner to fun and educational icebreaker games with a touch of Okinawa as its theme, such as an Okinawan Food Challenge and a scavenger hunt designed to open participants' eyes to details about HUAO's home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

A diverse group of 90 participants were divided into Okinawan-named



Kachashi time!

teams (Goya, Champuruu, Shiisaa, etc.) and were challenged to a friendly competition to complete the various icebreaker tasks. Later, Leadership Study Tour members served as facilitators for a brainstorming session to discuss a series

of thought-provoking questions about getting involved with the HUAO or their respective clubs, community service projects, individual goals in learning about the Okinawan culture and creating a stronger Okinawan identity in the younger generation.

As written comments were submitted by each team of participants, the information was entered into a laptop and projected for everyone to review. These valuable comments and great ideas will influence the direction of each club and our HUAO.

The members of the Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai provided an uplifting presentation of eisa to keep everyone moving and alert. The evening was topped off with lively kachashi dancing led by members of the Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Geino Kenkyusho.

The members of the HUAO 2007 Leadership Study Tour and **Chibariyo!** Committee wish to thank each participant, the HUAO leaders and staff for the success of **Chibariyo! Ippee Niffee Deebiru** to all of you – you are what makes our organization strong and everlasting for generations to come. 🍻

Okinawan Cultural Immersion

Did you know that we have an Ishigantou or a hinpun barrier at our Hawaii Okinawa Center? Do you know how many shiisaa are guarding our buildings? Students of the Gifted and Talented class from Alvah Scott Elementary School, their teacher Ms. Marian Crocco, and chaperones could tell you because they had a special Okinawa Day at the Center.

On March 14, the students were immersed in Okinawan culture and history, immigration, textiles, vocabulary, music, dance and more – and even got dressed in costumes. The members of the Paranku Clubs of Hawaii graciously volunteered a demonstration of their lively paaranku. Later, each student had the opportunity to wear HUAO's uchikake ensemble and, with a hand drum and stick in their hands, they learned to dance a number. They proudly presented their quickly learned number by dancing around the ballroom bon dance style.

With the assistance of the Center's volunteers, the day was topped off with making their own take-home bookmarks as a memento of their fun-filled learning day at the Center.



Students from Alvah Scott Elementary (above left) enjoy their hands-on performance lesson led by Paranku Clubs of Hawaii volunteers (above right) at the HOC.



Ippee Niffee Deebiru to all of the volunteers and staff who made Okinawa Day a wonderful educational experience for our special young visitors.

For more information on scheduling a special Okinawa Day at the Hawaii Okinawa Center for your group or students, please call Bonnie Miyashiro at 676-5400. All age groups are welcomed. 🍻

Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange

Twenty-four energetic high school students from Okinawa spent two weeks with their Hawaii host families as part of the 18th annual Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange program. Okinawa's Deputy Superintendent Seihachiro Kin shared that the Hawaii-Okinawa partnership is the longest educational exchange program for the Okinawa Prefectural Government. He spoke about Ichariba Chode ("Once we meet, we become brothers and sisters.") – something that was quite evident at the Aloha Party where students from Hawaii and Okinawa hugged and bid adieu in tears.

HUAO president, Jon Itomura joins the Okinawa High School Students at the Aloha Party. Photo by Reid Shimabukuro



Okinawa students and their Hawaii hosts. Photo by Reid Shimabukuro



In exchange, 25 Hawaii high school students will depart for Okinawa in June. For two weeks, the Hawaii students will stay with their host families, attend high school with their host student, and participate in field trips sponsored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. 🍻

HUOA Monday Crafters' Products to Debut at Spring Craft Fair

Pouches, luggage tags, sling bags, and potholders in Okinawan, Asian and Polynesian prints make great gifts for Mother's Day or any day. These items – as well as colorful Okinawan and Asian print handmade hair accessories and lapel pins to wear with bon dance kimono, happi or a bright muumuu – will be among the hundreds of handcrafted wares that will go on sale for the first time at the upcoming HUOA Spring Craft Fair, Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. So, if you're going to South America or some other destination and are looking for inexpensive, packable omiyage and gifts for relatives and friends, we've got just what you're looking for at the HUOA Monday Crafters' Booth.

Proceeds from the sale of these items will benefit the operations of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. All items are made with donated supplies and the loving hands and warm hearts of HUOA's Monday Crafters.

Interested in crafting? Join our Monday Crafters, 9 a.m. to noon at the HOC's Serikaku Chaya. 

Gushikawa Commercial High School Visits HOC



An energetic group of 36 students from Gushikawa Commercial High School, Okinawa, visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Photo by Toshimitsu Matayoshi

THE PURPLE BLAST!

HUOA faces a world where technology plays a vital role in how we communicate. Our goal is to reach every single one of you, not just through the bi-monthly Uchinanchu newsletter, our website and weekly radio broadcast, but through email also.

