



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

March/April 2010 Issue #125 Circulation 11,000

Third Annual Senior Fair, May 14 & 15 Hawaii Okinawa Center, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

By Jon Itomura

The HUOA will be proudly presenting its Third Annual Senior (Information) Fair on Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Please join us as we present valuable and interesting information from numerous representatives, including State agencies, utilities, day care and home care professionals and many more.

Over 40 vendors participated and provided valuable information and wonderful gifts for all attendees at the previous two Senior Fair events. The HUOA Senior Fair in Waipio was a much-needed and welcomed addition to the West Oahu Seniors and their families as it provides all of them with an opportunity to participate in this informative event close to home.

Due to positive survey results, Chairpersons Fay Uyema and Jon Itomura, Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, and many volunteers from the Shuri-Naha Club have once again worked tirelessly to coordinate and plan this Third Annual HUOA Senior Fair, in addition to the great contribution of time and effort from our dedicated HUOA office staff. Hui O Laulima 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” activity! The HUOA Senior Fair was originally established to assist fundraising efforts for the HUOA operating fund, but it also serves a greater purpose by providing a great resource for the senior population and related care providers.

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 estimated that Hawaii’s



population is at 1.2 million with approximately 190,000 being over the age of 65. 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’s Bone and Joint Center on Friday, first year University of Hawaii Wahine Basketball Coach Dana Takahara-Dias and Dr. Hugo Higa of Aesthetic Vision Center on Saturday. In addition to the presentations, there will be information available from local City and State agency resources.

The fair is free and will have food and refreshments on sale. Please stop by on Friday and Saturday, May 14 & 15, 2010 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.. If you should have any questions, please contact the HUOA at 676-5400. 



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President's Message By Paul Komeiji

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*Okage Sama De – Because of you,
the past, present and future.*

As the Shinnen Enkai “season” comes to a close, we are all reminded of the Okinawan phrase, “*Ichariba Chodee*,” which translates to “Once we meet, we are brothers and sisters.” At each of the Shinnen Enkai that I was fortunate to attend, I was able to meet many of my new “brothers and sisters” and grow my extended Okinawan family. *Okage Sama De* – Thank you to all of you for making my visits thoroughly enjoyable.

As I reflect about my “Shinnen Enkai Tour,” I gained a greater appreciation of the heart of HUOA – the individuals whose commitment and effort to maintain and strengthen the Uchinanchu spirit and culture.

Okage Sama De – Because of you, the past

I was moved by the respect and recognition that our clubs showed for their elders. I was privileged to witness several Kajimaya celebrations. The celebration that sticks out in my mind was held at the Kin Shinnen Enkai, where people from Okinawa to South America were in attendance to celebrate with the 97-year-old elders. The “chicken skin” moment that I remember occurred when Seiyu Matsudo, Manei Nakada and Zenichi Ginoza stood up to Kachashi – I’m sure that we all aspire to have the spirit and strength to Kachashi when we are 97 years old.

I was also fortunate to have celebrated the 100th birthday of Tsuruyo Asato at the Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai Shinnen Enkai. Tsuruyo continues to demonstrate the strength of her issei spirit, the foundation for the three generations who followed her and the inspiration for all of us to continue to make our community better and stronger for future generations. I felt honored to be sharing the occasion with her and her family.

Okage Sama De – Because of you, the present

At the Hui Okinawa Shinnen Enkai, I witnessed the Uchinanchu spirit among the Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu at Heart, as the proud “Kitajikiya Crew,” with their hard earned shirts, came early to set up and stayed late to clean up (and of course, as any good Uchinanchu, they made sure they had a good time in between).

As I have spoken with different individuals who have visited Okinawa, it is often mentioned that their first trip to Okinawa was a life-changing event. They speak about feeling the Uchinanchu spirit and of gaining a better understanding of their heritage and ancestors. Similarly, at the Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai Shinnen Enkai, the phrase mentioned to me was, “When you come to Kohala, it changes your life.” And it is true, as I witnessed how their club is able strengthen the entire Kohala community through their Uchinanchu Spirit. This was best demonstrated when Muni Jittu (now known as “Kohala Muni”) gave the invocation. It wasn’t so much the invocation itself, but the thought that an individual born and raised in India, of Indian ancestry and now living in Kohala, has become accepted as a full-blooded Uchinanchu at Heart.

