



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## HUOA Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Awards Banquet

By Arnold Hiura, Photos by Reid Shimabukuro

A capacity crowd of some 800 Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) members and guests easily filled the Legacy Ballroom at the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC) on January 17 for the organization's annual Installation of Officers and Uchinanchu of the Year Awards Banquet. The atmosphere was festive, yet warm and comforting at the same time – not unlike a large, extended family gathering at a familiar place every year. This was, after all, the 59th time in its history that this proud organization had gathered to install new leaders and to reaffirm its mission.

As the event unfolded, it grew increasingly evident that while the widely cel-

ebrated Okinawan Festival serves as the public face of the HUOA, the Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Banquet truly represents the heart and soul of the organization – marking not just its survival from year-to-year, but its unceasing evolution. Like rungs on a ladder, these annual ceremonies help to measure the HUOA's steady rise from firm foundations towards attaining ever-higher goals and aspirations.

Far from promoting lockstep conformity, the Banquet illustrated the HUOA's remarkable ability to embrace change and celebrate diversity while carefully perpetuating tradition and ensuring continuity. Striking this challenging balance

*Continued on Page 4*



## Congratulations To 2008 Uchinanchu Of The Year Honorees

AZA GUSHIKAWA DOSHI KAI  
James & Terry Agena

AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI  
Tatsuko Miyasato

BITO DOSHI KAI  
Cecilia Shimabukuro

CHATAN-KADENA CHOJIN KAI  
Laura Ajimine

GAZA YONAGUSUKU DOSHI KAI  
Mimi Shiroma

GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI  
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Harold Higa

YONABARU CHOJIN KAI  
Staci A. Arakawa

YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI  
James Okudara

YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII  
Lois Goto

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## President's Message By Ford Chinen

The following is the text of President Ford Chinen's speech delivered at the January 17 Installation Banquet.

*Haisai and Aloha!*

First, let's say a hearty congratulations and thank you to the 2008 Uchinanchu of the year. Each year the clubs that make-up the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) recognizes an individual or in some cases a couple to receive the award. These are the individuals who support and promote their Clubs, the HUOA, and through their actions demonstrate and live the Uchinanchu Spirit. Mahalo, to all of the recipients.

Next let me say that I am honored and humbled to serve as the President of the HUOA for 2009. I'll be honest and admit that this is not an office that I sought. But four years ago Laverne Higa asked me to join her administration as a Vice President--she said it was just for a year. I enjoyed the work and the good people that I worked with as part of the Executive Committee and so when asked by David Arakawa, I agreed to stay another year. Last year Jon Itomura asked me to become his President-Elect. Then I thought, oh, oh, next stop President. Do I really want to do this? I began to consider all kinds of reasons why I should not take the office. Then James Iha, a retired Colonel, friend and respected colleague from my days in the National Guard took me aside. He looked me in the eye and said something like, "You know Ford...when an organization like the HUOA calls on you to serve, you have to step up and accept the responsibility." I couldn't say no. At that point I decided to accept this office out of a sense of respect and obligation to the Presidents and leaders that came before me, and have pledged to try and set an example for the leaders who will come after me.

Traditionally the President selects a theme for the year. Being born and raised in Hawaii and visiting Okinawa for only the first time last February, I was struck by the historical similarities of the Ryukyu and Hawaiian Kingdoms. Aspects such as language and culture of both civilizations were influenced by those in power and are now seeing a resurgence or revitalization. There are also similarities in what we call the Aloha Spirit and the Uchinanchu Spirit that make us brothers and provide the vibrancy to the values embodied by both cultures. One of the values that I have come to respect is "Pono" - what is correct, what drives us to do the right thing. When we asked Mitsumori Ashitomi, a childhood friend of my late father Takaaki, (who were both raised on Island of Okutake in Tamagusuku, Okinawa) if there was an Okinawan equivalent to the word for pono, he said immediately, "Makutu." Makutu is the Uchinaaguchi equivalent of Makoto in Japanese, which means sincerity and faithfulness - to our mission, to our culture and to those who came before us and sacrificed so much to bring us where we are today. This year portends to be very difficult with the global economy affecting the U.S., Okinawa, our State and all of us as individuals. Our financial challenges will require us to make very difficult decisions regarding the core services, operations, maintenance and even the organization of the HUOA. In addressing all of these challenges we must act and make decisions in the spirit of Makutu. Together we can meet these challenges and continue the legacy of those who came before us and set the path for future generations. Together we can, yes we can, *hai dekiru, Chibariyoo!*

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

### HUOA DONATIONS: December 1, 2008 - January 15, 2009



HUOA sends a sincere *ippee nifee deebiru* to the following donors.

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Sakakura, K. Kimie Ginoza, Kate & Nabeto Kiyota	Uncle Stanley Serikaku, Happy 88th Birthday from Michelle Whaley
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## UCHINANCHU

*Ippee Nifee Deebiru... Mahalo!*

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

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

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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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### Request to Members

In an effort to cut costs of production and postage for the Uchinanchu newsletter, may we ask for your cooperation - if you have multiple copies of Uchinanchu being delivered to your home and can help us by limiting the number of copies being mailed to you, please call us at 676-5400 or email [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org) to let us know. Mahalo!

### UCHINANCHU

Uchinanchu is the newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues will be published bi-monthly. Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to Uchinanchu Newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797. E-mail articles to [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org). Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President..... Ford Chinen  
 Jane F. Serikaku..... Executive Director  
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# HUOA Bazaar/Trash & Treasure Fundraising Event



*Save These Dates:*  
**Friday, May 15, 5 - 9 p.m.**  
**Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.**

*This first-time event will help raise much-needed funds for HUOA operating expenses and Repair and Maintenance funds for our Hawaii Okinawa Center.*

*Please start saving items that could become "treasures" to our buyers, such as used, clean clothing, household goods, etc. We will also have a special Okinawa section. Since we have nowhere to store these items, please plan on bringing them to the Hawaii Okinawa Center on May 12 or 13.*

*More information will be shared in our April Uchinanchu Newsletter and on our website: [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org). Suggestions, ideas? Would you like to help us with this worthwhile event? Please call Jane at 676-5400 or email: [edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com)*

## Shinnen Enkai Update

As a continuation of the HUOA Clubs 2009 Shinnen Enkai dates listed in the previous November/December 2008 issue of the Uchinanchu newsletter, here are some corrections and new entries from our clubs:

Club	Date	Day	Time	Location
Awase Doshi Kai .....	3/8 .....	Sun .....	6:00 pm .....	Pagoda
Hui Alu .....	2/22 .....	Sun .....	11:00 am .....	Kauai Veterans Center
Osato Doshi Kai .....	3/14 .....	Sat .....	5:00 pm .....	Jikoen
Yonashiro Chojin Kai .....	2/21 .....	Sat .....	5:00 pm .....	Masa's
Young Okinawans of Hawaii .....	2/28 .....	Sat .....	5:30 pm .....	Natsunoya



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Installation Banquet continued from Page 1



could be seen and felt throughout the event – from the upbeat, contemporary rhythms of Akemi Martin Sensei’s cosmopolitan taiko troupe that helped open the program, contrasted with the poised, traditional elegance of Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei’s



dancers that helped to bring it to a close.

Every HUOA President brings his or her own personality, style and experience to the task of leading such a large and active organization, and this year was no different. Change and contrast could be clearly witnessed in the transition between outgoing President Jon Itomura and incoming President Ford Chinen – including differences in dress, carriage, speech and backgrounds. Hawaiian conch shells and chant opened this year’s program, and dancers from Kumu Hula Sallie Yoza’s troupe entertained the audience during lunch – reflective of Chinen’s occupation as human resource administrator at Kamehameha Schools.