The Purple Blast is HUOA's official e-bulletin, to be sent out by our office to you with special updates as it occurs. It will cover topics such as the latest happenings at HUOA, cultural and educational seminars and presentations, opportunities for fundraising, scholarships, volunteerism and more. At times, we receive information about scholarships and other programs such as the Junior Study Tour opportunity from Okinawa with a very short turn around time. If you are interested in receiving up to date information, please sign up to be on our email list.

Please be assured that HUOA will not share or sell your email information to anyone. When you sign up, you will receive a confirmation email from us.

Be in the know! Sign up with The Purple Blast by sending us an email to: purpleblast@huoa.org

Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Spring Craft Fair

May 3, 2008
Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hawaii Okinawa Center
94-587 Ukee Street
Waipio Gentry Business Park



Enjoy a beautiful Spring day at HUOA's premier craft fair.

SUPPORT!
HUOA at the Silent Auction
the Hawaii Foodbank with a donation of a non-perishable food item

SHOP EARLY!
Wishing to enter the Craft Fair early?
With a \$5.00 donation, shop early inside Legacy Hall from 8:30 a.m.

FREE ANDAGI!
Receive a free andagi for your Hawaii Foodbank donation and for riding the "Andagi Shuttle"

Park and ride the "Andagi Shuttle" from
Leeward Community College, and
Vacant Lot: 94-430 Ukee St,
across 7-Eleven on the corner of Ka Uka & Ukee Street
Limited handicap stalls are available at Hawaii Okinawa Center

Crafters are welcome to apply.
For additional information contact us at (808) 676-5400
Want to volunteer? Contact Terry at (808)386-5860

MAHALO TO YAGAJI CHOJIN KAI, YOMITAN CLUB, YONABARU CHOJIN KAI AND YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI FOR ORGANIZING THIS EVENT FOR HUOA

Frances and Randy Kuba

Honoring tradition, building legacy of values and trust



Our culture and community have taught us respect, honesty, integrity and the importance of helping others with sincerity. The same values apply when making an important decision in buying and selling a home. Honoring our heritage, performance built on perpetuating our culture of high values.

Knowledge of the complete transaction as well as the components
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Bridging from Generation to Generation

Ikuu Mada

A Capital Campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

WHEN THE FIRST 26 OKINAWAN IMMIGRANTS SET FOOT IN HAWAII, THEY CARRIED THEIR OKINAWAN HOMELAND WITHIN THEIR HEARTS, BRIDGING THE GULF BETWEEN THE TWO ISLAND STATES WITH A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF HAWAII'S SOCIETY. THEIR PRIDE AND DETERMINATION WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO LAY THE FOUNDATION OF A UNIQUELY OKINAWAN COMMUNITY IN HAWAII, ONE OF WHICH WOULD, NEARLY A HALF CENTURY LATER, GIVE BIRTH TO THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION.

This Is A Report To All Uchinanchu And Uchinanchu At Heart On The Progress Of Our Capital Campaign

By Alan Chinen, Chairman HUOA Capital Campaign Committee

In 1990 the Hawaii Okinawa Center opened its doors. The dream to create a legacy to perpetuate and honor the Okinawan culture, heritage and experiences was fulfilled and, for many years, the Hawaii Okinawa Center and its volunteers has educated, entertained and supported Hawaii's diverse community.



Alan Chinen

The Dream ~

The Hawaii Okinawa Center began as a dream...a vision of a cultural center dedicated to the issei to enable us to preserve, promote and perpetuate the Okinawan culture.

The History ~

In 1986, an ambitious campaign to raise funds to build the Hawaii Okinawa Center was introduced to our members.

Contributions ranging from \$2 to \$700,000 poured in from individuals, clubs, businesses, corporations and foundations. Over \$9 million was raised to erect the Center, \$5 million of which was raised through the efforts of our member clubs.

Through the commitment, support and belief of over 5,000 donors, the Hawaii Okinawa Center was built on 2.5 acres in Waipio Gentry. Traditional Okinawan kawara clay tiles, a gift from the people of Okinawa, line the roofs of both buildings. Two beautifully landscaped gardens grace the Center. Maintained by dedicated volunteers, the gardens provide a beautiful backdrop for weddings, family gatherings and peaceful thought.

Our Okinawa Center represents a living, thriving theater where the Okinawan culture is preserved, promoted and perpetuated for future generations.

It does, however, take significant time and contributions from so many volunteers and donors to run and sustain the Center and its programs.

The Challenge ~

Through the efforts of our volunteers and staff, the Center has serviced our community for nearly eighteen years. Visitors and members alike are impressed by the beauty of the buildings and gardens. But, passage of time raises new problems and concerns. Questions such as: Will we be financially prepared when the Center needs to be painted, refurbished or re-roofed? What about parking - can we ignore the need to increase the number of parking stalls for our Center for banquets, concerts or craft fairs? What happens if any of our annual fundraising efforts fail? Will we be able to replace or upgrade machinery and equipment? What happens if we are unable to replace our volunteer workers? These are but a few of the concerns that need to be addressed by the HUOA Board in the immediate future.

