



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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HUOA Reaches Out to Pai'olu Kaiaulu Residents in Waianae

By Courtney Takara, Chair

The Club Development and Sustainment Committee hosted a community outreach picnic on May 2, 2009, at Pai'olu Kaiaulu Transitional Homeless Shelter (Waianae Civic Center). The purpose of the event was to reach out to the community and share some of our Okinawan culture with the residents. It also gave our younger HUOA members an opportunity to get involved and learn how to plan and execute a picnic, in hopes that they will go back to their clubs to help with their summer picnic. This was the third time the committee has hosted an event



Parents and kids gather to play games



First experience on stilts

welcomed over 150 residents that came out to participate along with about 30 HUOA volunteers. Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta thrilled the crowd with their *Shishi mai* dance. Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai also put on a spectacular performance and taught the residents how to do Bon Dance. It was heartwarming to see the smiles on the residents' faces as they marched around in a large circle dancing. After the entertainment, our "Gamemaster" Chris Gushiken rounded up the kids to play a few games. Prizes (such as school supplies, Happy Meal toys and snacks) were handed out after each game to every child.



Water games on a very hot day in Waianae

Because there is no Zippy's in Waianae, we thought it would be a nice treat to serve Zippy's chili, rice, hot dogs, tossed salad and macaroni salad for lunch. Throughout the day we also served andagi and shave ice, which was a perfect way to cool down. After lunch, we gathered the kids for a few more games and, to our surprise, the parents were just as eager to play! It was a very sunny day, perfect for a few water games like water balloon toss and holey cup, which ended in a massive water fight. At the end of the day, we passed out goodie bags to all the kids, and each single individual/family received bags full of toiletry items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, etc. We were



HUOA's youngest volunteer: 7-year-old Trevor Komeiji



Visit from friendly Shishi mai

also able to share bags of fresh fruit, which were donated by Ala Moana Produce, Armstrong Produce, D. Otani Produce and Ham Produce. HPC Foods and Minato's Hawaii donated tossed greens and salad dressing respectively. We appreciate the support of our business and community friends. Mahalo also to our HUOA members who made very generous monetary donations to assist in this project.

Rita Martin also addressed all of our volunteers, thanking them for their hard work and generosity. She was overwhelmed with emotion because of the kindness HUOA had extended to the residents at the shelter. She explained that the residents usually associate their stay at the shelter as a negative time in their lives; but what we did created a positive memory of that place, something they will cherish forever! I want to thank the committee for all their planning efforts, all those who donated, as well as the many volunteers that made this event possible. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*



Bon Dance circle

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President's Message By Ford Chinen

Makutu: Sincerity and Faithfulness

It has been a very busy past few months, with many events that underscore the essence of the HUAO. We are an organization of volunteers dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the Uchinanchu spirit.

The Spring Craft Fair, our service project at the Waianae Civic Center's Emergency homeless shelter, the hosting of the play, "Okinawa 1945," by the Castle Performing Arts Center, the Trash and Treasure Bazaar, and the 39th Goodwill Golf Tournament all had different objectives and goals, but each was successful because of two things. Each of these events was well-planned and each event was supported by an army of volunteers. Our congratulations and thanks to all who made these events a great success.

Let's not forget that these events would probably not succeed without the care and coordination by our paid HUAO staff. I think we don't always recognize enough how Executive Director Jane Serikaku and her staff fill in and handle the little (and sometimes really big) details that need to be done to ensure the success of our projects. So, when you see them, pass on a big mahalo and nifee deebiru to Jane, Laura, Karen, Bonnie, Betty and Kaaren for their attention to our projects' details.

As we look forward, we're approaching the Senior Fair on July 10 and of course the "mother of all events" for us, the Okinawan Festival. For the Festival, our concern is to secure more volunteers for the construction of the Festival facilities. We need trades (carpenters, plumbers and electricians) journeymen and helpers to assist and/or take over for volunteers who have faithfully labored for the HUAO for years and years. If you can help by volunteering for a day or even for a few hours during the build out of the Festival, please contact us at 676-5400 or via email at huoa@huoa.org.

We Need You...



**Doctors and Nurses
with Uchinanchu Spirit**

to help with Blood Pressure Screening and First Aid at the Okinawan Festival. Your assistance is NEEDED. If you can volunteer please contact Eleanor Miyasaki at 455-9882.



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*. HUAO sends a sincere *ippee nifee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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HUAO Newsletter Fund, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

27th OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

KAPIOLANI PARK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Bon Dance 5:30 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

www.okinawanfestival.com

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

HUAO President Ford Chinen
 Executive Director Jane F. Serikaku
 Editorial/Production Services MBFT Media

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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Okinawan Festival – What is it?

By Paul Komeiji, Festival Chair

What is the Okinawan Festival to you? Is it the smell of andagi cooking, the sounds of Taiko drums beating, the sight of beautiful Okinawan dancing, the taste of that once a year delicacy – Andadog – or the feeling of eating shaved ice on a hot Labor Day weekend?



I think that all who have attended an Okinawan Festival (or just “the Festival” as it is affectionately known within HUAO community) would agree that they have lasting impressions of the Festival. How is the Festival able to create such special memories? Is it the venue, food, booths or entertainment? Maybe,

however, I think it is because of our special ingredient..... our volunteers – the people who help to Share Uchinanchu Aloha and make the Festival a success.

I’ve been involved with the Festival for a mere eight years – which makes me a relative newbie. Through the years, I’ve seen the incredible effort and dedication that is required to put on the Festival. A huge effort is not only required on the Festival days but also for the infrastructure and logistics of the Festival.

The infrastructure work requires dedicated people to plan, setup and take down



Yamashiroya.

These unsung heroes, however, need your help. They have been doing it for years and would like to pass on their knowledge to others so that the Festival can continue to make memories. We can always count on the “other guy,” however, these infrastructure guys have been the “other guy” for such a long time. In order to keep the Festival running smoothly, the “other guy” may have to be you!

Although the volunteering effort is fantastic, something else occurs that is equally as remarkable – the camaraderie and bonds between people that get built from volunteering at the Festival. The Festival seems to help bring together people and build a stronger community. It almost seems like the more you help, the more fun you have and the stronger the relationships become.

As we want to be able to create memories for generations to come, please help. In fact, before someone asks you to volunteer at the Festival, think about your own memories and say “Eh, let’s go help create some Festival memories.”



Hui Okinawa Club News

By Margaret Torigoe, President

Members and friends of Hui Okinawa have been busy sharing the Okinawan culture with the community at several recent events. Hui Okinawa entered two floats in the Merrie Monarch Parade on April 18. The Kobudo Taiko float added color and rhythm throughout the parade. Our Haari Boat followed, riding on a beautifully decorated trailer promoting the Aug. 21, 2010 date for the next Haari Boat Festival in Hilo. Team Chibariyo members escorted the boat distributing flyers, green tea bags, and candy publicizing the Spring Festival. Merrill Kanna designed the taiko float and Kathy Bello and her brothers were responsible for the boat trailer.