The HUOA’s successful development, however, has been built on its ability to strike a healthy balance between change and continuity. And, beneath the outward contrasts inherent at this year’s Banquet ran a powerful current of commonality and commitment to the welfare of the HUOA and the perpetuation of Okinawan culture. For the past 12 months, for example, Itomura’s administration dedicated its efforts around his theme, “*Shinai Gukuru: Hearts in Harmony.*” Chinen’s theme, “*Makutu: Sincerity and Faithfulness (In this spirit do the right thing.)*,” works in perfect synch with his predecessor’s.



The blend of change and continuity was also reflected in the introduction and recognition of HUOA’s incoming officers, directors and advisors; representatives from the HUOA’s sports leagues, and most broadly by the 34 individuals honored by 32 mem-

ber clubs as Uchinanchu of the Year. Seated proudly across the stage, the honorees reflected a healthy mix of men and women, young and old – all hailing from different places and backgrounds. The contributions made by each honoree



to the welfare of their respective clubs and the entire HUOA are impressive, and are published online at [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org).

Even in the midst of this joyful celebration, however, the realities of running and maintaining a non-profit organization in today’s trying economic times could not be ignored. In their outgoing and incoming President’s messages, respectively, Itomura and Chinen



both referenced the dark clouds and mounting challenges that the HUOA has to weather in order to survive the current financial storm. It is reassuring to know that the HUOA is entering the New Year with the eyes of its leaders wide open and cognizant of the perils that could threaten even the most resilient of organizations.

# 誠

## Makutu: Sincerity and Faithfulness

Soon, however, a warm, mid-afternoon sun smiled down on the crowd as it filed out at the end of the Banquet, and various groups took advantage of

the beautiful weather to gather to take photos in the Takakura Garden. The stormfront that had battered the Islands with huge waves, heavy downpours, and high winds that had closed schools and government offices just the day before had finally subsided – as if they had been chased away by the force of joyfully waving hands in the closing kachashi and the lively musical accompaniment provided by Grant Murata Sensei’s group. The cloudless blue skies, it seemed, shined as a symbolic affirmation that there is always light at the end of a storm – especially when Uchinanchu hearts are in harmony and their actions driven by the spirit of *Makutu*. 🍀



# UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

## Spotlight: Takashi Tshako



Born and raised in a sugar plantation family of six sons in Waipahu, chores were not assigned by gender, and one learned to do everything. Everyone who was in good health and able-bodied worked together to get the job done. Such was the life for many Okinawan families during Hawaii's early immigration era. It was a matter of survival.

Growing up during this period, Takashi Tshako and his five brothers were raised in the spirit and application of many fine Okinawan principles such as *yuimaaruu*, *chimugukuru*, *chui shizii* and more. A person's station in life, the status earned through education, and success in business or fields of work garnered recognition and many rewards. However, the most treasured personal accolade was knowing that a goal or task was fulfilled with sincerity and faithfulness in the purest sense of *makutu*.

It's no wonder that whenever the HUOA has put a call out for help, one of the first persons on the scene and raring to go is Takashi. He's one of the earliest to arrive at the Hawaii Okinawa Center when set-up tasks for craft fairs begin, clearing the floor, measuring, marking booth spaces, and more. And, almost always, Takashi is the last to leave, making sure that everything is ready for the big day.

For as long as anyone can remember, Takashi is one of the persons at Kapiolani

Park when the containers are opened and construction for the Festival begins. He's part of the corps of volunteers who make it possible for the HUOA to stage one of Hawaii's largest, longest-running and most enjoyable ethnic festivals. You'll also find him toiling away throughout the Festival weekend with fellow Tamagusukunchu in their club's assigned Pig's Feet Booth...at least until the "Sold Out" sign is posted.

Takashi's work is not limited to construction or logistics preparations. He has been one of the most seasoned of HUOA club presidents. He has served as Tamagusuku Club, previously known as Tamagusku Sonjin Kai, from 1980-82 and from 1989 to the present...this is his 21st year as a club president! Takashi was one of Tamagusuku's principal representatives in the first capital campaign in the 1980's to raise funds for the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Now, he is working on the fundraising campaign for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza, while making efforts on the financial security of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

When asked about the amount of volunteer efforts for his club and the HUOA, Takashi quietly replies that he is able to volunteer his services because he is retired from his professional work. Takashi added that he doesn't feel that he is doing more than any other volunteer. So humble, but we know that it is because of his generous willingness to help out in the *makutu* spirit of *yuimaaruu*, *chimugukuru*, *chuishizii*. The HUOA and our community truly shines - *Ippee Nifee Deebiru*, Takashi Tshako! 🍷

## 2009 Officers and Advisors



Front Row (L-R): Alyce Yumi Nakama (Japanese Language Secretary), Cathy Ann Tanaka (Executive Secretary), Jon Itomura (Immediate Past President), Ford Chinen (President), Howard Eguchi Jr. (Vice President), Norman Nakasone (Vice President), Dorene Niibu (Vice President). Back Row (L-R): Randy Teruya (Treasurer), Ron Tomasa (Assistant Treasurer), Courtney Takara (Assistant Executive Secretary), Patrick Miyashiro (Advisor), Laverne Higa (Advisor), Rodney Kobagura (Advisor), Cyrus Tamashiro (Advisor), Maurice Yamasato (Advisor), David Arakawa (Advisor). Missing: Paul Komeiji (President Elect)



HUOA leaders sporting Mitsuko Yamauchi Sensei's designs from Fashion Room Madonna in Okinawa: 2009 President Ford Chinen, 2008 President Jon Itomura, President-elect Paul Komeiji, Vice President Howard Eguchi, Jr., 2001 President/Advisor James Iha, Vice President Norman Nakasone.

## Up on the Roof

Question: How many Uchinanchu does it take to remove a 2-foot fern plant off of the Higa Building's kawara tile roof? Answer: FIVE!

What a sight!

For safety, Nidaime Teishikai members Dexter Teruya, Mel Gushiken, and Hachi Higa hold on to the harness and ropes that support Harris Shiroma and Nidaime Teishinkai Sensei Ryosei Oshiro. Ryosei Oshiro triumphantly holds up the troublesome fern that was growing in front of the Shiisaa on the Higa Building roof. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru*, guys! 🍷



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# Udui Kahuu: Dance, a Gift for Eternity

By Jodie Tomasa Ching

Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Hawaii celebrated its 10th anniversary at the historic Hawaii Theatre on November 16, 2008. Frances Nakachi Kuba Sensei knows that it is possible for the Okinawan arts to be perpetuated throughout eternity because of the enthusiastic support of the community. “*Udui Kahuu: Dance, a Gift for Eternity*,” was truly presented as a precious gift to her audience, the community. When you opened this gift, your senses were filled with vibrant colors and resonant music, and your heart was moved by old stories, not just through language, but through flowing hands, subtle gestures, martial arts, and children at play.

Emcees Cyrus Tamashiro, Sharon Nakashima and a *kijimuna* (a fairy or a sprite, similar to the Hawaiian *menehune*) portrayed by Iris Hiramoto, guided us through our time travel. Frances Sensei felt it was important to have a *kijimuna* as a teacher of culture and history. Her grandmother told stories of experiencing *kanashibari* (being physically pressed down on the chest while sleeping by a spirit making it impossible to get up, perhaps by a *kijimuna*). She also told Frances Sensei that they would often play on her belly. These *kijimuna* watch over us, they are one of perhaps many unknown forces that should be respected.