The Solution ~

In 2004, a volunteer group of skilled professionals proposed the purchase of the vacant lot across the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This project could satisfy HUOA's long-range financial, program and community needs. The project was named the "Hawaii Okinawa Plaza," a necessary investment in the future that would include a 16,000 square foot building built as an income producing facility on a two acre parcel.

The idea is to create a Hawaii Okinawa Plaza tenant mix that will include Okinawan products or services, restaurants, retailing, and businesses that service the neighboring community. At least \$400,000 in projected net income is envisioned along with the expansion potential for more facilities in the future exist on the site. Because of its convenient location across the Hawaii Okinawa Center, overflow parking could be coordinated for many HOC and HUOA activities.

Land Acquisition And Development Program

The first major step was taken in July of 2006 when the land was purchased with a very low interest (4.375%) loan amortized over 40 years from the United States Department of Agriculture. The purchase price was \$3.63 million. Because of its location on a well traveled street, adjacent utilities, and the lack of other vacant lots nearby, the value of the property has escalated substantially since 2006. Until now, the major portion of the costs associated with owning the lot has been offset by rental income from Tony Hawaii Automotive Group, Ltd.

Okinawa Prefectural Government Support

We were recently honored by contributions from Okinawa Prefectural Government, the Shi (city) Mayors' Association and the Cho/Son (town/village) Mayors' Association. They appropriated and pledged approximately \$765,000.



Governor Hirokazu Nakaima

These Okinawa associations and organizations were impressed by the potential benefits that will be realized from the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project because it seeks to fund future maintenance of our precious Hawaii Okinawa Center facility so that HUOA can concentrate on preserving and promoting the Okinawa culture. We are truly humbled and especially grateful to Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, Vice Governors Zenki Nakazato and Katsuko Asato, Exchange Promotion Director Masayuki Oshiro, Chairman Takeshi Onaga and the City Mayors' Association, Chairman Tokujitsu Miyagi and the Town-Village Mayors' Association for their understanding, generosity and encouragement.

Government and private sector leaders' belief in us and our project ignited a series of events to organize the private sector in Okinawa to set up an office space dedicated to fundraise for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Amongst our supporters in Okinawa are President Akira Makiya of the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai and its members. They have initiated a search for a chairperson, telephone solicitors, and members of a team who will begin to approach the business communities in Okinawa.

Status of Fundraising

We are grateful to the many volunteers who have helped us reach this phase of our Capital Campaign. To date we have raised a total of \$3,920,000 in donations and pledges representing 41% of our goal of raising \$9.5 million.

We have recruited additional volunteers from our Business community to move this fundraiser to the next level. Support from our local clubs and businesses included \$1,275,000 received, along with additional \$280,000 in Pledges. The State of Hawaii has yet to release the \$1,600,000 grant in aid appropriations that was granted in the 2006 legislative session.

With Okinawa's pledge of \$765,000 over the next three years, we are well on our way to achieving HUOA's dream of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

"The dream of the Okinawan community is to preserve the unique Okinawan culture for future generations and to remember the sacrifices and struggles of our earlier generations."

The completion of HUOA's Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will ensure that future generations will forever be able to appreciate the sacrifices of their forefathers and carry the torch that will light the way for yet many more following generations who inherit and uphold the pride we all share in our ethnic heritage.

We truly appreciate the belief you have in all of HUOA's projects and the support and generosity that you have given. Now, let us join our hearts and hold each others hands as we go forth and give breath to Ikuyu Madin and fulfill the dream of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

"Chibariyo" (Let's go for it) 🇺🇸



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.

Donations listed were received from January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008.

Anonymous	James Y. & Marian N. Iha	Yoshiyuki & Sally Kuba
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George & Claudia Higa	Masuo & Alice Kino	Neil & Cassie Nakagawa
Hatsumi Higa	Kuniko Kobashigawa	Bertram & Lillian Nakama
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Our Supporters

continued from page 9



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 In Memory of John Yahiku by Naoko Yahiku
 In Memory of Tanjiro & Seto Yonashiro by Helen
 Yonashiro
 In Honor of Mitsuko Toguchi Sensei by June
 Arakawa

We would like to correct to the following dona-
 tion listed in the last issue of Uchinanchu.
 Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience
 we may have caused.

In Memory of Matsusuke & Matsua Tamayori by
 Lucille A. Tamayori

READY TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FUTURE, PLEASE USE THE PLEDGE FORM BELOW. YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION WILL ENSURE THE PERPETUATION OF OUR OKINAWAN CULTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF
 THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

**BUILDING FROM
 GENERATION TO GENERATION**

IKUYU MADIN

Name _____ Club Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

My gift to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Capital Campaign of: \$ _____ For a period of
 Is enclosed. Please bill me: Quarterly Bi-annually Annually 1 year
 2 years
 3 years

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Card number _____ Expiration date _____
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My gift is in memory of _____
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(Please enclose your matching gift form)

Please make checks payable to **HUOA 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

Hui Okinawa

By Patti Taira-Tokuuke, President



At the annual Shinnen Enkai and Keirokai in January, Hui Okinawa celebrated the "Year of the Rat" with special guest entertainment from Okinawa and by honoring those 80 years and older.