The Spring Festival and the Keiko Kina concert were both successful and the proceeds have our Team Chibariyo on their way to Nago City in mid-July to participate in the Mayor’s Cup Haari Boat Races on August 1. The team has been practicing and getting into shape in order to perform well (if not win) the event. Contact Patti Taira-Tokuuke at ptaira@hawaii.rr.com for information about the Team Chibariyo.

Dorothy Taira was our nominee for the Older American Awards for the Hawaii County, who were recognized at the awards luncheon at Hapuna Prince Hotel on May 8. She was nominated for her and Ward’s dedication to Hui Okinawa in the past years, as she served as president and chaired many committees. Ward helped take a lot of photos when he was able to. Another Hui Okinawa member recognized at the event was John Hanog, a Koreisha member.



John Hanog and Dorothy Taira were honored in May.

Joni Urasaki and Roy Hokama are planning a dinner at Nani Mau Gardens on June 27 to honor members’ children who are graduating from high school or college. Please call Roy at 987-6484 for reservations.

Hui Okinawa will host the Blood Bank of Hawaii Mobile Blood Drive canteen in Hilo on July 21. Members are asked to donate refreshments and to help monitor the canteen – especially younger members and those who haven’t had a chance to contribute to this very worthwhile community service. New blood donors are also needed! Call the Blood Bank of Hawaii to make a blood donation and help save many lives. For more information please call Jill Yamamoto at 969-3773.

For any questions or information about Hui Okinawa events, you may also email Margaret at matori58@msn.com or at 895-0994.

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With Appreciation to Aunty Chiyo

Keiko Miyagi Sensei of the Tamagusuku Ryu Teda no Kai-Miyagi Keiko Ryubu Dojo and her students will present a charity dance concert at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Sunday, August 23, at 2 p.m.

Following her older sisters to dance lessons at the age of 3, Keiko Sensei began her career in the traditional performing arts of Okinawa.

After meriting the *Shinjin* (Newcomer), *Yuushuu* (Distinguished), and *Saiko* (Supreme) Awards in the *Ryukyu Shimpo Newspaper* Company's performing arts competition konkuru in the category of Ryukyuan dance, she received certification and the title of *Kyoshi* (age 32) and *Shihan* (age 39). In 2004, the Okinawa Prefectural Government recognized her with the esteemed distinction as being a carrier of an intangible cultural asset in Okinawan traditional dance.



Under the tutelage of Grand Master Chie Tamagusuku, founder of the

Teda no Kai, Keiko Sensei blossomed as a traditional dancer who now trains her own academy of approximately 47 members – ranging from toddlers to seniors. Keiko Sensei has relatives in Hawaii and one of them was Aunty Chiyo (Taira).

Aunty Chiyo loved to see Keiko Sensei perform in Hawaii with Chie Tamagusuku Sensei. Aunty Chiyo encouraged and proudly applauded Keiko Sensei for her every accomplishment in Okinawa. Many years ago, a promise was made to Aunty Chiyo. It was to do a special performance in Hawaii just for her. Unfortunately, Aunty Chiyo fell ill a couple of years ago and passed away before Keiko Sensei could do the presentation.

However, with every sincerity and faithfulness to fulfill that promise, Keiko Sensei and 12 members of her academy will present a program of traditional and her newly choreographed dances. The refreshing age range of this performance group is 13-22 with a sprinkling of older adults. Their youthful energy will reach out to the audience and into the heavens to communicate their love for the arts through each rendition.

Please join us for this special engagement. Tickets are \$20 per person. An Aloha Party will follow the performance at \$15 per person. Please contact the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400 for tickets and performance information after June 30.

HUOA Bazaar, Trash & Treasure Event

Mahalo to all of you who generously donated your gently used and many brand new clothing, toys, housewares, bigger items such as a sofa bed, stationary bike, etc.

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Thank You for a Project Well Done!

Our organization is blessed with great support from our community. Such is the case in a recent happening at Hawaii Okinawa Center. A requirement by the Gentry Waipio Industrial Area Association to remove the 20-ft. metal storage containers behind Teruya Building renewed efforts to clean up the storage areas at HOC. With the help of volunteers James Akamine, Joan Gushiken, Dwight Ikehara, Tim Oshiro, James Shiroma and Ernie Tonaki, we successfully cleared out and relocated various equipment and supplies from the metal storage containers.

On a Saturday morning in May, Douglas Oshiro and crew from Onipa'a Crane & Rigging arrived with a massive crane and 40-ft. flatbed truck to hoist the two containers and remove them from our property. It was amazing to see the crew and crane do its work! Mr. Oshiro assisted us in the past with the installation of the boulder from Kin Town in Okinawa. It was installed in the Issei Garden as part of HUOA's 90th anniversary celebration back in 1990. We would like to thank the many volunteers and Douglas Oshiro and crew for their hard work to help us comply with our association requirements! Project well done!



Mahalo to Douglas Oshiro and crew from Onipa'a Crane and Rigging

2nd Annual Senior 'Information' Fair - July 10, 2009

By Jon Itomura

Just a mere seven months ago, HUOA held its inaugural Senior (Information) Fair on a bright sunny morning in December at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. On Friday, July 10, 2009, please join us and attend HUOA's 2nd Annual Senior Fair.

Forty vendors participated and provided valuable information and wonderful gifts for all attendees. A Senior Fair in Waipio was a much anticipated and welcomed addition to the West Oahu Seniors and their families as it provided all of them with an opportunity to stay close to home while attending this informative forum.

Due to positive survey results, Chairperson Fay Uyema has once again worked tirelessly to coordinate and plan the 2nd Annual HUOA Senior Fair with the invaluable assistance of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai and Shuri-Naha Club members in addition to the dedicated HUOA office staff. Hui O Lualima ladies and many other dedicated volunteers from other clubs including Alex Teruya (parking) and Franklin Yogi (sound) are back again to make this event a success.

This annual event is a true "win-win" event! While this Senior Fair was established to assist the on-going efforts to generate much needed revenues for the HUOA operating fund, it serves a greater purpose by providing a great opportunity to reach the senior population with important services designed for seniors, as well as a fun event



The fair is free and will have food and refreshments on sale. Please stop by on Friday, July 10, 2009, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the Hawaii United Okinawa Association at 676-5400.

for vendors and seniors alike. The Senior Fair showcases a wide variety of community resources and businesses that seek to cater to Oahu's maturing population. 2008 U.S. Census Bureau figures approximate that Hawaii's population is at 1.2 million with over 150,000 being seniors. This senior population continues to grow, which underscores the enormous potential and popularity of this annual event. The fair is a valuable one-stop shop that West Oahu has not experienced in prior years. It is intended to provide reliable information, dependable services, and useful products that might be of value to seniors, their care providers and family members.

Similar to last year, this Senior Fair will feature guest presentations on fitness and nutrition, home care, including Dr. Cass Nakasone from Straub Clinic. In addition to the presentations, there will be information available from local City and State agency resources.

UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Earlyn Koizumi



Over the last seven years, Earlyn Koizumi has organized and "perfected" the Food Booth-Equipment needs of the Okinawan Festival. Just imagine. Close your eyes and count the diverse number of epicurean delights that are offered at the Okinawan Festival. Savory Pigs' Feet Soup, hot Andagi, Okinawan Plate with a variety of samplings on a single plate, simmering bowls of Okinawa soba, criss-cross blend of ingredients that go into our famous Okidog... the list seems endless. Now, for each item, there are combinations of utensils that are needed to prepare and serve these dishes. The combinations are not the same and the numbers vary from one booth to the next. Lucky for the HUOA, we have a hard-working, diligent volunteer like Earlyn, who has calculated what's needed, organized the distribution and storage of an exhausting list of spoons, tongs, thermometers, ladles, skimmers, turners, chafing dishes, pots, huge woks, etc. that are unique to each booth.

As a 33-year veteran dietician at the Kuakini Medical Center, Earlyn knows the importance of cleanliness and has single-handedly made sure that all of the Okinawan Festival's cooking equipment and serving utensils are sanitized before and after their use, too. She also helps to coordinate the distribution and stocking of the respective ingredients that are needed in each booth. Hot rice, bags of julienned carrots, chopped cabbage, knotted seaweed, sliced or shredded shoyu pork... Earlyn also helps to communicate the ingredients needed at each booth between the booth, kitchen, holding tent and delivery runners to each booth during the Festival. At times, she's like a master conductor of an orchestra.

From her earliest childhood memories, Earlyn's dad, the late Mr. Earl Ishiara was an active member of the family's club, Gushichan Sonjin Kai. From a young age, Earlyn accompanied her mom, the late Mrs. Haruko Ishiara, to visit with members of her club who were not well or just for a courtesy visits. At a later age, Earlyn said

she realized the value and importance of these relationships and expressions of shared concern and caring.

It is no wonder that Earlyn has had a long history of service to her club, Gushichan Sonjin Kai, and the HUOA. Besides holding various officer positions within her club, Earlyn has also served as HUOA's Recording Secretary (1992-93) and Vice-President (1995-96). Sometime during the early 1990's, the late Lorraine Kaneshiro asked Earlyn to help her on the Festival Food Committee. This was her first occasion to witness firsthand, the fine work of seasoned volunteers such as Louise Tamashiro and Doris Arakaki at work in their food booth. Earlyn was totally in awe of their diligence and hard work year after year and the very reason, as the novice Food volunteer to do her part in volunteering to assist these ladies for the Okinawan Festival. Earlyn recognized Louise and Doris's application of yuimaaruu...their spirit and energy to get the job to the best and extent of their abilities. These senpai (senior) volunteers continue to inspire Earlyn to do her part for the success of the Okinawan Festival. The HUOA is so fortunate to have Earlyn Koizumi an energetic and capable volunteer. If you should see a snowy white-haired lady in her station adjoining the Holding Tent, extend a "shaka" or word of mahalo to her. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru*, Earlyn! 🍻

HUOA Festival Scrip Pre-Sale

Festival scrips are available!

Each club president has an allotment of scrips for their club members. Contact your president and you can help your club earn 30 percent of the scrip pre sales. Yes, the sale of the scrips in advance of the festival provides a fantastic opportunity to raise funds for your club. Deadline for turning in money and/or unsold scrips is Tuesday, August 5, 2009.

Penelope Mitsuyuki, TCM / LMT

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Fourth Annual 'Taste of Marukai' Raises Money for Four Local Organizations

Proceeds from the fourth annual Taste of Marukai event benefitted the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce.



The April 9 event saw a crowd of more than 700 people fill the Marukai Wholesale Mart on Dillingham Boulevard, raising some \$30,000. Guests who paid \$85 to attend, could partake in delicacies served at dozens of food stations, and paired with a wide selection of beer, wine, sake, shochu and awamori.



The night's festivities also included live entertainment, an ahi-cutting demonstration, and lucky number drawings for great prizes (including a flat screen HD television, \$500 gas cards, and roundtrip for two to Japan). Guests were also able to take advantage of a number of in-house specials at the end of the evening.



Dana Takahara-Dias to Lead Rainbow Wahine Basketball Program

By Arnold Hiura

Changing jobs can be difficult under even normal circumstances, but Dana Takahara-Dias has also had to deal with extraordinary media scrutiny surrounding her recent appointment as head coach of the UH-Manoa Rainbow Wahine basketball program.

Dana's appointment has received support from Wahine fans who feel she is the best candidate to rebuild support for a program that has struggled in recent years. Dana was, after all, a fan favorite from 1984-88 when she played for the Wahine under legendary head coach Vince Goo. Dana graduated from UH and went on to teach, coach basketball and head the athletic department at Moanalua High School. She also assisted Goo from 1995-99 as an administrative assistant.

While it is obvious that Dana will be right at home returning to a sport and to a place that she knows and loves, leaving her current post as the director of Honolulu's Department of Customer Services will be like having to leave one family in order to join another.

Dana recalls being introduced to the game of basketball at the age of 9 through Parks and Recreation after-school programs led by youth coaches such as Howard Yoshioka, Gary Loo and Nelson Yoshioka. She was even able to reunite with some of them when she joined the City Parks Department as deputy director four years ago. After her stint with Parks and Recreation, Dana served as deputy director of the Department of Enterprise Services, before being appointed to her most recent position.

"It's sad to be leaving the City," Dana says. "Mayor has been a supporter and mentor to me." Four years ago, Dana served on Mayor Mufi Hanneman's Cabinet with Laverne Higa Nance, then the director of Facility Maintenance. Laverne was



Even at her busy role as the City & County of Honolulu's director of the Department of Customer Services, Dana kept a basketball stashed on a shelf inside her office.

also serving as HUOA president and asked Dana to serve as HUOA sports coordinator. Dana, who is also an active board member for her family's club, Nishihara Chojin Kai, says, "I grew up in the Okinawan culture." Her mother, Elaine (Oshiro) Takahara, is 100 percent Okinawan and her father, Kenneth Takahara, is half Okinawan. Dana may not be able to continue as sports coordinator, but she hopes to stay involved in HUOA activities – such as volunteering at the Okinawan Festival – in spite of the obvious demands of her new job. She also aims to nurture awareness of Okinawan culture in her two sons, Hunter, 8, and Logan, 5. "Up to now, they mainly attend the Festival and the club picnic," Dana explains. "I want them to feel that culture is fun."

The University is on summer break right now and many of the Wahine basketball players have gone home for the summer. The timing gives Dana a window of about six to eight weeks to finish up work for the City and transition to the tasks that await her in Manoa – such as assembling her coaching staff – and start her coaching career in earnest come Fall. Dana is also taking this time to start the process of building community support. For starters, she only half-jokingly claims to have secured a commitment from "the entire Oshiro clan" to buy season tickets. "Seriously, though, I hope that the Okinawan community will support not just me but the team," she adds. Those that do might recognize some of the attributes of the new Rainbow Wahine team under Dana's leadership. "I believe our Okinawan values apply to coaching," she explains. "For example, Okinawan culture is family oriented and players to me are like family; there's strength in numbers; we work hard together; we place great importance on education first; and we are taught to be humble no matter what comes our way," she adds. Now that, sports fans, sounds like a solid foundation for a team to stand on.