Our time travel started off before the mid-1800’s when the Kingdom of the Ryukyus was an independent nation. *Koten* or classical dances were performed before the Royal Court. These dances must be mastered to achieve *Shinjinsho* (newcomer’s award), *Yuushusho* (award of excellence), and *Saikosho* (award of superiority). Melissa Uyeunten, Mina Tamashiro, Alison Sakamoto, and Kazuna Yamamoto (from Okinawa) performed *Kashikake*, which is required for achieving *Shinjinsho*. Anna Lewis and Chikako Shimamura performed *Nufwabushi* and *Unnabushi* which are required for achieving *Yuushusho*. Typically these students must practice everyday and immerse themselves in the dance and music. They



Photographed by Reid Shimabukuro



Photographed by Reid Shimabukuro

must also travel to Okinawa for training and taking these difficult tests.

In the middle of the program we were lifted to the Heavens to see the Goddess Dance with five goddesses floating in iridescent white robes and long scarves that were the colors of a rainbow sorbet. An instrumental rendition of *Hana* (a song of peace by Kina Shokichi), reached beyond any place that any language could take us. It was moving, simply because it is a prayer for peace. Such an important message for the challenges our planet faces these days.

Although we have now come back to earth, we are still graced by the presence of greatness - our Iemoto Senseis, Yoshiko Tanita and Mieko Kinjo. *Kanzeeku* and *Sudama Nuchidama* were choreographed by these gifted sisters. In *Kanzeeku*, the comical story of a lazy blacksmith, Miyoshi Higa Sensei also accompanied them. The trio of sensei traveled all the way from Okinawa to be part of this auspicious event.

*Hamachidori* is a personal favorite as a song and a dance. Growing up, I did

not have much interest in the Okinawan arts. Since I was very young, this song has often been performed at festivals and family gatherings. The flowing notes and the hand motions that have been known to beckon spirits are comforting. Even when I spent time studying in Okinawa, this song reminded me that my family in Hawaii is not so far away. We are looking at the same moon after all.

In the later half of our journey, our emcees and *kijimuna* took us to *Urumajima* (Paradise). Here, we could swim in the ocean, play on the beach, and look for clams like in *Umi no Chimboru* or run with the wind carrying our pinwheels like in *Kajimaya*.

Now I would like to take a side trip, taking a small peek at what goes on behind the curtain. Two of Senjukai’s newest members, Ainoa Miyashiro and Eric Kobayashi, have experienced so much just from their involvement in “*Udui Kahuu*.” Eric commented on rehearsals with Tanita Sensei and Kinjo Sensei and realized the intensity of rehearsals and preparing for a big production. They now have a sense of the significance of sharing these stories with the community and the importance of their commitment to perpetuating the culture through dance.

Then there is Shasta Yamada, who is a senior at Kaimuki High School and her grandmother, Emily Watanabe. Emily first learned to dance with her father. She is proud that the art is being passed down to her granddaughter just as it was passed down to her so many years ago. Shasta says, “To know that I’m actually keeping a family tradition going. That my great grandfather danced and my grandmother dances Okinawan dance. It gives me a sense of pride. I feel like I’m able to have fun, enjoy myself and still keep a family tradition. I wish I could have seen my great grandfather dance, I never met him.”

From mystical forces, to stories of romance and heartache, prayers for peace, to laughing children, happiness and joy - these are the precious gifts that were presented to us in “*Udui Kahuu*.” Always remember that these gifts are not to be taken for granted, it is not just mere entertainment. There are lessons to be learned. These are the gifts that we need to take great care of in OUR OWN WORLD. 🌸

## Penelope Mitsuyuki, TCM / LMT

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# Aki no Kai Debut Recital 'Akatsichi'

Ryukyuan koto Master Yasuko Arakawa Sensei and members of her Aki no Kai koto ensemble will present their debut recital, *Akatsichi*-Sunrise, on Sunday, April 19, at 1 p.m. at the Kaimuki High School Auditorium.

With the beginning of a new day, the dawning of a new age, the start of a new mission, a journey begins with but a few steps filled with hope and brilliance – these are the essences of *Akatsichi*, a befitting theme for a debut performance for the Aki no Kai.

While Aki no Kai was established in 2002, Yasuko Sensei's career in the Okinawan performing arts began nearly a half century ago in Ryukyuan dance while still in middle school in her hometown of Kin, Okinawa. After moving to Hawaii in the early 1970's, she began her formal Okinawan koto studies under the tutelage of Midori Matayoshi Sensei in Hilo.

After moving to Honolulu, she continued her koto studies under Grandmaster Katsuko Teruya Sensei, sanshin instruction as a student of Grandmaster Shigeichi Asato, and vocal training with National Heritage Fellow Harry Seisho Nakasone Sensei. Throughout her career in Ryukyuan koto, Yasuko Sensei has provided her musical artistry to the late Kiyoshi Kinjo Sensei and his group on many of their engagements in Hawaii and the mainland United States. She has performed significantly in Okinawa, mainland Japan, and Hawaii. Through her musical accomplishments and performance, she continues to receive accolades, awards and recognition in Okinawa. She continues her good work in training her fine students and for leading the Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai, an Okinawan koto association, as its chapter president since 2003.

In appreciation and reverence for her many contributions to the performing arts communities of Okinawa, Washington, California and Hawaii, notable artists from these destinations and more will share their talents and join Yasuko Arakawa Sensei and the members of the Aki no Kai on stage as they embark on staging *Akatsichi*.

For further information please contact Yasuko Arakawa Sensei (531-5732), Masako Nakama (942-3907) or Sadako Tamaki (734 7983).



# Ichigo Ichi E Classes Start in April

The 2004 Okinawan Festival will probably be known as one of the most incredible events in HUCA's Festival history. Through generous sponsorship of Okinawa's Orion Beer and Kokubagumi, of Japan's top contemporary groups, BEGIN, gave an exhilarating concert to the thousands who packed Kapiolani Park that September 4. One hit song after another invigorated the audience to a frenzy, but what was remarkable was the humbleness and generosity of the three artists hailing from Ishigaki Island, Okinawa.

Eisho Higa, leader of the trio, expressed BEGIN's appreciation to Hawaii's Okinawan community for the assistance extended to war-torn Okinawa, especially the now infamous saga of sending 550 live pigs to Okinawa.

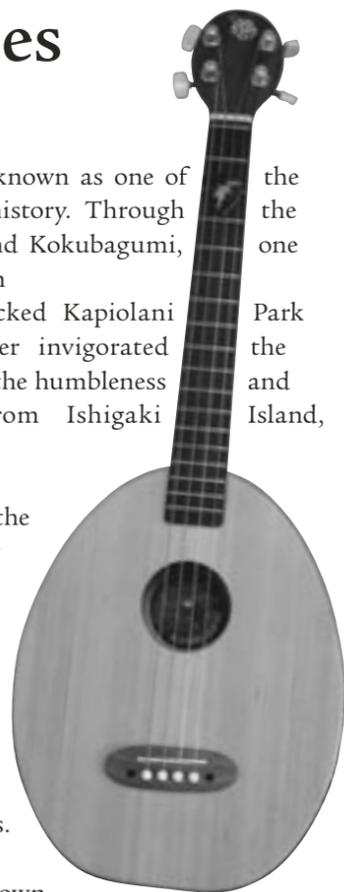
A couple of days after the Festival, the members of BEGIN visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center to present to then-Executive Director Wayne Miyahira two instruments called the *Ichigo Ichi E*. These instruments were specially designed by Eisho Higa and have been used widely in BEGIN's performances. Okinawa media was on hand and Hawaii's Keith Nakaganeku and Isaac Hokama, musicians in their own right, were also present to witness the historic presentation.