Special kajimaya birthday congratulations went to Yoshikazu Isa of Hilo. Kajimaya is a special Okinawan tradition celebrating a person's 97th birthday. Mr. Isa was born in December 1912 in Oloo, Hawaii. He was the oldest of 10 children. At the age of 3, his mother took him to Okinawa to live with his grandparents. He returned to Hawaii at age 15 to work to help his family.

He first worked in the sugar cane fields, where he did hoehana (stripping leaves from cane stalks and cutting cane stalks). He put them in 65# bundles, for which he got 1 cent per bundle. He eventually worked in the Honohina plantation store where he would go to different camps to take orders and return to the store to fill the order and then deliver them. He still recalls unloading 100 bags of 100# rice every month.

He later moved to Hilo and started his own business of peddling produce and other food items from a truck. He eventually quit peddling and worked for Hawaii Produce. After retirement, he traveled to Okinawa, Japan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, California and Las Vegas.

He and his wife Hatsue had 5 sons and 8 grandchildren. His wife passed away in 2000 and he now resides with his son Melvin in Hilo.

Okinawa City -Goeku Son

On February 23, Goeku celebrated its 81st Anniversary at the Pagoda Restaurant. Mahalo to event chair Laura Shinto and members of her committee for an excellent job providing an elegant and very entertaining party for our members. This year, we welcome Raelene Higa as our 2008-2009 President. Joining her cabinet are Janise Oshiro, Vice-President; Mae Chung, Secretary; Craig Fukuhara, Treasurer; and Robert Fukuhara, George Kamimura, Karen Kuba-Hori and Karen Wright, Advisors. The highlight of the program was the introduction of last year's 80-year-old members. Congratulations to members Yoshi Fukuhara, Carole Higa, Carol Kamida, Hisashi Matsumoto and Leatrice Zablan. Members don't forget to mark Sunday, July 13 on your calendar. Our picnic committee is planning a fun event for you at Kapiolani Park.



Okinawa City - Goeku Son members 80 years and older were recognized at the club's 81st Shinnen Enkai.

Computer Class For Seniors

By Clayton Arakaki

The computer can be used for many things, such as research, playing games, and communication. The current generation has grown up using computers and it seems like second nature to them. The older generation may want to learn how to use the computer, but find the computer a little intimidating.

In order to bridge the gap, kizuna, we will be starting a computer class to introduce people to the use of computer, Internet and the HUOA website. The classes are intended for people who are "computer illiterate," yet want to have a hands-on learning session on the computer. We hope that the class will allow HUOA to provide information to more people on a timely basis.

Our computer class is geared toward helping seniors (55+) who are HUOA club members. It will meet once a week at the HOC. There will be about four classes. Below is a brief course description:

Week 1: Identify computer parts, set up an email account

Week 2: Practice using email, visit HUOA website

Week 3: Practice using email, introduction to Microsoft Word program, send attachments by email

Week 4: Practice using email, become familiar with HUOA website, Q&A

If you are interested in taking this class, please contact the HUOA office at 676-5400, or ask a family member or friend send an email on your behalf to huoa@huoa.org.

Yonabaru Chojin Kai



Popular "Go Rangers" (L-R): Scott Shinsato, Jackson Chun, Michael Shinsato and Bert Shibuya entertained members of Yonabaru Chojin Kai at their recent Shinnen Enkai.

Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai News

By Ed Kino, President

One hundred sixteen members and guests of Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai celebrated the club's 83rd anniversary at its Shinnen enkai held at the Victoria Inn on February 24. For the 12th year, Kento of Flyin' Hawaiian Balloons provided amazing sculptures to the delight of both adults and children.

Members were treated to an impressive performance during dinner by Sosaku Daiko Ryukyu Yui Hana, which included 20 children and 10 adults on and off stage and, for the 11th year, Kanegusuku member Grant Murata Sensei's Afuso Ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai along with guest artist on the keyboard, Chris Cerna, entranced the audience with their lively medley of Okinawan songs.

An evening of good food, pupus, entertainment and fellowship ended with door prizes galore including a Superpot for Judy Kaneshiro, Panasonic steam/dry iron for Kiichi Oshiro, portable vacuum cleaner for Sharon Quitan and the grand prize...a Panasonic DVD Recorder for Darlene Galang.