Okage Sama De – Because of you, the future

Besides the many Shinnen Enkai, March marked the 20th anniversary of the Hawaii Okinawa Student Exchange program. When the students first arrived from Okinawa on Tsunami Saturday, they were excited to be in a far away country and probably a little apprehensive about being away from their families. At the end of their two-week homestay visit, the students and their host families held a festive Aloha Party. At the end of the party, however, there were tears of sadness as both sides realized that they would miss their new “family members.” During the two weeks, the host families shared the feeling of “Ohana” with the students – which was reciprocated with the Uchinanchu spirit of “*Ichariba Chodee*.” I hope that we can continue this wonderful program for another 20 years, as it strengthens our relations by creating a strong bond between our States, families and ultimately our children.

Ippee Niffee Deebiru 

HUOA STUDY TOUR TO OKINAWA JUNE 2 – JUNE 13, 2010

Join us on an exciting Study Tour to Okinawa!

Check out our website: www.huoa.org
for the complete itinerary and cost. If you don't have access to the website, call Nadine Shimabukuro at N&K Travel Service Inc. at 739-9010.



UCHINANCHU

Ippee Niffee Deebiru... Mahalo!

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

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

Uchinanchu Donors January 16 to March 15, 2010.

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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.

HUOA President Paul Komeiji
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UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight: Franklin Yogi

Imbued with an understanding and application of *yuimaaruu*, many Uchinanchu carry on in their daily lives even today with this principle dyed deeply in their hearts. *Yuimaaruu* is what moved our community to build the beautiful Hawaii Okinawa Center and maintain it for these 20 years. Amongst those who have unstintingly helped with HUOA's audio needs at our events in the spirit of *yuimaaruu* for about 18 of those years is Franklin Yogi.



In the '70's, running sound systems began as a fulfillment of a favor to a friend and his reliability grew to handle the exclusive sound needs of three Hawaiian musical groups. Word of Franklin's ability and dependability circulated and in the early 1990's Franklin was contacted to do the sound for one of HUOA's events. Since then, he has been requested to handle Okinawan dance and music concerts, craft fairs, the sound and audio recording of our Board meetings, bon dance sound needs at the Okinawan Festival at Thomas Square and at Kapiolani Park, and the Hawaii Okinawa Center, often supplementing our sound needs with his personal collection of equipment. The list of HUOA events that Franklin has handled is endless and we are so grateful for his generosity in servicing our organization.

What's driven Franklin to continue his volunteer work for the HUOA?

Franklin, a sansei of Kita Nakagusuku descent, is the second son of Frederick and Lillian Yogi who was born and raised amongst five siblings in a three-generation household with extended family members from Okinawa who lived with them for a time. His grandmother, the late Mrs. Muto Yogi, was the matriarch of the family who was widowed at a young age and left to raise her own children with great courage and resolve. The Yogi family lived on Lima Street and the neighborhood was filled with Okinawan families - comfortable and sharing.

The late Mrs. Yogi was a shining example of the Issei pioneer whose motto as a matter of survival must have been, "Nothing is impossible." Additionally, Franklin

says that among many of those who have also inspired and instilled this belief in him was the late Mr. Akira Sakima. As a Junior Leader participating in the City and County Parks Summer Fun program and throughout his youth and adulthood, Franklin remembers Mr. Sakima's constant reminder and encouragement that "Nothing is impossible."

Additionally, in the mid-70's Franklin witnessed the good work and leadership of OHA Chair, Ms. Haunani Apoliana, when seeds for this office were only then being planted. Franklin said that he was inspired by Ms. Apoliana's sense of community and her skills to bring people together to dialogue for their cause. Her dynamism and that of Mr. Sakima are truly part of the strong foundation that has motivated Franklin's commitment to the HUOA.