Eisho Higa declared that at each of their future concerts, BEGIN would convey the story about how Hawaii helped Okinawa after World War II and the story of the "Pigs from the Sea." He would then ask the audience to make their personal donations to reciprocate Hawaii's kindness to Okinawa after World War II. The generous donations would enable BEGIN to send the *Ichigo Ichi E* instrument to Hawaii and encourage peace among all people through the brotherhood of music that would be played on the instrument. He said that BEGIN's goal is to donate 550 *Ichigo Ichi E* over time for each of the 550 pigs that Hawaii presented to Okinawa more than a half century ago.

Now, fulfilling Eisho Higa's request to Keith Nakaganeku, we are proud to announce that *Ichigo Ichi E* classes will be held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center starting in April 1. Keith has graciously agreed to teach the classes on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

What's an *Ichigo Ichi E*? It's a cross between a traditional *sanshin* and a guitar. Eisho Higa wanted to have an instrument that could accommodate a wide repertory and something that could be played easily... hence the birth of the *Ichigo Ichi E*. Eisho Higa affirms that anyone can learn to play their hit song, *Koishikute*, within 30 minutes!

The HUCA has received 15 *Ichigo Ichi E* instruments and Sensei Keith is ready to receive 15 students – first come, first served. Call us at HOC 676-5400 and reserve a seat and make arrangements to rent one of the instruments or email Jane at [edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com).



# What's Happening at HOC on Tuesdays?

Something special happens every Tuesday at Hawaii Okinawa Center. You'll find them, a group of volunteers tirelessly working to upkeep our Center, and that's not all..

Knee deep in the koi pond, you'll find Tom Nakamatsu, cleaning and tending the koi pond to ensure its beauty for visitors. Kneeling down until late afternoon in the garden, you'll find Robert Fukuhara, Al Kaneshiro and Roy Higa expertly digging out unwelcome weeds. If you ever came early in the morning, in the HOC parking lot, you'll find several men, Yuki Oshiro, Yasu Tamashiro, James Shiroma, Billy Teruya, Al and Robert sweeping the lot for fallen leaves and trash. When our trees need a little trimming, you find Steve Gima and the rest of the gardeners carefully trimming them into shape. The beautiful orchids throughout the Gallery are generously provided and tended to by Yasu. Throughout the gardens and building, you'll see Kay Teruya, wearing a kerchief to cover her hair, watering and trimming plants. Leading this group of dedicated volunteers is Minoru Teruya, you can find him looking over the grounds, encouraging volunteers to do their best and steering the care of the grounds in accordance with the original plans by Mr. Takakura of Okinawa. In addition to their usual duties, the volunteers together as a team fix things here and there at the Center, and more.

What has recently happened on Tuesdays is something new and unique. It has truly turned into a positive celebration of fellowship. No longer do volunteers on Tuesdays hastily chow down on fast food plate lunches, but now enjoy a home cooked meal, courtesy of "executive chef" George Zakahi and "assistant chef" Robert Araki. George plans Tuesday's lunch and coordinates with fellow volunteers on what is being served. Robert readily assists George (Robert is also our resident koi caretaker, he drops by everyday to feed our koi.). You'll find the two in Serikaku Chaya chopping vegetables and cooking lunch. Also assisting George and Robert, you'll find Jane Okamura and Joan Gushiken tidying up and readying for the next week. What started as a way to save on the cost of lunch turned into smorgasborg with many volunteers bringing in



their special dishes to share. One week there were over seven dishes to try!

Our current crew of volunteers have been with the Center for many years and would sincerely appreciate new volunteers. So, if you've recently retired and want to find a great outlet to volunteer, join us at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. You don't necessarily have to come on a Tuesday or Friday, but we sure would appreciate your help in areas like gardening, parking lot sweeping, and general maintenance. Give us a call at 676-5400 to volunteer.

# Bridging from Generation to Generation

# Ikuyu Madin

A Capital Campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

## 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.

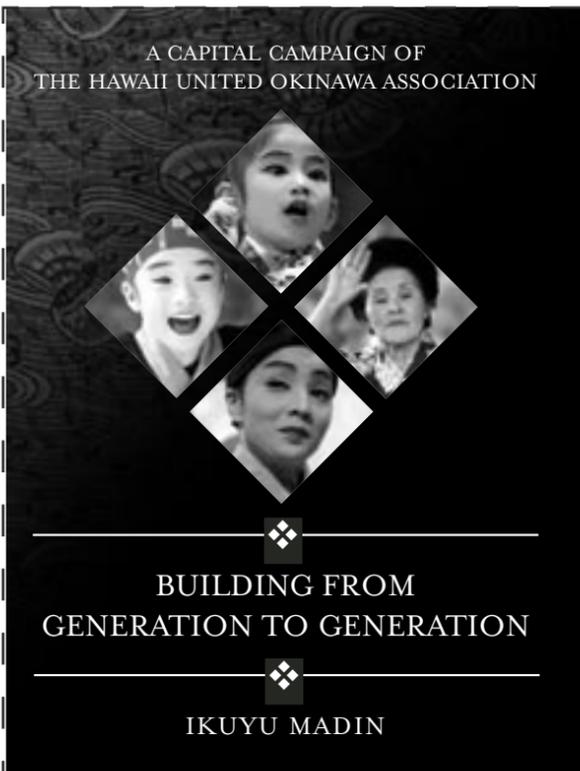
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2008 TO 2009—ANNUAL DRIVE

# Preserving Our Legacy



On November 1, 2008, the HUOA launched its 9th Annual "Preserving our Legacy" Campaign. Over 793 friends and members answered our call in 2008 to help us preserve, perpetuate and promote the Okinawan culture in Hawaii. President Jon Itomura said it best with his theme "Shinai Gukuru - Hearts in Harmony." We as Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart are strong only when we work together, with one common goal and a unified commitment.

To you, thank you very much. Together we raised \$94,890. Your tax-deductible donation in support of this drive will allow us to continue to educate and share our Uchinanchu culture.

*Mahalo to the following individuals and organizations that have generously contributed towards the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and its Center. The following donations were received from Dec. 1, 2008 to Jan. 15, 2009.*

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Continued on page 10

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2008 TO 2009—ANNUAL DRIVE

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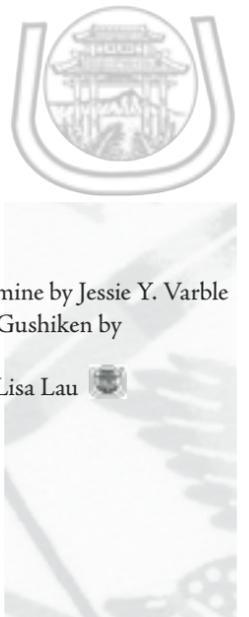
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# 8-8-08

"a special time to donate"

August 8, 2008, is a date filled with prosperity and promise. It is an auspicious once in a century event that the number "8" will appear in the month, day and year, 8-8-08. Like the number "8," that has no beginning or end, 8-8-08, is a number that symbolizes good fortune and longevity.

In August 2008, our members were asked to join in the good fortune by donating \$88.88 to Ikuyu Madin, HUOA's capital campaign and, for added luck, date their check August 8, 2008. To date, over 600 donors representing every HUOA member club have shared in our good fortune by contributing to our 8-8-08 campaign. From \$8.88 to \$2,000, members have raised over \$60,000.

You might question whether "8's," "mystic knots," and "numerology" are lucky or just coincidence. As a donor you will know. What is certain is that we will be able to perpetuate our Okinawan culture for future generations. I do know, the State of Hawaii in September released our \$1,600,000.00 appropriated 2006 grant. I do know, we are blessed with committed and generous members.