Ginowan Shijin Kai

By Patrick Miyashiro, President

Ginowan Shijin Kai celebrated its annual Shinnen enkai at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on March 15. Thanks to all of the attendees and



Honoring Our Elders Over 80 Years Old (L-R): Hatsumi Higa, Stanley Miyashiro, Yemi Miyashiro, Helen Miyashiro, Violet Iha, Yasuichi Zakimi, Charles Miyashiro, Irene Shimabukuro, Jane Taira Chang, Edna Oshiro, Jane Sakima, Helen Isono, Betsy Miyahira, Nancy Arizumi, Kogoro Sakima, Jane Shiroma, Seihan Tamashiro, Mitzi Miyashiro, Shigemasa Tamanaha, and Robert Miyahira

performers, our Shinnen enkai was both entertaining and fun! We enjoyed listening to elegant violin and cello music by Roosevelt High School sophomores Kelli-Ann Zakimi and friends. We acknowledged club member Roxanne Campbell for earning her Masters Degree in Library Information Science. Hiro Momohara and Mildred Shiroma enjoyed a special recognition for reaching their 70th birthdays this year. To the delight of all, Grand Master Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone and company performed classical Okinawan dances. Following the dances, Derek Shiroma's Urizun Minyo Group energized our members to clap to the beat of Okinawan music. Engaging our children all evening, Christine Higa charmed young ones with her crafts and handiwork. Of course, the highlight of our evening was honoring our 20 members who are over 80 years.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with our Shinnen enkai. Your help and dedication to our organization inspire our future generations. We look forward to seeing you at our next function, a service project to cleanup Hawaii Okinawa Center on Sunday, May 4, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Call Garret Iha at 539-2257 to sign up.

This is Your Newsletter

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

2007 Hui Makaala Scholarship Recipients



Sarah Fong, a graduate of Castle High School, is the daughter of Dan and Jean Fong. Sarah is a member of the Kin Chojin Kai Club (her father is a past president) and takes great pride in her Uchinanchu heritage. For the past two years, Sarah has hosted an Okinawan student through the DOE's Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program. Last year, Sarah traveled to Okinawa and stayed with the family of a student she

had hosted in Hawaii. In addition to maintaining a high grade point average, Sarah is a well-rounded student who participates in many extra-curricular activities, including Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Key Club, the Castle Speech Festival, and volunteers as a Multimedia Team Member at the Hope Chapel in Kaneohe. Sarah plans to attend Northern Arizona University in the fall and will major in environmental science.



Ai Kobashigawa is a graduate of Farrington High School and plans to major in criminal justice at the University of Hawaii. She is the daughter of Katsuyoshi Kobashigawa and Editha Dela Cruz. Proud of her Okinawan heritage, Ai began learning Okinawan dance at the age of 5 from Bonnie Miyashiro. Then, at the ripe old age of 7, Ai began studying the koto and has displayed a natural ability to excel in the art. Over the years, she has performed at the

Okinawan Festival and in 1998 at the first graduation ceremonies held at Meio University in Nago City with the Okinawan koto group, Miyashiro Soho Kai. In addition to being accomplished in Okinawan dance and the koto, Ai is a hard-working student and volunteers with the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ.



Case Miyahira is a graduate of Iolani School and will be attending Occidental College in Los Angeles. He plans to major in biology with the goal of becoming a doctor. The son of Robin and Lily Miyahira and the grandson of Hui Makaala members Betsy and Robert Miyahira, Case has a deep appreciation of his Okinawan heritage. At Iolani, Case has been described as a top student, determined, and with a great work ethic. He is a rare student-athlete who co-

captained Iolani's basketball team and helped Iolani to achieve its fifth straight basketball title. Case also plays baseball, was varsity co-captain this past year, and has achieved numerous awards in sports, including Iolani's Eddie Hamada Award for baseball and the Honolulu Advertiser Basketball All-State Honorable Mention this past year.



Rendi-Ann Nagata graduated from Waipahu High School and will attend the University of California, San Diego. She plans to major in Japanese studies and aspires to become a Japanese teacher in Hawaii or an English teacher in Okinawa. Her parents, Naoki and Stacy Nagata, were both born in Okinawa. Rendi is an outstanding student with stellar grades and an impressive list of extra-curricular activities. She has volunteered with the

HUOA, participated in Cross-Country, Student Government, the National Honor Society, Leo Club, Japanese Club, Urasoe Club, and Tennis. Rendi was one of Waipahu High's top doubles players! Rendi enjoys learning about the Okinawan culture and has both hosted Okinawan students in Hawaii and been an exchange student abroad.



Marlene Shimamura is a graduate of Roosevelt High School and plans to attend the University of San Francisco in the fall to major in business marketing. She is the daughter of Mitchel and Chikako Shimamura. Marlene's mother is from Okinawa and thus the Okinawan culture has been an integral part of her life. She plays the Okinawan sanshin and taiko with Grant Murata of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai and performs at many events including the

Okinawan Festival and Hui Makaala banquets. Marlene also holds a black belt in Karate and is a member of the Matsubayashi Shorin Ryu Karate club. Marlene's talents do not end there. She is accomplished in Okinawan dance, played percussion in the Roosevelt Marching Band and Symphonic Orchestra, and has placed as high as fifth in state wrestling finals. She is described by teachers as one who "has the drive and determination to do her best in everything she does."