MANPOWER NEEDED!



We really need your help at the Okinawan Festival!

PRE FESTIVAL CONSTRUCTION & SET UP
Tuesday, September 1 to Friday, September 4:
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, we need strong, able bodied people to help unload equipment and supplies from two huge containers. Construction will begin after containers are unloaded. We especially need carpenters, plumbers, electricians and extra helpers to assist Masa Shiroma and his crew.

POST FESTIVAL CLEAN UP
Monday, September 7: starts 8 a.m.

Help needed to breakdown, load the containers, clean up the entire festival grounds. Men, women and youth, please join us!

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2009—ANNUAL DRIVE

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Mahalo to the following individuals and organizations who have generously contributed towards the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and its Center. With your assistance, we have raised \$102,495 over the past six months.

The following donations were received from March 16, 2009 to May 16, 2009.

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Thank You Car Donors!

In our last issue, we introduced you to Kokua In Kind, a car exchange service that will sell your car and proceeds less fees will benefit HUOA! Our President Ford Chinen's car sold within two weeks! Ippee nifee deebiru to Ford and to car donors: Edward Kishaba and Les Uyehara. It's a terrific and convenient service that will take your vehicle, even if it is in an inoperable state, and resell it. You just need your Certificate of Title, most recent registration, and safety check.

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Miyakojima Strongman Triathlon

By Meredith Kuba

“**WAIDO!!**”—the Miyako word for “FIGHT ON!!” or “**GAMBATTE!!**”—was the constant encouragement shouted to me by the throngs lining the race route. It was also the mantra I chanted until finally crossing the finish line after 10 hours and 56 minutes of a grueling triathlon race of swimming (1.9 mi), biking (96.3 mi) and running (26.2 mi). It was the culmination of five months of intense, daily training in Hawaii for the Miyakojima Strongman Triathlon, the largest triathlon in Japan.

Miyako is a beautiful island with sparkling white sand beaches and clean blue ocean water about a 45-minute plane ride from Okinawa. It is a sister island with Maui County and about the same size as Molokai.

About 5,000 well-organized volunteers put on the annual event.

One of the highlights of the trip was the international exchange experiences with the local elementary and junior high schools. Several of us international athletes visited Taira Junior High School, the largest junior high school in Miyako, and Ikema Junior High School. The students had royal welcomes for us as we entered under the hanamichi (arcs of flower garlands) and sat front and center in



Meredith bikes the 96.3-mile course in 5 hours and 18 minutes.

attached to my bike) with energy bars and energy gels to fuel me for the five hours on the bike. I placed my running shoes, socks, and cap in my bike-to-run transition bag. I had a couple rolls of sweet bread and an energy drink for breakfast, slapped on some sunscreen to last the whole day, wiggled into my wetsuit, and headed down to the beach.

Surprisingly, I was not nervous. The atmosphere in the air was electric as 1,500 of us gathered on the shore waiting for the gun to go off. When it fired at 7:00, the longest day of my life began.

I made it back to the beach after 57 minutes of swimming, quickly peeled off my wetsuit, rinsed off the salt water in the showers, and grabbed my transition bag. As I ran

to the bike corral, I put on my sunglasses and helmet, and when I got to my bike, I put on my cycling shoes, hopped on my bike and sped off onto the course.

When I got off my bike after 5 hours and 18 minutes, I put on my socks, running shoes and cap and headed out for the marathon run. While running through town, people everywhere cheered us on. Some spectators even had newspapers with the list of athletes, so when they saw me wearing #11, they quickly looked up my name and yelled, “*Kuba-san, Waido!!*!”

The first hour of the run was painful as my stomach cramped up and refused to settle. Whenever I took an energy gel or drank a sports drink, my stomach would knot up again. What kept me going was sticking to my goal of not stopping or walking during the marathon, and feeling the energy from the spectators who shouted out their encouragements.

But then I felt like I was starting to fall apart. The uphill parts of the run really tested my will, but I chanted to myself, “*Waido, you can do it, all the way to the finish!*” As I ran the last three miles back through town, I started feeling like I was overheating so I took off my cap. But I still felt like I was fading, and just wanted to make it to the stadium without stopping. The lanterns that line the final home stretch to the stadium were still not in sight. I kept going, never stopping, never walking and, finally, I saw—the lanterns!

When I entered the stadium gate, my parents, Hawaii teammates and new Miyako friends were a sight for sore legs as they cheered me on. As I passed my mother on the way to the finish line, she threw a lei around my neck, which gave me a needed burst of adrenaline as I ran around the track to the end of the marathon, in 4 hours and 40 minutes. Luckily I still had enough energy to raise my arms triumphantly as I crossed the line with a happy smile. “*Meredith Kuba, Okaerinasai,*” the public address announcer welcomed me home, after a total of 10 hours and 56 minutes on the course!

How did I do? I was 4th in my age group (30-34), 24th female of 209 women, and 337th overall of 1,500 competitors. For this race I am deeply grateful to the good people of Miyako for their warm hospitality and spirited encouragement. **WAIDO!**



Meredith fights through exhaustion to will herself to the finish line.

their gymnasiums. We were treated like rock stars as the students sat in awe of the guests who journeyed from such faraway lands.

When race day finally arrived, I woke up at 4:00 a.m. I got my swim-to-bike transition bag ready with my helmet, sunglasses and cycling shoes, and filled my bottles with sports drinks and my bento box (a small nylon compartment

2009 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Awardees

Hui O Laulima (HOL) is pleased to announce the 2009 Cultural Grants recipients.

HOL, a non-profit women's organization, offers grants to individuals and organizations that will promote and perpetuate Okinawan culture of in our island communities. We congratulate and extend our best wishes to each of the following recipients for a successful year.

1. Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii - \$500
2. Rena Alexander - \$600
3. Castle High School Performing Arts Center - \$1,000
4. Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko - \$400
5. Jimpu Kai USA Ryusho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho - \$600
6. Ryukyukoku Maturi Daiko Hawaii - \$400
7. Derek Shiroma - \$1,800
8. Shari Tamashiro - \$1,200

2010 Cultural Grant Application Process

Hui O Laulima (HOL) is currently accepting Cultural Grant applications for projects/activities taking place in 2010. Deadline for application is Aug. 31, 2009. For more information, please visit huoa.org.



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The Remarkable Story of Janice (Tamaki) Suetomi



Sixty-four years ago, a young girl of 15 was among perhaps 222 schoolmates and 18 instructors of the Dai-ichi Koutou Jogakkou and Joshi Shihan Gakko, an all-girls school located in the Asato-Daido area of Naha. The students came from all areas of Okinawa, including the city of its location. They stayed in dormitories and their curriculum and training seemed very much like boot camp. Such is the description that Janice (Tamaki) Suetomi, now 80, gives as she begins to share her Battle of Okinawa experience.