*Donations received from Dec. 1, 2008 – Jan. 15, 2009*

*Mahalo to the following individuals for participating in our "8-8-08" campaign.  
 Wishing great prosperity and promise, as symbolized by the 8-8-8 mystic knot.*

Tatsuo Ikehara  
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# Unlocking the History of the Shisa and Shishi-mai

By Jon Itomura

Many local Okinawans here in Hawaii are familiar with the statue pairs of lion dogs or “Shisa” figures that are usually placed in front of homes and atop roofs in much the same way found in Okinawa. Then, during the months of summer, there is great anticipation for the return of the large Okinawan “Shishi-mai” or live version of the lion-dog prancing and prowling around the yagura at community bon dances. While many of us see shisa pairs and the shishimai, how many are familiar with the origin of both?

There are so many stories, fables and legends about the Shisa and shishimai performance throughout Okinawa. The stories and legends about the origin of the



shisa and the shishimai vary from villages and towns. I am no expert about either but I can share what I have learned and observed about the Shisa and Shishimai over the last 10 years.

In China, the lion figure is known as a guardian dog or a Chinese lion. It appears that this character of the lion was established in ancient Middle East and India and thus, the roots of the Chinese lion, the guardian dog and the shisa are possibly one and the same. It appears that statues and performance traditions that traveled directly from China to Japan became the Chinese lion; those reaching Korea became the guardian dog; and those traveling to Okinawa from China became known as the shisa.

The Chinese lion was introduced to Japan during China’s Tang dynasty when the official envoy to the Tang as well as priests studying abroad visited China quite frequently. The lion figure was used as a guardian for the Chinese imperial court and during that same period a lion mask, considered to be a treasure, was stored at Shosoin. Although the concept of the lion-dog was introduced directly from China, the forebearers of today’s Okinawans did not engage in mere imitation, but rather created an original culture appropriate to the climate and lifestyle of Okinawa. This is clearly reflected in a sculpture featuring a pair of stone lion-dogs at Tamaudun (Ryukyu Royal Mausoleum in Shuri): The lion-dog with a gentle expression is peculiar to Okinawa.

The term “village shisa” usually refers to a stone shisa placed at the entrance to a community for the purpose of protecting villagers from evil spirits or fire-related incidents. Pairs of guardian dogs or *Shisa* were originally placed at the entrances to castles and temples and at the tombs of nobles, and then later at the approaches to towns and villages. Apparently, *shisa* started to appear on roofs during the Meiji Era. Another interesting note is that the guardian dog pairs were known to be separately identified as “*shisa* and guardian dogs.” The figure on the right-hand side of a shrine with its mouth open was the male or “*shisa*” and the other one on the left with its mouth closed was female or the “guardian” dog. In China, *Shishi* are also often created in pairs, with the male playing with a ball and the female with a cub.

The well-known stone *shisa* at Tomimori in Kochinda Town is supposedly the oldest and largest village shisa in Okinawa. It was constructed as a *higeshi* (protection against fire), facing a rock called shirawaree and located on the slopes of Mt. Yaese, which people feared as a *bizan*, or mountain of fire. Based upon a belief in feng shue, the people of Tomimori constructed the *shisa* in 1689 to curb the frequent occurrences of fires. At the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio, the two *shisa* guarding the Teruya Pavilion were made from clay consisting of soil from Hawaii and Okinawa. Also, there is a time capsule located under the female *shisa* to be opened possibly in 2040, fifty years after the completion of the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

In mainland Japan and Okinawa, lion-dog dances or “*Shishi-mai*” are widely performed at harvest festivals and rituals to dispel evil spirits. At these festivals or celebrations, it is believed that the *shishi* bring fertility and prosperity to the community and was often presented as the first program on stage to purify the site where the festival is held.

*Shishimai* performances and rituals vary widely from village to village and island to island. Many have maintained and preserved traditional performances for hundreds of years. Contrary to the Japanese shishimai which resembles a Chinese lion with a cloth serving as the body of the lion dog, the Okinawan shishi consists of two performers inside of the shishi costume with one handling the head of the Shishi while the other person manipulates the tail. In many traditions, a third participant also rouses and teases the lion-dog. Traditional shishimai is accompanied by music using instruments such as gongs, drums, flutes and conch horns.

The Japanese and Okinawan Shishi do not normally receive money like its Chinese counterparts but local people usually carry over this tradition to any lion that they encounter with hopes of inviting good fortune.

Each village or town in Okinawa has their own unique Shishimai traditions. Chatan’s shishi is teased by a monkey from a tree. Ginoza’s shishi follows a trainer and does not open its mouth at any time during the performance and incorporates a backward and forward roll in a rigorous routine that has been preserved for over 85 years and traditionally does not perform outside of its town.

During the 2008 HUOA Study Tour, representatives from Matsuda village in Ginoza, Okinawa gave their permission to the Young Okinawans of Hawaii (“YOH”) to teach and practice their traditional shishimai routine here in Hawaii.

YOH has provided traditional and contemporary performances at various events with one or two shishis throughout the past 20 years. Their red-headed shishi was constructed by Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, Okinawa students and donated to YOH by Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, Hawaii in 2003. The other shishi is one of a pair of identical twin shishis, constructed by and loaned to YOH by members of the Akamine family from the

local Haeburu Club. It’s twin was gifted to Haeburu, Okinawa in 1950 and is still used for performances in Okinawa. Several other cultural performance clubs and Okinawan provincial clubs have their own shishi including Hui Okinawa, Kin, Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, and Hawaii Eisa Shinyu Kai.

The cost of purchasing a shishi from Okinawa could range from \$5,000 - \$15,000. The head of the shishi is usually made from relatively light wood by using deigo trees or more recently with foam and fiberglass. The traditional *shishi* body uses fiber-woven cords and *basho* (banana family) and choma (ramie) fibers dyed in light-brown plant dyes for the fur which covers the body while contemporary shishi uses all various sorts and colors of hemp, nylon and yarn to fill in as fur for the body of the shishi.

Okinawa is the annual host of the Nationwide Shishi-mai Festival. The 23rd Annual Festival was held in October 2008. This festival seeks to keep the legends and traditions alive, drawing Shi Shi troupes from across the prefecture and mainland Japan.

Though the stories of its origins and the interpretations of the shishimai vary, the underlying purpose of the *Shisa* and the *Shishimai* is to serve as a talisman for good luck, protection and happiness.





# CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our future*

## Tamagusuku Club News

By Nobu and June Takeno

Tamagusuku Club is extremely proud of member Ford A. Chinen and congratulates him upon being installed as HUOA president at the 59th HUOA Installation Banquet on January 17, 2009. Ford is the fourth member of our club to serve as president. In 1951, Dr. Henry S. Gima served as the first HUOA president. He was followed by Dr. David Arakaki in 1980 and Gladys Tokunaga-Asao in 2002.

Ford is the son of the late Takaaki and Hatsuyo Chinen and traces his roots to Ou Shima (formerly Okutake Island), located off the southern coast of Tamagusuku Village, Okinawa. His family includes wife Daneil and sons Jon and Scot.

Ford chose “makoto” (makutu in Okinawan dialect), which means sincerity and faithfulness. His administration’s theme is, “Makutu – Sincerity and Faithfulness – In this spirit do the right thing.”

We also congratulate Joyce Chinen, who serves as our club secretary, who was recognized as Tamagusuku Club’s “Uchinanchu of the Year, 2008,” at the Installation Banquet.

The Tamagusuku Club and Installation Banquet Steering Committee would like to thank all those who graciously volunteered to make the event a success. Over 800 attendees were present, including distinguished guest, Gov. Linda Lingle.