Ellise Uyema graduated from Punahou School and will be attending the University of Washington to study music and journalism. The daughter of Raymond and Fay Uyema, Ellise is an outstanding student and an extremely talented singer and dancer. She has studied voice for over 13 years, with an emphasis on lyric soprano opera repertoire. Throughout the years, she has been a member of various Punahou School Choirs, the Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus, and has competed successfully in

various voice competitions. Ellise also participated in her school's newsletter and yearbook, as well as softball. Ellise has also studied traditional Okinawa odori at the Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo and has volunteered with the Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai for the past decade by participating in an oral history project to document the stories of Okinawans in Hawaii.



Liane Yoshitsugu, a graduate from Kaimuki High School, is the daughter of Wallace and Lynn Yoshitsugu. She will attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the fall and plans to major in education. Liane and her parents are members of the Onna Sonjinkai, where her mother serves as the club's secretary. Liane enjoys participating in events like the Okinawan Festival, where she can be found in the yakisoba booth, and the HUOA Mixed Handicap

bowling league. In addition to being a great student, Liane diligently works at two part-time jobs at Zippy's and Hollister, made the all-star team as a member of Kaimuki High's bowling team, and also participated in band and judo. She has studied piano since she was 5 years old, receiving high National Guild rankings every year! She is described as "outgoing, efficient and extremely competent" by those who know her.

OPG Names Scholarship Recipient from Hawaii



Congratulations to Darcy Tara Gibo, who was awarded a one-year scholarship from the Okinawa Prefectural Government to study at the Prefectural University of Culture and Arts (Gedai).

An avid student of Grant Murata's Afuso-Ryu Gensei Kai-Hawaii Shibu, Darcy has been playing the sanshin for at least three years and looks forward to the opportunity to enhance her learning at Gedai and with Choichi Terukina sensei, a Living National Treasure of Japan.

The daughter of George and Yvette Gibo, Darcy is looking forward to immersing herself in the arts and culture of Okinawa and establishing contact with her grandparents' family in Tamagusuku. Her dream is to learn as much as she can so that she can help to promote and preserve Okinawan music in Hawaii.



SPORTS CORNER

Okinawa Shogaku High School Wins National Baseball Championship!

Congratulations to Okinawa Shogaku High School for winning the 80th Senbatsu High School Baseball Championship on April 4. Okinawa Shogaku defeated Saitama's Seibo Gakuen High School in a 9-0 rout to win its second overall title at the Japan National High School Baseball Invitational Tournament, which was held at Koshien Stadium in Hyogo Prefecture. A team from Okinawa last claimed the national title in 1999.

Ace pitcher Nao Higashihama, pitching for the third day in a row, struck out six, walked three and gave up six hits in throwing a complete game shut-out – a very rare accomplishment. Current Boston Red Sox star Daisuke



Elated Team Oki-Sho run to the cheering crowd at the end of the game. Courtesy of Okinawa Times



Proud Uchinanchu fans celebrate Okinawa Shogaku's title win at Heiwa Doori. Courtesy of Okinawa Times



Matsuzaka was the last to do so, pitching for Yokohama back in 1998.

The team from Okinawa had to win five games in the tournament to claim the national title, including a come-from-behind, 4-2 semifinal victory over Toyodai Himeji just to make it to the finals.

Much of Okinawa's daily business came to a standstill while the game was being televised. Hundreds of Uchinanchu watched the game on two large screens set up in Heiwa Doori in the center of Naha. A resounding thunder of applause erupted as Okinawa's team placed Okinawa on the sports map again.

Ace pitcher Nao Higashihama used his blazing fastball to shut out the team from Saitama and clinch the championship. Courtesy of Okinawa Times

Current Standings- HUOA 14" Slowpitch League

(as of March 30, 2008)

Section A	Win	Loss
Gushikawa Blue	3	0
Gaza Yonagusuku	2	1
Hui Makaala	2	1
Oroku/Kochinda	2	1
Nakagusuku	1	2
Urasoe	1	2
Ginoza	1	2
Ginowan	0	3
Section B		
Itoman	3	0
Wahiawa	3	0
Gushikawa/Yomitan	2	1
Aza Gushikawa	1	2
Gushichan	1	2
Haneji	1	2
Tomigusuku	1	2
Okinawa City-Goeku	0	3

Don't forget: every Sunday – except for Mother's Day – our hard-working softball players will be battling it out to reach the top positions in tournament play at the Halawa Recreational Center. For additional information on team standings, please visit our website at www.huoa.org.

HUOA Volleyball and Softball

By Dana Takahara Dias

The volleyball and softball seasons are heading towards their final weeks of competition. The HUOA Mixed Volleyball League featured 28 teams participating in four divisions. Play-offs will kick-off on March 23 and run to May 4. The Volleyball Banquet will be held on



Softball players share high fives after a hard played game.



HUOA Mixed Volleyball League officials coordinate 28 teams.