At 13 years of age, Janice Suetomi received a scholarship of 25 yen from the national government of Japan, which enabled her to leave her

birthplace of Taira, Haneji (now part of Nago City) to attend school in Naha. Indoctrinated with a sense of duty, national pride and honor to die for one's country, the students believed that Japan's military was invincible. Therefore, when school officials made the announcement that the students were needed to assist the military, no one protested or complained, everyone felt privileged to serve their country. Each member of the student body received a handshake from the school official as a personal gesture of "do your best" and "*gambaru*." Dressed in *monpe*, school uniform tops, and their air raid hoods, the girls marched with their teachers in a single file in high spirits, singing merrily along the way to their destination at the Japanese Army hospital in Haeburu.

The "hospital" was not in a building. Rather, the injured Japanese soldiers were treated in a dark maze of narrow tunnels, including about 40 caves. The injured soldiers were placed on two-tiered wooden shelves built against the walls of the caves. Although the students received some nurses' training in school, nothing could have prepared them for the multitude of maimed bodies and corpses in these caves. The stench of human feces, decaying body parts, the deep moans of injured and sick soldiers and more, instantly threw all of the innocent girls into a living hell.

As the war progressed, the fighting grew more intense. After two months, Mrs. Suetomi said that all ambulatory soldiers and students were ordered to leave the hospital caves and move southward to Makabe, then to Ihara in Itoman. They scattered in small groups, dodging enemy fire and relying on their own instincts to survive. The students and teachers who arrived in Ihara were divided into three surgical units that were situated in separate caves. Mrs. Suetomi was assigned to the first unit.

By this time, casualties and injuries to soldiers as well as students and their teachers rose tremendously. One of the most treacherous duties the students performed throughout their assignment had been to leave the caves, usually at nightfall, to pick up cooked rice from a remote location. Cooked rice containing unknown ingredients was transferred into a heavy roped wooden tub suspended on a pole carried by two students. The portion was enough for a day's morning and

evening meal for the soldiers and students by their section. They returned to their respective caves and made rice balls a little larger than baseballs. Under heavy fire, some the students did not make it back to the caves. There were three students assigned to each section of the cave. A bomb had exploded at the entrance of Mrs. Suetomi's cave and one of the students was killed instantly. Upon retreating into the dark recesses of the labyrinth, Mrs. Suetomi realized that she, too, had been injured by the blast as the wetness on her school uniform turned out to be her own blood.

Other students helped her to change the dressing on her wounds but still, they could not rest from caring for the injured Japanese soldiers assigned to them.

Around June 19, 1945, the Japanese military leaders suddenly announced that everyone was released from their duty and free to be on their own. Immobilized by fear of what they believed the American soldiers would do to them, the students and teachers in the third unit refused calls by the Americans to leave their cave. Believing that the enemy was in hiding, the soldiers were without choice but to secure the chamber, killing all but a few students who were within the furthest depths of the cave.*

The members of Mrs. Suetomi's cave escaped to the beaches of Kyan Misaki where a senior student in their group gathered all of the students in a circle with the intention of detonating two or three hand grenades. With only this number of hand grenades, not all of them would have met an instant death. Rather, there would have been more injuries and possibly death after much suffering and agony. Therefore, a teacher in the group advised the students that death could come at any time. However, if they heeded the Americans, then there was a possibility that their lives could be saved.

And, so it was that Mrs. Suetomi's group was captured by the Americans. Men and women were placed in separate trucks and driven off to unknown locations. Were they duped by the voices of the Nisei soldiers who coaxed them in the Japanese language? Was death waiting at their destination? Were the evil American enemies waiting for their weary prey? All of these thoughts and more raced through their minds during the long and speechless ride.

The most remarkable memory of her arrival at the Tomigusuku prisoners' camp was the large bowl of white rice that each prisoner was served. It was the first bowl of clean white rice that they had eaten in nearly three months. Their filthy, lice-infested clothes, crusted with dirt, grime, dried blood, and the sweat of the past three months were peeled from their skins so that they could bathe and be fumigated. Mrs. Suetomi was separated from the group so that her wounds could be treated. Afterwards, she learned that the high fever she experienced then was due to an infliction of malaria.

Later, patients were transferred to a hospital in Haneji. Mrs. Suetomi said her older sister found her whereabouts at the hospital. She was finally reunited with her parents and other siblings.

It is only within the past four or five years that Mrs. Suetomi has shared her incredible story with her own family. The memory of the war had been very painful, but she felt that it was time to share her experience with her family.

Continued on Page 15

Review: 'Okinawa 1945'

By Senator Jill Tokuda

When I first heard that my alma mater was doing a play on the Himeyuri Student Nurses Corps, my first thought was that the play needed to be brought "home." That it was important, and most appropriate, for its first local performance to be at the Hawaii Okinawa Center (HOC).

On May 12, 2009, the students of the Castle Performing Arts Center debuted Alice Shikina's "*Okinawa 1945*" to a packed house of over 300 people at the HOC. While the characters are fictional, the play seeks to portray and commemorate the strength and the struggle of the 222 schoolgirls and 18 teachers from the Himeyuri Student Nurses Corps who were sent into one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

As it turned out, it was quite an auspicious performance, with Ms. Janice Suetomi, a surviving Himeyuri nurse present, along with the Ms. Grace Gima, wife



Janice Suetomi is surrounded by Castle High School cast members.



Scene from "Okinawa 1945"

of the late Harry Gima, whose family donated the land to establish the peace museum in Okinawa, present in the audience. Both students and audience members were moved as these individuals were recognized for their contributions.

It was clear from the performance that the student's understood and embraced the story that they were telling. From the fear and anxieties of war, to the racial discrimination and lies perpetrated on Okinawa's people, the play sought to show the many faces and their fates during

this turbulent time in history.

While the concepts and the emotions were very complex, and at times, embarrassingly raw in nature, the students reminded the audience of what happened in those final days of World War II. It is as though the play is sending us a message that we must never forget even the atrocities of our past, because it is often those moments that help to define us as a people. For even in those darkest of days, and the months and years to follow, the actions of the people of Okinawa and Uchinanchu abroad shown brightly with their strength, tenacity and loyalty to one another.

Having heard constructive comments from our Uchinanchu community, changes to the script have been made and *Okinawa 1945* will continue its Hawaii run from June 12-21 at the Ron Bright Theatre before heading to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to perform in the exclusive American High School Theatre Festival. While they were able to raise over \$2,000 from the HOC performance, much more is needed to get them to the Festival. You can help by going to one of their shows, or for more information contact Karen Meyer at 233-5626. 



CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai Picnic

Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai will be having their 2009 Annual Picnic on Sunday, August 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Waikele Community Park, picnic area A. Bring your family and friends to this fun-filled end of the summer event! Pack your picnic lunch and Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai will provide the drinks, shave ice, games and prizes. Mark this date down on your calendars and get ready to have fun! For more information, please contact Janet Primiano at (c) 349-5800. 



2009 Club Picnic Dates

Summer is here and that means it's time for games, prizes, cookouts, homemade bento, shaved ice and – perhaps – even some ice cold watermelon! Here are confirmed club picnic dates as of May 29, 2009 provided by the Clubs.