Franklin hopes that others, too, will see that "Nothing is impossible" and everyone's kokua is important. The HUOA looks forward to other volunteers like Franklin who are interested in sound needs and are willing to help out in the spirit of *yuimaaruu*. Meanwhile, we extend our heartfelt *Ippee Niffee Deebiru* to Franklin Yogi and thank Robin, his wife, and the Yogi Family for sharing Franklin with us.

Franklin hopes that others, too, will see that "Nothing is impossible" and everyone's kokua is important.

Interested in helping your club with sound needs at the Hawaii Okinawa Center or the HUOA at its events? Franklin will be holding classes soon. Limited enrollment. Please send an e-mail to edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com for questions or to sign up.

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Fifth Annual ‘Taste of Marukai’ is a Rousing Success

A record crowd filled the Marukai Wholesale Mart on Dillingham Boulevard on April 8 for the fifth annual “Taste of Marukai” event. In his opening comments, Marukai Corporation’s Executive Vice President Richard Matsu remarked that the event grows in popularity each year, with a record of over 700 tickets sold this year.



Tickets presold for \$85 (\$95 at the door) with proceeds benefitting four Japanese community organizations: Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Once inside the large retail market, attendees could freely sample such delicacies as kurosawagyu beef, king crab,



abalone, oysters, okonomiyaki, sashimi and sushi, amongst other food offerings. Okinawan specialties were prepared by Off the Wall restaurant, master chef D.K. Kodama (D.K. Steakhouse, Sansei Seafood Restaurant), and Benihana grilled steaks drew appreciative crowds, along with Marukai-



staffed food stations.

The “Taste of Marukai” is also known for its selection of Japanese beer and sake. In celebration of the event’s fifth anniversary, this year’s event featured samplings from three of Japan’s most prominent breweries: Shirataki, Taiheizan and



Tsukasabotan.

Lively entertainment included Okinawan music, dance numbers by Dazzman Toguchi, along with ahi fish-cutting and mochi-pounding demonstrations. Prize drawings were also held, giving away prizes that included: interisland



round-trip vacation, an Apple iPod and iPhone, a flat screen HDTV, certificates for free gasoline, Marukai Sake Club memberships, and two JAL round-trip tickets to Japan. 🍷

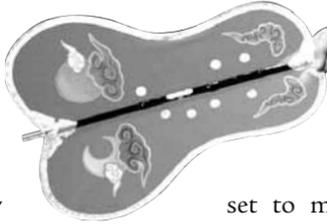


Photos by Eloise Hiura

Tobe! Uta-sanshin 2010 in Hawaii

Choichi Terukina Sensei, National Living Treasure of Japan, held his 19th presentation of Tobe! Uta-sanshin 2010 in Hawaii at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on March 29, 2010. The concert, designed to encourage the perpetuation and promotion of the heart of Ryukyuan music and traditional performing arts, featured artists from Okinawa and members of the Hawaii Chapter of the Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai and Choichi Kai. Terukina Sensei chose to hold the concert in Hawaii this year as a fundraiser for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 20th anniversary commemoration of the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The program was a unique blend of Okinawa's traditional performing arts of music and dance, including a *kumiudui* presentation of Nidou Tichiuchi. *Kumiudui*, or Okinawan opera, has a 300-year history and has been nominated for recognition as a UNESCO world heritage designation. The *kumiudui* was performed by students and alumni of the Okinawa Prefectural Arts University (Geidai). In contrast, a traditional folk story and the vocal and acting brilliance of old grandson, Tomohumi, entitled, *Nakanaori Sandaagwa* was also staged. All dances in the program, representing the various genres of Ryukyuan dance, were performed by men. With the participation of Sensei's son, Tomoyuki, and koto master from Okinawa, Kumiko Agena Sensei, the



set to music of Sensei's 8-year-old grandson, Tomohumi, entitled, *Nakanaori Sandaagwa*



jikata, or musical accompaniment for the entire program was provided by members of the Hawaii Chapter of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai and other musicians from Hawaii's Okinawan performing arts community.