May 4. The 16 teams in the HUOA Softball League are also completing their regular season play, with play-offs beginning on May 4. The Softball Banquet will be held on June 28.

Please come and support your teams during the play-offs and see the exciting and inspiring competition by all clubs. Volleyball games are held at Waipahu High School gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Softball games are played on two fields at Halawa District Park from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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Preserving Our Legacy

2008 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 January 1, 2008 to February 29, 2008

GOLD (\$1,000 AND ABOVE)

Mr. & Mrs. Shoei Kaneshiro

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Island Insurance Foundation

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Jerry & Jan Wheeler

In Memory of Louis K. Horikawa (Husband) by Doris M. Horikawa

We would like to correct to the following donation listed in the last issue of Uchinanchu. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience we may have caused.

CONTRIBUTOR (\$100 AND ABOVE)

Shigeru Gushikuma

**GOLFERS,
SAVE THE
DATE!**

38th Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament

Saturday & Sunday,

May 24 & May 25, 2008

West Loch Municipal Golf Course

Registration Deadline: May 16, 2008

First 120 players to sign up by the deadline. Open to all members and guests of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and affiliated Okinawan clubs.

Entry Fee: \$115

Super Seniors: \$55
includes all fees and
awards banquet

Awards Banquet: \$15

Sunday, May 25 from 5:30pm
at Jikoen Temple



Registration Forms

available at

www.huoa.org

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West Loch Golf Course
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Makalena Golf Course
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Championship, A, and B,
Women, Seniors, and
Super Seniors



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What Is Uchinaaguchi?

About 50 people packed the Serikaku Chaya on Friday, March 28, to listen to a presentation entitled, "What is Uchinaaguchi?" by Professor Shinsho Miyara, from University of the Ryukyus and the Arthur Andrews Chair for Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Hawaii for its spring semester 2008. After introducing himself in Okinawan and beginning his presentation, Professor Miyara posed the question. "Is the Okinawan language a legitimate language independent of Japanese? Or should it be considered a dialect?"



Professor Miyara shares his expertise on the Okinawan language.

Professor Miyara illustrated linguistically and socio-linguistically that Uchinaaguchi is a distinct language that is separate from modern Japanese that is used today. Professor Miyara conveyed his position that Uchinaaguchi is more closely related to a form of ancient Japanese. He gave his example, Uchinaaguchi for muru, in old Japanese is moro, and in modern Japanese is minna.

Professor Miyara introduced the progressive work of the Society to Revitalize the Okinawan Language and its mission to rejuvenate the language and culture of Okinawa that is similar to the movement for the native language and culture of Hawaii. In April 2006, the Okinawa Prefectural Government passed an ordinance for local language revitalization and declared September 18 as "Shimakotoba no Hi" translated as "my homeland's language day". It further established an order to standardize four main languages: Uchinaaguchi, spoken on the main island of Okinawa, and shimaguchi for each of the outer islands of Miyako, Yaeyama and Yonaguni Islands. The intent is to create reference and instructional textbooks using a standardized form of Uchinaaguchi.

Interested in learning Uchinaaguchi? HUOA offers an Uchinaaguchi class that meets once a month. For more information, please contact the HUOA office at 676-5400 or visit our website at www.huoa.org.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

March

an-nee, n. [an-nai] 1 Guide; guidance. 2 Invitation.

April

shin-shii, n. [sensei] A teacher; a master.

(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 (soft-cover) can be purchased for \$13 at the HOC gift shop.

Two 'Young Uchinanchu' Awarded Travel Grants

Daniel Hiroki Chinen and Shari Y. Tamashiro were recently awarded \$1,000 travel grants by the Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association (WUB) of Hawaii. They will use the funds to attend the 2nd Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Conference in Brazil and also attend the centennial celebrations of Okinawan immigration to Brazil and Argentina.

Daniel, an electrical engineer, is currently a Visiting Researcher at the University of the Ryukyu in Okinawa, working on the Worldwide Uchinanchu Network website, www.Uchinanchu.NET. He has also created websites for WUB Hawaii, Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai and Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. Daniel is an active HUOA volunteer and participated in the most recent



HUOA Leadership Study Tour to Okinawa. He is a member of Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai (which was founded by his grandfather), WUB-Hawaii, and plays softball for Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai.

Shari is a Cybrarian (librarian and computer specialist) at Kapiolani Community College. She is the project manager of the Hawaii Nisei (<http://nisei.hawaii.edu>) and Hawaii Memory and Native Plants Hawaii web projects. Shari also curated Honoring the Legacy: The 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team Exhibit. She is a member of Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai and Itoman Shijin Kai, an active HUOA volunteer, and daughter of former HUOA President George Tamashiro.



HUOA Study Tour: A Unique Fun Learning Experience

By President Jon Itomura

The fantastic opportunity to return to or visit for the first time, the "Home Away From Home" for many of us, is very near! Any and all who have visited Okinawa will say "Nothing compares to setting foot in Okinawa to hear the sounds, experience the beauty, and to meet friends and relatives. Only then can you begin to journey along the path of understanding and learning about your cultural heritage." If you seek a unique experience in Okinawa, you will be pleasantly surprised at the impact of this particular Tour.