CLUB NAME	PICNIC DATE	TIME	LOCATION
*Awase Doshi Kai	8/23/09	9:30a-4p	Kapiolani Park 14-15
*Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai	8/9/09	9a-4p	Ala Moana Beach Park
*Bito Doshi Kai	6/14/09	9am	Ala Moana; Area 8 & 9
*Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai	7/12/09	9am	Ala Moana Beach Park
*Club Motobu	7/19/09	8a-3p	Ala Moana-High rise
*Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai	7/11/09	9am	Ala Moana-Diamond Head
*Ginowan Shijin Kai	8/16/09	9am	Ala Moana; Area 8
*Ginoza Son Jin Kai	7/12/09	8a-4p	Kapiolani Park
*Gushichan Sonjin Kai	6/28/09	10a-2p	Ala Moana Beach Park
*Gushikawa Shijin Kai	8/2/09	9a-4p	Kapiolani Park #26
*Haeburu Club	7/26/09	9am	Keeki Disabled American-Veterans
*Haneji Club	8/9/09	9a-4p	Kapiolani Park, Area 14
*Hawaii Katsuren Chojin Kai	7/5/09	9am	Ala Moana, Areas 2 & 3
*Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai	6/14/09	9am	Ala Moana; Area 8 & 9
*Hawaii Shuri Naha Club	7/12/09	9am	Ala Moana-Risers
*Hui Okinawa	9/13/09	10am	Wailoa State Park
*Itoman Shijin Kai	7/19/09	8a-3p	Ala Moana-High rise
*Kin Chojin Kai	7/19/09	9am	Kapiolani Park
*Kochinda Chojin Kai	7/18/09	9am	Ala Moana-Ewa end
*Kuba Rosei Kai	7/12/09	9am	Sand Island Beach Park
*Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai	7/26/09	10am	Velma McWayne Santos Cntr
*Nago Club	6/21/09	9am	Ala Moana Risers #28
*Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	8/2/09	9am	Kapiolani Park, Areas 14 & 27
*Nishihara Chojin Kai	7/26/09	9am	Ala Moana Park-Ewa end
*Okinawa City-Goeku	7/12/09	9am	Kapiolani Park
*Oroku Azajin Kai	7/19/09	9am	Ala Moana Beach
*Osato Doshi Kai	6/14/09	9am	Ala Moana; Area 8 & 9
*Tamagusuku Club	6/28/09	10a-3:30p	Kapiolani Pak, Area 4-5
*Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai of Hawaii	7/12/09	9am	Ala Moana, Areas 9 & 11
*Urasoe Shijin Kai	8/16/09	9am	Ala Moana, Area 9
*Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai	8/9/09	9a-2p	Waikele Community Park
*Yomitan Club	6/7/09	9a-3p	Ala Moana, Area 8 & 9
*Yonabaru Chojin Kai	8/16/09	9a-3p	Ala Moana Beach Park
*Yonashiro Chojin Kai	7/19/09	9am	Ala Moana, Area 9
*Young Okinawans of Hawaii	5/17/09	10am	Bellows



SPORTS CORNER

Neal Takara Captures Championship Title



Tournament Champ Neal Takara (36-Hole Low Gross: 142) is congratulated by HUAOA President Ford Chinen (left). Eric Nishimoto (right), representing Gov. Linda Lingle, holds the Governor's Trophy.

A field of 142 golfers enjoyed the great weather, beautiful scenery, and fellowship during the two-day 39th Annual Hawaii United Okinawa Association Invitational Golf Tournament held at the Pali Municipal Golf Course on May 23 and 24. Co-Chairs Wes Teruya and Neal Takara did an outstanding job, but these humble men credit the guys who are always there to do

what needs to be done on the golf course and at Jikoen where the Awards Banquet is always held: the Tamashiro clan - Les, Neal, Nelson, Kent and Ricky; Joey Itagaki, and so many others who pitched in to help. Mahalo to all!



Above: Sean Nagasawa receives the Mayor's Trophy for Overall Low Net of 128 (36 Holes) from Laverne Higa.



With a low net of 142 for 2 days, Katrina Higa receives the Women's Low Net trophy from Laverne Higa.



Above: Bob Tanaka receives the coveted David Tamashiro Trophy for Seniors Low Net with a 36-hole score of 130 from David's son, Neal Tamashiro.

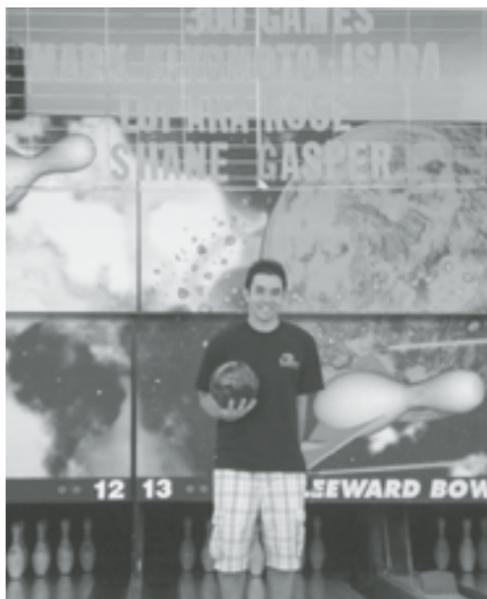


Golfers were met by this enthusiastic group as they drove up to the first tee to receive their score cards, free golf balls courtesy of Titleist and golf towels courtesy of Bob Tanaka Realty, Inc. 1st Row (L-R): HUAOA President Ford Chinen, Joey Itagaki (jackpot coordinator), Tournament Co-chairs Wes Teruya and Neal Takara. 2nd Row (L-R): HUAOA Vice President Norman Nakasone and President-elect Paul Komeiji.

Kiyomoto-Isara Bowls Perfect Game!

Wild cheering followed 26-year-old Mark Kiyomoto-Isara's 12th strike in a row! Mark became just the second bowler in HUAOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League history to roll a 300 game! A relative neophyte bowler who began this sport only five years ago, Mark bowls in the Leeward AJA League in addition to our HUAOA League.

As vice president of Mark's Auto Repair in Waipahu, this kegler works long hours and wishes he had more time for his passion (bowling and golf). Both of his parents, Alan and Germaine, are avid bowlers, too, and are praying for their own 300 games. Congratulations, Mark!



HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament Results

(Top three finishers in each flight)

Tournament Champion:

Neal Takara - Low Gross: 70 - 72 = 142

Championship Flight: Handicap 0-9	Sat - Sun	Low Net
1. Kent Tamashiro	64 - 70	134
2. David Shiroma	73 - 66	139
3. Nelson Tamashiro	70 - 69	139

"A" Flight: Handicap 10-19	Sat - Sun	Low Net
1. Paul Tamashiro	64 - 70	134
2. Eric Tsuda	64 - 71	135
3. Gary Miyama	71 - 67	138

"B" Flight: Handicap 20-30	Sat - Sun	Low Net
1. Sean Nagasawa	64 - 64	128
2. Hilton Lau	72 - 64	136
3. Ronald Matayoshi	72 - 66	138

Seniors' Flight: Handicap 0-30	Sat - Sun	Low Net
1. Bob Tanaka	62 - 68	130
2. Chester Tatsumura	66 - 67	133
3. Wendell Lewis	68 - 69	137

Super Seniors' Flight: Handicap 0-30	Sun	Low Net
1. Aka Akamine	64	64
2. Roy Tominaga	74	74

Women's Flight: Handicap 0-38	Sat - Sun	Low Net
1. Katrina Higa	73 - 69	142
2. Kristine Higa	78 - 73	151
3. Gladys Tokunaga-Asao	79 - 73	152

Guest Flight: Handicap 0-30	Sat - Sun	Low Net
1. Dennis Sanada	67 - 71	138
2. Chris Egami	73 - 67	140
3. Wendell Kop	68 - 73	141

Hui Makaala Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 22, 2009

Registration: 10:40 am

First Tee Time: 11:41 am

Kapolei Golf Club
91-1156 Farrington Highway

Cost: \$95 / person, \$380 / 4 person team
includes green fee, cart, pupus & prizes
no-host cocktails

Format: 4-person modified scramble
(min of 3 drives)

Handicap: Men's - 28, Women's - 36

Registration Deadline
July 25, 2009

Contact: Ryan Okunaga
741-1797, okunaga001@hawaii.rr.com

Registration form available at
www.huoa.org

Ten Years Ago: Living in Okinawa, Part 2

By Jon Ishihara

If you've been to Okinawa or know about Okinawa from family, friends, or the Internet, then you know there are a good many comparisons made between Hawaii and Okinawa. Both places are comprised of a number of islands, with the resulting important influence of the sea to the inhabitants. Both were once independent kingdoms, and each place possesses a history where larger, more powerful entities took over political and social control that has resulted in the modern and complex communities found today. Both locales boast sun and beaches, a dominant travel industry coupled with large military installations, and mild weather compared to their counterpart mainland climes. I include some of these broad similarities because we did indeed find that in many ways Okinawa reminded us of Hawaii, except maybe the Hawaii of some years past. But even with these similarities, let me tell you of some of our outdoors experiences there and how we felt so lucky to be able to do things we wouldn't be able to do here back home.

Last time I mentioned that we lived right in front of the ocean in *Aza Nagahama, Yomitan-son*. But I didn't mention that my good friend Steve had given us an inflatable kayak that we lugged over from Hawaii during our move. Living mere steps from the ocean, a lightweight kayak in hand and with a local neighbor upstairs who became a good friend who also kayaked



and loved the ocean, and maybe you can imagine the freedom and awesome opportunities for us to get out on and in the ocean. And there we found two big differences, well, three, between Okinawa's waters and Hawaii's. First, there was still back then a good amount of live coral right close to shore around the main island of Okinawa. I mean that when we went snorkeling about 75 yards out from our apartment, we saw pink and green and red and other colors, though the coral bleaching phenomena had already started in places.

And, because of the coral, the second difference was that there were all kinds of marine organisms we got to see up close, and I mean close. Clownfish swimming around their host sea anemones, real (not fake?) sea horses, sea snakes (yes), cute yellow boxfish, and some familiar species like menpachi, 'uhu and mamo. And this is not at a marine reserve area like Hanauma Bay but right in front of where we lived. Also, just next to the hostel/diver's house I volunteered at is *Maeda Misaki* in *Onna-son*, one of the best-known dive and snorkeling spots on the island. There we saw bigger fish like barracuda and sometimes (though I only saw this from shore) dolphins would even come in close. The ocean is one of Okinawa's treasures, as Begin's song *Shimanchu nu takara* says rather nicely. Oh, and the third difference? The water gets cold in Okinawa in winter, brrrr.

Mangroves. Just for the basics, mangroves or mangrove forests are only found in the tropics and sub-tropics and consists of coastal habitats where plants and animals have adapted to a brackish environment and where tidal conditions play a huge role. Think Florida and National Geographic. The largest mangrove in Japan is found in Okinawa and you may have heard of the island of *Iriomote*, home to this large mangrove environment and rare plant and animal species like the *Iriomote yamaneko* (an endangered species of wild cat). Well, on the main island of Okinawa you can also find mangroves, in more than 30 areas, though I'm only familiar with two. One is right in *Naha* and lies along the *Kokuba River* that you cross to get to the airport. The other

is in *Gesashi* in *Higashi-son* on the northeast coast of the island. There is a walking path and now apparently boat tours that take visitors up the short stretch of river. I don't believe there were boat tours when we lived there, but hey, we had a kayak. And that kayak trip, for the short duration of the paddle, was one of the most worthwhile kayaking I've ever done so far. We saw mudskippers

walking around their homes (holes in the mud, really), crabs, fish, birds and just being there in the outdoors made us appreciate more the natural beauty of Okinawa. If you go to Okinawa in the future, please seek out some of these off-the-path outdoor places. And help preserve them by being an aware visitor. There are mangroves around *Kin, Nago* and other areas, ask your family or friendly guide.

Caves. Or in our case, cave. That being *Gyokusendo* down south of *Itoman*. It is part of a popular tourist park that is now called

Okinawa World (when we were there it was called *Gyokusendo* Kingdom Village). *Gyokusendo* is a real treat for a number of reasons, number one being it is rather unexpected. Yes, Okinawa has many caves, in many parts of the island, and they offered shelter and more during the war and other times. But *Gyokusendo* is 5 kilometers (3 miles) long and is said to be the second longest cave in all of Japan. Though the areas accessible to the public are less than a kilometer in all, you will be impressed if you have never been to cave systems on the US mainland, and even if you've been to Mammoth Caves or Luray Caverns, for example, I think you will still like it. The coolness of the interior in contrast to the hot and humid outside, the many formations of stalactites and stalagmites, the awesome Golden Platter formation and just walking underground in Okinawa will make for good memories. Such a cave would not be found in Hawaii

given our geology. Though you have to pay admission, you also can partake of eisa and other performances in other parts of the park, and we thought it was a fun outing.



Like my story about food, I could continue on with many other outdoor experiences we had in Okinawa. Camping on the beach, many walks off shore and along the shore during low tide, *Hiji Falls* in *Yanbaru* that some may be familiar with, and so on. But maybe you have your own stories or your family's stories, and can share them with others, too. 📷

“Clownfish swimming around their host sea anemones, real (not fake?) sea horses, sea snakes (yes), cute yellow boxfish, and some familiar species like menpachi, 'uhu and mamo.”