Guests were entertained by over 70 performers. Special thanks to HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku and her staff; members from Ginowan Shijin Kai, Janyce Miyashiro and Christine Higa; and Joan Gushiken of Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai who served on the committee. To all the club presidents and supporters who promoted and purchased tickets to this annual event, the media, special HUOA guests, and all entertainers, our heartfelt thanks – “Ippee niffee deebiru.”

The Mayor of Nanjo City, Mr. Keishun Koja, also addressed the strengthening of ties and bringing awareness to Okinawa history and culture. Developing people-to-people and heart-to-heart relationships with Hawaii’s Uchinanchu was reflected in his congratulatory message.

We were honored to have in attendance from Nanjo City, Okinawa, Mr. Susumu



At the banquet of Ford Chinen celebrates with Susumu Higa and Tsunenao Kamiya, who traveled from Okinawa to attend his installation. Photo by Reid Shimabukuro

Higa and Mr. Tsunenao Kamiya. Both traveled all the way from Nanjo City, because they were so proud of Ford, whose ancestral roots are in Nanjo City. For several years, they served as chaperones for the students from Tamagusuku Village and Nanjo City who participated in the International Student Exchange programs.

Following the banquet, a fun-filled potluck gathering was held at Hatsuko and Daniel Morales’ home. Members from Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai, Osato Doshi Kai, and Tamagusuku Club enjoyed the evening, which included speeches and toasts from the three club presidents, HUOA presidents past and present, and our Okinawan guests. This truly embraced the theme of “Makutu” and Mayor Koja’s vision. The joyful glow on Mitsumori Ashitomi’s face was immeasurable! Thank you, Hatsuko and Daniel for being such gracious hosts.

Reminder: Tamagusuku’s Shinnen Enkai party will be held at Masa’s Cafeteria on Sunday, March 1. Cocktails start at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. Please come!

## Okage Sama De DVD

By Shari Y. Tamashiro

Stories are important. They have the capacity to reflect, unite and mobilize a community. They can inspire and they can teach. *Okage Sama De* tells five historical stories of astounding courage and integrity. Performed by award-winning storyteller Alton Chung, the stories share the experiences of Nisei during WWII.

These historically accurate stories bridge the past to the present and bring to life incredible heroes to inspire and guide a new generation. These are the stories we need to pass down to our children and grandchildren.

*My Friend Ted* tells the tale of Ted Tanouye, a Nisei whose father was arrested by the FBI and his family sent to an incarceration camp because they were of Japanese ancestry. Despite this, Ted volunteers to join the legendary 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team. He receives a Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions in Italy, which is later upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

*Heroes* is a fictional story of two local brothers who volunteer for the 100th/442nd RCT, following their journey from raw recruits to combat veterans. For its size and duration of service, the 100th/442nd RCT became the most highly decorated unit in U.S. military history, ultimately earning 9,486 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor and an unprecedented eight Presidential Unit Citations. Watch a clip of *Heroes*: [http://blog.oregonlive.com/multimedia/2008/02/what\\_you\\_really\\_dont\\_know\\_the.html](http://blog.oregonlive.com/multimedia/2008/02/what_you_really_dont_know_the.html)

*Voices* tells the story of Takejiro Higa, a Nisei born in Hawaii and raised in Okinawa. Takejiro returns to Hawaii just before the U.S. enters WWII. He joins the Military Intelligence Service and must help plan the invasion of the island where he grew up. He undertakes the dangerous task of cave-flushing, coaxing Japanese soldiers and Okinawan civilians out of deep tunnels. Through it all, he never loses his deep compassion for the land and people of his childhood.

*A Single Flame* is the story of Chiune Sugihara, often called the “Schindler of Japan,” who goes against the orders of his government and follows his heart, saving thousands of Jews from certain death by writing 2,000 transit visas to allow the refugees to escape from the Nazis.

*A Twice Saved Life* is the tale of Solly Ganor, a young Jewish Lithuanian boy who survives Dachau and is saved by the 522nd Field Artillery of the 442nd RCT.

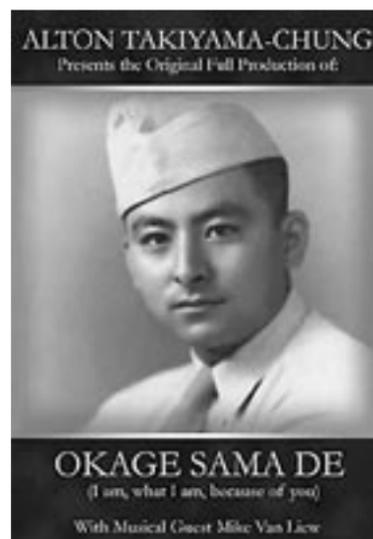
*Okage Sama De* is now on sale for \$20 (regular price is \$25) at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. It will also be available at the Okinawan Festival. For each DVD sold, \$5 will be donated to the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project.

*Nuchi du Takara* (“Life is the Treasure”)

Alton Chung and Shari Y. Tamashiro are currently working on *Nuchi du Takara*, a benefit storytelling performance in support of the HUOA to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009. This show will focus exclusively on Okinawan tales.

About Alton Chung

Alton Chung is an internationally known, award-winning storyteller. He grew up with the stories, superstitions and magic of the Hawaiian Islands. This combined with his Japanese and Korean roots, gives him a unique perspective to tell cultural tales and personal stories with a deep sense of reverence and authenticity. Not only does he breathe life into traditional Asian folktales with sensitivity and deep connection, but he can also touch into the fire of ancient Hawaiian legends and tell them with passion and respect. Alton also enjoys telling true stories of the Japanese Americans during WWII, but his true passion is telling ghost stories.



## Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai News



Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai president Howard Asato congratulates (L-R): 85-year-old Bill Tshako and 89-year-olds, Hiroshi and Kikue Higa.



Agnes Kameko Higa, 93, held the distinction of being the eldest attendee at the Nakagusuku Shinnen enkai.

This is Your Newsletter

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org) Mahalo!



# SPORTS CORNER

## HUOA 2008 Sports Awards



### *Recognized at HUOA's Installation Banquet*

*Urasoe Vice President, Larry Nishihara* – HUOA Mixed Volleyball League Champ

*Itoman Shijin Kai President & Team Captain, Kevin Uyehara* – HUOA Mixed Slowpitch Softball League Champ

*Hawaii Katsuren Chojin Kai's Team Go-Tama! Captain, Aggie Tamashiro* – HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League Champ

*Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai President, Howard Asato* – Inamine Cup for greatest club participation at the HUOA Golf Tournament

Urasoe member Russ Awakuni accepted the HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament trophy for Champ Layne Morita

## HUOA Reaches Out to Homeless Shelter in Waianae

The active and energetic members of the HUOA's Club Development and Sustainment Committee are looking forward to Saturday, May 2, when they venture to Waianae Civic Center to engage in a cultural exchange and picnic games – as well as provide lunch for members of Pai'olu Kai'aulu.

Led by Roy Kaneshiro, the Club Development and Sustainment Committee has previously shared the joys of a typical Okinawan picnic with residents of the Weinberg Village in Waimanalo, a transitional housing program, and with residents of Ohana Ola O Kahumana in Waianae. Adults and children were delighted to see our traditional Shii saa by Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta, participate in Bon dancing with Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai, taste ono shaved ice, witness the cooking of the ever-popular andagi, enjoy lunch, and have fun in a variety of games with lots of prizes.