The HUOA Study Tour is an annual event and will be conducted this year during the period of October 4 - 13, 2008. I have had the opportunity to witness and benefit from Hawaii's and HUOA's special relationship with Okinawa over the years and I want to share that experience with Study Tour members. You will be able to view World Heritage sites and even 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. The Naha Matsuri was the event that sparked the idea of having an annual Okinawan Festival here in Hawaii 25 years ago!

I am planning to host a series of educational 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 your 10-day tour of Okinawa. I am also looking to add a number of interesting visits and experiences in Okinawa, including but not limited to hands on crafts, live performances by local musicians, a two-day stay in the Chatan city in one of Okinawa's newest hotels and many more surprises!

Check out our HUOA website: www.huoa.org. The itinerary should be available online soon and will also be available upon request or it can be picked up from the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Save your money: Approximate cost will be determined soon and fluctuations in the currency exchange will always be a challenge.

If you are interested in joining me and excited about participating in the 2008 HUOA Study Tour and be placed on the mailing list, please email HUOA at (huoa@hawaii.rr.com) or contact Barbara Maeshiro at TransPacific Tours, ph.924-1889. Sign up quickly because spots are going fast!

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HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

May 2008

- 1 Communications & Information Committee meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 3 Spring Craft Fair, Legacy I/II 9a-3p
- 6 Executive Council meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 12 Club Development Committee meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 20 Board of Directors meeting, Legacy I, 7pm
- 24-25 HUOA Golf Tournament West Loch-Tba
- 25 HUOA Golf Tournament Banquet, Jikoan, 5:30pm
- 26 MEMORIAL DAY -- HOC Office Closed
- 27 Administration Committee meeting, Chaya, 7pm

June 2008

- 3 Executive Council meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 5 Communications & Information Committee meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 8 Pan-Pacific Matsuri Parade Kalakaua, 5pm
- 9-13 HUOA Children's Cultural Day Camp, Legacy I/II, 9am
- 9 Club Development Committee meeting, Chaya, 7pm
- 24 Administration Committee meeting, Chaya, 7pm

Classes · Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin ; every Thursday, 7pm*
- Ikebana; every 3rd Wednesday (except Feb., will be held on 2/27, 7pm*
- Karaoke nite; last Tuesday, 6:30pm*
- Kobudo Taiko; every Monday, 7:00pm, contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374
- Okinawan Festival mtg; 3rd Wednesday, 7pm*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg; 3rd Saturday, 9am*
- Uchinaaguchi; every 3rd Monday, 7pm*

*for more information, please call 676-5400

Subject to Change (entries as of 3/31/08)

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 12 PART TWO of the HUOA 58th Installation Banquet held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008. This episode features the entertainment by Urizun Minyo, Colette Gomoto, Nidaime Teishin Kai-Hawaii Shibu, Sosakudaiko Ryukyu Yuihana and Daiichi Hirata. (Premiere)
- May 19 Third Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa - November 2001 - Celebration in Okinawa of Okinawans from various countries.
- May 26 21st Okinawan Festival 2003 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand - Show No. Two featuring Lanakila Senior Center - Line Dance Club, Paranku Clubs of Hawaii and Hokubei Paranku Club, Koto Ensemble - Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai - Hawaii Shibu, Leinani Hula and Chimu Zirii Eisa Tai (Tenryu Daiko).
- June 2 21st Okinawan Festival 2003 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand - Show No. Three featuring: Okinawa Buyo Club, Ryukyu Koku Matsuri Daiko, Ryusei Honryu Yanagi No Kai - Hawaii Shibu, Wayne Takamine & the Two Ti Leaf Band, and Kaori Nakada from Okinawa.
- June 9 21st Okinawan Festival 2003 at Kapiolani Park Bandstand - Show No. Five featuring the Kilauea Okinawan Dance Group; Shiroma-ryu Nuuanu YMCA Okinawa Shorin-ryu; Karate Club; Jimpu Kai U.S.A., Kin Ryosho Geino Kenkyusho; Hooge Kai - Nakasone Dance Academy; Hawaii Taiko Kai; Jordan Segundo; Hokubei Paranku Club and Joseph Jones.
- June 16 25th Okinawan Festival 2007 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. One featuring Kilauea Okinawan Dance Group, Hooge Kai - Nakasone Dance Academy, and Hawaii Taiko Kai. (Premiere)
- June 23 25th Okinawan Festival 2007 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. Two featuring Koten Gassho - Classical Musical Ensemble with Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyo Kai Hawaii Shibu and Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Shibu, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, and Syohei Ryu Karate Ageda Jyosei Doujyo. (Premiere)
- June 30 25th Okinawan Festival 2007 at Kapiolani Park - Show No. Three featuring Shinsato Shosei Kai, Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko - Hilo, and Leinani Hula Group. (Premiere)

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