The grand ensemble of *uta-sanshin* was performed by the Oahu and Maui members of the Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai-Choichi Kai, featuring a range of ages and spanning several generations.

A few minutes before the program began, the audience was introduced to *kumiudui* and advised what to look out for. Snippets of information and simultaneous translations in English of the dialogue and music being sung in the *kumiudui* and folk story helped the audience to understand and enjoy the performance.

Tobe! Uta-sanshin 2010 in Hawaii was topped off with Choichi Terukina Sensei's powerful solo rendition of Nakafu Bushi with koto accompaniment by Kumiko Agena Sensei.

The HUAO expresses its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Choichi Terukina Sensei for his generosity in sharing Okinawa's treasure chest of performing arts jewels with our community. We also applaud all of the musicians and dancers from Okinawa and the musicians from Hawaii for their excellent performances. A special mahalo to Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei and his dedicated Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai members who worked diligently to ensure the success of this memorable performance.

We are especially encouraged by the enthusiasm and energy displayed by the younger practitioners of the music, as they are among those members of our community who will continue to preserve, perpetuate and promote the Okinawan culture in Hawaii.



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For additional information contact us at (808) 676-5400.

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THIS CRAFT FAIR REPLACES CANCELLED MAY 1, 2010 CRAFT FAIR.

MAHALO TO ISHIKAWA SHIJIN KAI, ITOMAN SHIJIN KAI, KANEGUSUKU

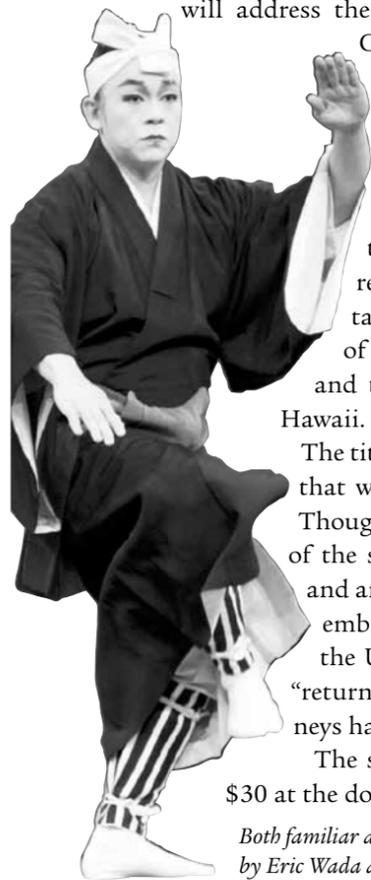
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FOR ORGANIZING THIS EVENT FOR HUAO.

Hawaii Taiko Kai and Ukwanshin Kabudan Retrace Uchinanchu Roots in 'Danju Kariyushi'

By Norman Kaneshiro

For people of Okinawan descent around the world, questions of "who we are" and "where we come from" go far beyond geography and mundane relationships. On Saturday, May 29, 2010, the Hawaii Taiko Kai and the Ukwanshin Kabudan will address these questions on the main stage of the Leeward Community College Theater in a presentation entitled "Danju Kariyushi."



Incorporating theater with Okinawan music, dance and taiko, the concert will recount key events in Uchinanchu history from the Satsuma invasion of 1609 through the establishment of the Hawaii community. "Danju Kariyushi" is both a recounting of the struggles of Uchinanchu to maintain their identity and pride, as well as a celebration of a culture that has endured centuries of hardship and traveled across the sea to establish firm roots in Hawaii.

The title of this presentation is borrowed from a folk song that was used to send loved ones off on a safe journey. Though sung with a heavy heart, the lyrics speak nothing of the sorrows of parting, but only of joyful aspirations and anticipation of a safe return. Thus, "Danju Kariyushi" embodies not only the optimism and resilience of the Uchinanchu spirit, but also an invitation to all to "return home" to their roots, no matter where their journeys have taken them.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 pre-sale and \$30 at the door.