We invite all of you to join us on May 2 for another "Sharing of our Uchinanchu Aloha" event and to make it a memorable day for many who are struggling in these harsh economic times. If you can give up your Saturday to join us, or join our planning committee, call Jane at 676-5400 or email: [edhuoa@hawaii.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.com)

Since the residents at this emergency shelter have no cooking facilities, we are seeking donations of more personal items, such as: shampoo, conditioner, soap, towels, toiletries, tissue, disposable razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, powdered laundry detergent, etc. Snacks such as small boxes of raisins, small packages of chips and fruits would be ideal. Used clean clothing for infants and children will surely be welcomed.



*Spirited participants enjoyed the Kahumana Community Service Project held in 2007.*

## 4th Annual Taste of Marukai



Celebrate the best of Japanese heritage in Hawaii with delicious traditional and contemporary preparations of Japanese cuisine and exciting entertainment.

Sample a wide selection of sake, shochu and awamori.

Win great prizes and enjoy one night special discounted prices!

Marukai's annual fundraising event benefits Hawaii United Okinawa Association as well as the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce.

### **Event Information:**

April 9, 2009

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Marukai Wholesale Mart

Dillingham location

Presale Event Tickets: \$85,

After March 27: \$95

### **Presale Event Tickets Available at HUOA Office - [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org)**

Contact us at 676-5400 or [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org) to purchase. You will be receiving the equivalent of \$85 of food and beverage sampling at this event.

### **Make Donation For Prize Tickets**

A donation of \$10 per ticket (or 10 tickets for \$80) is suggested for the prize drawing - for a chance at winning the Grand Prize: a Marukai Tour to Japan!

Prize tickets only available for purchase online or at the door. Proceeds will benefit the four Japanese cultural and business organizations.

### **FREE Trolley Shuttle will be available.**

Schedule and route will be posted at a later date at [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org).

# UH Manoa's New Center for Okinawan Studies

By Leon A. Serafim, COS Director



For a long time, UH Manoa has nurtured both professors and students in their pursuit of this or that specialty in Okinawan or Ryukyuan studies, and in hindsight it makes sense, since the local Okinawan community is both large and active in all city

and state affairs. Not surprisingly, ideas concerning the establishment of a Center for Okinawan Studies (COS) brewed slowly over the years, but there was a quickening in the early part of this decade, what with the strong support for such a center from the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS), and with the final editing and publication of the late Prof Mitsugu Sakihara's Okinawan-English Wordbook.

In addition the local Okinawan community showed itself to be very active and receptive, and there were hopes that the Legislature would provide money for the start of a center, and key advisors involved themselves in the planning. The decisive time was leading up to and during the Uchinanchu Sekai Taikai of 2006. We managed to get strong support from the Legislature, and CJS wrote a three-year grant proposal to the Japan Foundation, which they accepted last spring. We finally had everything ready for a launch

on July 1, 2008. I was named the first director. Ms Lynette Teruya became the center's coordinator. She and I hired a half-time graduate assistant, Rinda Yamashiro. And off we went. We intend in the near future to hire an office staffer as well.

Currently the Center is overseen by an ad-hoc Steering Committee comprised of Profs. Joyce Chinen [Sociology, UHWO], Robert Huey [Director, CJS, & Prof of Japanese Literature], Mari Yoshihara [American Studies, Director of the certificate program in Cultural Studies], Dr Gay Satsuma [Associate Director, CJS], and myself [Director, COS, & Assoc Prof of Japanese], but we are now on the verge of holding an election to choose the first members of the replacement of the Steering Committee, namely the Executive Committee. In addition we are very lucky to have three advisors, prominent members of the local Okinawan Community: Messrs Edward Kuba, Robert Nakasone, and Lloyd Arakaki. They are also involved in fundraising, a very important activity to ensure the long-term health of the center. The center has started receiving donations from the local community, and we are thankful both to the members of our committees and to local citizens for their support of the COS.

The COS is one of a number of centers in the School for Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS). Like the other centers, COS is an academic center – research and teaching – but part of our reason for being is also to be of service, both to the academic community and to the general community that the center finds itself in.

**“COS is an academic center – research and teaching – but part of our reason for being is also to be of service, both to the academic community and to the general community that the center finds itself in.”**

I tend to view our reason for being as similar to a tick-tack-toe square. On the one hand, it is committed to (a) research, (b) teaching, and (c) service/community outreach. On the other hand, its areas of interest are (1) Ryukyu in prehistory and history, including history of trade with surrounding countries; (2) Contemporary Ryukyu/Okinawa; and (3) the Okinawan diaspora, including not only Hawaii, but elsewhere, e.g., the US West Coast and South America.

Despite the brief span of our existence, we have managed to rack up a few accomplishments, but most of our goals are still in the planning stage. Let me take note of some of both types here:

- We participated with the Japan Collection of Hamilton Library in brokering an agreement with local lawyer Charles Goodin, head of the Hawai'i Karate Museum, to transfer about 700 books and other documents dealing with Okinawan karate to the Library, thereby commemorating the formation of the Center for Okinawan Studies;

- I, as director of the center, journeyed with a Hawai'i group to São Paulo and Buenos Aires in the late summer, to observe the 100th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Brazil and Argentina, respectively;

- Another group journeyed in October to Okinawa with UH President McClain; we met with Governor Nakaima of Okinawa Prefecture, with many representatives of the University of the Ryukyus, with staff of the Prefectural Museum, where President McClain accepted the return of a 350-year-old scroll that they had restored, and which is part of the UH Manoa library's Hawley Collection (Hui o Laulima was very generous in supporting the costs of restoration);

*Continued on Page 15*

## Center for Okinawan Studies Conference 2009

**“From *Aza* through *Sanzan*, *Loochoo*, and *Ryukyu*, to Okinawa, to Uchinanchu Diaspora—  
Where is Okinawan Studies Headed?”**



This inaugural event of COS will bring together Okinawan Studies experts from UH, mainland, Okinawa and Japan. The symposium, co-chaired by Professors Leon Serafim and Joyce Chinen, will cover the topic of Okinawan Studies and the potential of further developing it into a viable field of study.

**WHEN:** March 19th - March 21st, 2009  
**WHERE:** Hawaii Imin International Conference Center, East West Center (1777 East West Rd)

**CONTACT:** [cos@hawaii.edu](mailto:cos@hawaii.edu)

**REGISTRATION FEE:** FREE, if registered by March 15th.  
**On-site registration \$5 (Cash only)**  
**REGISTRATION FORM** available @ [www.hawaii.edu/cjs](http://www.hawaii.edu/cjs)

### TOPICS:

- Okinawa Studies in Okinawa, Japan, North America and Europe
- Diasporic Identities
- Traditional Ryukyu
- Performing Arts
- Models of Collaboration
- Language Revitalization
- Literature
- Contemporary Issue (Economy and Politics)
- Contemporary Issue (Military Issues)
- Textiles
- Dictionary Production

**\*\*March 21st (Sat) : SPECIAL Performing Arts Exhibition by Hawaii's Okinawan Performing Artists\*\***

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Continued from Page 14

## Center for Okinawan Studies cont.

· We are in the process of reprinting the book Uchinanchu, with the help of people from Ethnic Studies, and the cooperation of the University of Hawai'i Press;

· We are looking forward to a research-and-publication project to produce a successor volume to Uchinanchu, focusing on the second generation;

· We are about to start on two translation projects: one will produce an English translation of a short book on Okinawan history and culture, which we intend for use in the third-year-level course in Okinawan studies at Manoa;

· Planning for the aforementioned course will commence in late spring;

· Also later in the spring, we plan to start a translation of a four-volume book on Ryukyuan history, to be used in Manoa's Okinawan History course; acting as advisor and broker in negotiations with copyright holders will be Prof. Mamoru Akamine, who will be visiting here from the University of the Ryukyus, and in addition conducting his own research.