Hawaii Teens Excel at Minyo Konkuru

In April 2009, Travis (13) and Shelby (15) Oshiro and Kaeo Shiroma (15), three students of Okinawa Minyo* Kyokai Wakugawa Dojo Derek Ichiro Shiroma Kenkyusho competed in the Annual Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Konkuru in Okinawa and successfully earned the Shinjinsho or Newcomer's Award. They were



Students Travis Oshiro, Shelby Oshiro and Kaeo Shiroma with Sensei Derek Shiroma.

among the highest scorers of 45 entrants who sang a designated selection and played the sanshin for their renditions.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association congratulates Travis, Shelby and Kaeo and their instructor, Derek Ichiro Shiroma Sensei, for their out-

standing achievement. Best wishes for your continued success in carrying on the legacy of our Okinawan community. All of you are our bright hope for the preservation and perpetuation of the Okinawan culture in Hawaii. You've made all of us very proud!

*minyo; folk song or folk singing

HUOA Uchinaaguchi Class Has New Sensei



In March, Grant Murata Sensei concluded his tenure as the instructor of the Okinawan language classes offered at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The HUOA extends its sincere appreciation to Murata Sensei for having conducted the language classes for many years and for making a gracious introduction of Dr. Kyoko Hijirida as the new instructor at this last session.

Dr. Hijirida has been a professor of Japanese since 1970 and has held the popular Okinawan Language and Culture class at the University of Hawaii at Manoa since 2004. Hijirida Sensei's life work has focused on teaching the Japanese language and training those who will become teachers of the Japanese language. She has received many prestigious awards throughout her professional career, including the Hawaii Association of Language Teachers (HALT) Excellence in Teaching Award in 1994. The award is "made to recognize outstanding contributions and achievements of second language teachers in teaching and promoting Hawaiian and foreign languages in the State of Hawaii."

Hijirida Sensei has published widely and continues to serve on committees in the field foreign language education.

Hijirida Sensei was born in Haeneji, now a part of Nago City, and attended Makiya Elementary School and Naha Junior and Senior High Schools. She graduated in English literature from Keio University in Tokyo. After teaching English in Okinawa for two years, a scholarship opportunity opened the door for her to study at the Indiana University. Later, she attained her Masters (M.A.) and Doctors (Ed.D.) degrees from the University of Hawaii.

According to Hijirida Sensei, the foundation of her Okinawan class (JPN471) is to participate in the spirit of *yuimaaruu* - doing one's best to involve one's self for the success of the program. Eager students register for this popular class, which has filled in a day since its inception.

We are truly honored that Dr. Hijirida has volunteered to conduct the HUOA Uchinaaguchi Language Class. She hopes that the participants will enjoy the language classes and will come to fully understand the wonderful concept of *yuimaaruu*. We say *Ippee nifee deebiru* - Thank you very much to former instructors, Chieko Miyasato Sensei and Grant Murata Sensei, whose spirit of *yuimaaruu* enabled the continuation of classes since 1996. Our warmest welcome and appreciation to Dr. Kyoko Hijirida!

Okinawa Prefectural Government's 2009 Junior Study Tour



The Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) has selected Kelli Ann Kimiko Zakimi of Ginowan Shijin Kai as the 2009 Junior Study Tour participant from the Hawaii United Okinawa Association community.

Expressing a strong and earnest inter-

est to learn about her Okinawan ancestral roots, its culture and history, Kelli will be amongst 19 overseas youth to have an opportunity to visit Okinawa this summer. She will participate in various outings and workshops that are being organized by the OPG. Kelli will homestay with the Ueatari family, relatives living on Henza Island, and experience local family life with her host. Kelli will be able to network with other participating youth from Okinawa, mainland Japan, the continental U.S., South America, Canada, Cuba, Europe, New Caledonia, and Southeast Asia to satisfy her curiosity as to how other youth her age think, as well as her desire to make new friends.

Kelli Ann is the daughter of the late Frank Zakimi and June Zakimi. She is a student at Roosevelt High School and member of the marching band's color guard and a member of the Leo Club. Kelli is an active volunteer in the activities of the Ginowan Shijin Kai.

Congratulations, Kelli Ann Zakimi!

HUOA Study Tour To Okinawa

A reminder: if you are interested in joining President Ford Chinen on the HUOA Study Tour, October 2-12, 2009, call Nadine Shimabukuro at N&K Travel Service Inc., 739-9010. Space is limited so call her soon.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

May
hashi-raa's(h)an, *adj.* Sagacious; intelligent; wise; clever; bright; smart.

June
chijiri, *n.* [chigiri] A promise; a pledge; a vow.

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

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HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

July 2009

- 2 Communications & Information Com. mtg, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 3 INDEPENDENCE DAY (observed)-HOC Office Closed
- 4 Saturday, Office Closed
- 7 Executive Council meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 8 Okinawan Festival Com. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 9 Seniors Fair set-up, Legacy I/II
- 10 Seniors Fair, Legacy I/II, 9am-1pm
- 13 Club Development Com. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 16 Administration Com. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 21 Board of Directors meeting, Legacy I, 7pm

August 2009

- 4 Executive Council meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 6 Communications & Information Com. mtg, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 10 Club Development Com. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 12 Okinawan Festival Com. meeting, Serikaku Chaya, 7pm
- 23 Keiko Miyagi Charity Performance at HOC, 2 pm

Classes · Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm*

Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm*

Ikebana: 3rd 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 meeting: 3rd Saturday, 9am*

Uchinaaguchi: every 4th Thursday, 7pm*

*for more information, please call 676-5400

Subject to Change (entries as of 5/26/09)

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

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

- Jun 22 "Dentoo No Bi" - Hooge Kai Nakasone Dance Academy, 45th Anniversary, held at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on June 16, 2001 - Part One
- June 29 "Dentoo No Bi" - Hooge Kai Nakasone Dance Academy, 45th Anniversary, held at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on June 16, 2001 - Part Two
- July 6 26th Okinawan Festival 2008 at Kapiolani Park - Show #3, featuring Urizun and Radio Okinawa. (Premiere)
- July 13 Maigokoro, "Spirit of Dance", Part 2 - An Okinawan dance performance by Shinyo Ryu Dance Academy of Okinawa, Iemoto Majikina Yoshiko. Held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in 1999.
- July 20 Kimutaka no Amawari - "The Lord of Kimutaka Spirit", Part 1 - Held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 28, 2008. (Premiere)
- July 27 Umui Kunati, "Wish Came True", Part 1 - Performance in Okinawa (Jikata from Hawaii and the Paranku Clubs of Hawaii with other performers from Okinawa).
- Aug 3 Kimutaka no Amawari - "The Lord of Kimutaka Spirit", Part 2 - Held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 28, 2008. (Premiere)
- Aug 10 Umui Kunati, "Wish Came True", Part 2 - Performance in Okinawa (Jikata from Hawaii and the Paranku Clubs of Hawaii with other performers from Okinawa).
- Aug 17 26th Okinawan Festival 2008 at Kapiolani Park - Show #4, featuring HUOA Sanshin Class and Nidaime Teishin Kai - Hawaii Shibu; Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai - Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyusho, and the Royal Hawaiian Band. (Premiere)
- Aug 24 First Worldwide Uchinanchu Conference in Hawaii - Held at the University of Hawaii, East-West Center, on August 29 to September 2, 2003.
- Aug 31 Kimutaka no Amawari - "The Lord of Kimutaka Spirit", Part 3 - Held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on November 28, 2008. (Premiere)

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