· Right now we are very busy preparing a conference sponsored by COS, which seeks to provide a broad overview of Okinawan Studies, not only up to now, but looking towards possible research in the future; this will aid us in our own medium- and long-term planning; that conference will take place on March 19th through 21st;

· We are currently in the process of creating the COS website; one of the things that we will put on the website as soon as we can is English-language material on the Okinawan language;

· Some of this material will be produced by Prof. Kyoko Hijirida and her collaborator Prof. Tomoko Oshiro of Okinawan International University, who will be a visiting professor during the next Japanese school year.

Well, I hope that this overview has introduced readers to some of the activities of the Center for Okinawan Studies. I look forward to working together with many of you in the future!

About the Author: Dr. Leon Serafim earned his undergraduate degree in Japanese language and literature from UC Berkeley in 1968. After graduating, he taught English in Okayama, Japan. In 1971, he began studying for an M.A. at UH Manoa and studied Okinawan. He attended the University of the Ryukyus in 1975 on a Japanese Ministry of Education scholarship, involving a stay of around 18 months. That experience "changed my life," Serafim notes, both academically as well as socially. "I was hooked." After Okinawa, he attended Yale University and received his PhD in Japanese Linguistics in 1984. In 1989, Serafim returned to Hawaii, which he considers to be "the most natural place to be when focusing on research in the Ryukyuan languages, and on their connection to Japanese." 📷

## Gushikawa Commercial High School

The HUOA will again welcome 37 students and several accompanying adults from Gushikawa Commercial High School (GCHS) on Friday, March 6th. The curriculum of GCHS is focused on commerce and business, including the tourism industry. As part of their program, a trip is planned to visit Hawaii to study the Okinawan community, the University of Hawaii, and attend classes of their peers, amongst various other activities.

An introduction to Okinawan immigration history and a tour of the Hawaii Okinawa Center will be presented to the group on the 6th. We are waiting for a name and shushin list from their local travel agent to know who will be visiting us. Please call the Hawaii Okinawa Center for information at 676-5400. 📷

## Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program

Twenty-five high school students will be arriving from Okinawa on Saturday, March 7, for a two-week experience with local host families and attending school with their host student.

High school students (grades 10 to 12) from Hawaii have the opportunity to participate in the second phase of this Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program, from June 13-27, 2009. Students will need to pay for their round-trip plane fare to Okinawa. All other expenses will be incurred by the Okinawa Prefectural Government's Board of Education Division and the host families, with the exception of personal expenses. For more information, please check our website: [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org). The registration deadline for phase two of the Hawaii-Okinawa Exchange Program will be mid-March. 📷

## 2009 HUOA Study Tour-October 2-13

The 2009 HUOA Study Tour to Okinawa will take place from October 2-13, 2009. As in the past, travelers will visit historic sites, experience Okinawan culture, participate in the Naha Matsuri including its Great *Tsunahiki* (tug-of war) event, and much more. The HUOA is presently working with Nadine Shimabukuro from N&K Travel to develop details of the itinerary. The HUOA Study Tour to Okinawa is open to anyone who is able and interested in traveling to Okinawa. Tour information and registration forms will be posted on the HUOA website after March 6. 📷

## Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

January

kukuru-iri, n. Kindness; goodness; goodwill; a favor.

February

ushi, n. [ushi] 1 Cattle; a cow; a bull; an ox. 2 The Ox as the second of the twelve calendrical animal signs.

(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.

## Radio KZOO Moves to New Home

Beginning February 1, Radio KZOO has relocated its office and studio to a new home at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. KZOO's office and studio will utilize the NGN studio in Room 301 until construction of KZOO's own facilities is complete on the second floor (Room 203) in about two months.

For those dropping off programs, MDs, CDs, etc., please visit KZOO's temporary office/studio on the third floor. Radio KZOO's new address and phone numbers are:

2454 South Beretania Street #203  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: 808-947-KZOO (5966)

Fax: 808-946-KZOO (5966)

Studio: 808-941-KZOO (5966)

E-mail: [radio@am1210kzoo.com](mailto:radio@am1210kzoo.com)



## A Call for More 'Memories...'

My "Memories of New Year's at Maliko Gulch," published in the New Year's Uchinanchu newsletter, seems to have stirred a lot of memories and good feelings of the good 'ole days for many people who called, sent notes, and emailed me about their own kid time experiences. I would like to invite you to share your special memories with all of us. Send your story (and photos if you have them) to: HUOA NEWSLETTER at 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, HI 96797 or email Jane at: [edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com) 📷



## 2009 HUOA LEADERSHIP STUDY TOUR September 30 – October 12

Attention Young Adults, ages 25-45: here is an opportunity to immerse yourself in Okinawa's history, culture and way of life. If you are interested in becoming a member of the HUOA's Leadership Group that will be touring Okinawa from September 30 to October 12, 2009, make contact with your club president. You must be sponsored by your club in order to participate in this program. Check out the HUOA website, [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) for detailed information and registration forms.

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Mark Your Calendar!

# HOT

## "HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

### March 2009

- 3 Executive Council mtg, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 5 Communications & Information Committee. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 7 Student Exchange-welcome/orientation, Legacy I/II, 9am - 1pm
- 15 Honolulu Festival Parade, Kalakaua Avenue, assemble at 3:30 pm  
Parade begins at 4:30 pm
- 17 Board of Directors meeting, Legacy I, 7pm
- 19 Administration Committee. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 20 Student Exchange Aloha Party, Legacy I/II, 6:30 pm
- 21 Student Exchange-departure, Legacy I/II, morning

### April 2009

- 5 Communications & Information Committee. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 7 Executive Council meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 16 Administration Committee. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 25 Spring Craft Fair, Legacy I/II, am/pm

### Classes · Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- 2009 Okinawan Festival Com. meeting: every second Wednesday, 7pm
- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\*
- Ichi-go-ichi-e: every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7- 8:30pm\* "NEW"
- Ikebana: every third Wednesday, 7pm\*
- Karaoke nite: last Tuesday, 6:30pm\*
- Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7pm, contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\*
- 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 2/15/09)

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.

- Feb 23 Show No. Two of the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission First Annual Talent Show held at Jikoen Temple on July 10, 2005
- Mar 2 HUOA 2005 Legacy Awards Luncheon - Show #1 features honorees Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone and Wallace Takeshi Teruya. The event was held on August 21, 2005, at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel.
- Mar 9 Show No. 4 of Unji Kumiti "From The Heart" by Nidaime Teishin Kai, Hawaii Shibu. A tribute to the late Kiyoshi Kinjo held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 3, 2007. (Premiere)
- Mar 16 HUOA 2005 Legacy Awards Luncheon - Show #2 features honorees Zempan and Tsuru Arakawa Family, Charles and Francis Higa, and Yoshino Majikina Nakasone. The event was held on August 21, 2005, at the Waikiki Sheraton Hotel.
- Mar 23 Miruku Yugafu - Show #1, by the Okinawan Traditional Performing Arts Troupe at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 9, 2000.
- Mar 30 Part One of Chimugukuru Gei No Michi - "The Soul of Okinawan Dance", performed by Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai-Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyusho at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on December 1, 2007. (Premiere)
- Apr 6 2000 New Year Show
- Apr 13 Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 59th Installation Banquet held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 17, 2009. (Premiere)
- Apr 20 Miruku Yugafu - Show #2, by the Okinawan Traditional Performing Arts Troupe at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on January 9, 2000.
- Apr 27 Part Two of Chimugukuru Gei No Michi - "The Soul of Okinawan Dance", performed by Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai-Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyusho at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on December 1, 2007. (Premiere)

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