Both familiar and rarely-seen Ryukyuan dances will be performed by Eric Wada and the Ukwanshin Kabudan dancers.



Sensei Terry Higa and the Hawaii Taiko Kai will present a wide variety of taiko performances, including an original piece created by Higa Sensei.

Live Yuimaru: Benefit Concert for Chantel Ikehara

By Shari Tamashiro



In 2009, Chantel Ikehara won the 29th IKZOO karaoke competition and now has the opportunity to compete in the 26th Annual NAK (Nippon Amateur Kayo Sai) Grand Prix Taikai in Tokyo in May. Only 15 years old, Chantel will be among the youngest to compete in this prestigious amateur competition. Chantel, a member of Urizun Minyo Group, is a multitasking vocalist who also studies the guitar and keyboard. Those who have heard Chantel perform know that she is extraordinarily talented.

In the spirit of *Yuimaru*, communities helping one another, *Live Yuimaru* hosted a benefit concert to help Chantel make her first visit to Okinawa, where she can explore her roots and heritage. The event was held on April 3 at Jikoen Hongwanji in front of a capacity crowd of approximately 400 people. Living *yuimaru*, all of the coordinators and entertainers volunteered their services.

In Okinawa, Chantel will have the opportunity to further her studies and take lessons from Minyo Sanshin Grand Master Akira Wakugawa sensei. Wakugawa sensei will take her to the different song locations and explain the origin of the songs she has been singing.

In addition to helping fund Chantel's first trip to Okinawa, we also wanted to show the community's love and support for Chantel, which she can take with her as she travels to Japan for the competition.

Special thanks to Reverend Nishiyama and Jikoen Hongwanji.

Entertainment included:

Wayne Takamine (Solo Guitar artist) and Stanley Takamine.

Shinden Karate (Charles Morita and Frances Nakachi)

Poetry about being Okinawan in Hawaii (Lee Tonouchi)

Shishi Mai (Jon Itomura - Eric Nitta) Hawaii Taiko Kai (Terry Higa and Students)

Urizun Minyo Group (Derek Ichiro Shiroma and Students)

Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Hawaii (Frances Nakachi and Students)

Hawaii Eisa Chimugukuru Daiko (Van Shimabukuro and Students)

Chantel Ikehara & Ohana (Janel Ikehara, Jane Higa with Janet Ito, Betty Taira, Flora Nakasone, Jean Sugihara, Harry Nakasone, Richard Tada)



You can follow Chantel's adventures upon her return when we publish a travel blog sometime in June at: yuimaru.wordpress.com

Photos courtesy of Wayne Takamine

Danju Kariyushi

A performance by the Hawaii Taiko Kai and Ukwanshin Kabudan

May 29, 2010 Saturday, 7 p.m.

Leeward Community College Theater

Ticket Prices: \$25 Pre-sale

\$30 at the door

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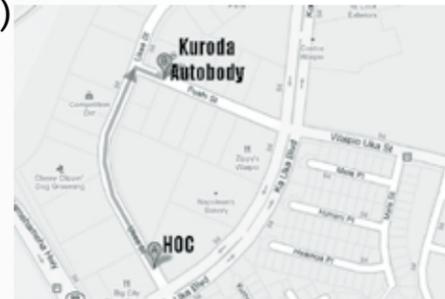
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Warabi Ashibi – Children at Play

Okinawan Cultural Summer Day Camp for Children

Coming this June



“Warabi Ashibi” is an Okinawan term meaning “children at play.” The spirit of this theme has governed the HUOA’s Okinawan Cultural Summer Day Camp Program for Kids. Developed in 1996, the program is designed to teach children about the Okinawan culture and heritage in a fun learning atmosphere.

Campers (children age 8-13) are introduced to Okinawan history, dance, language, drumming, martial arts, crafts, flower arrangement, cooking and plantation games. Projects are designed to provide a hands-on fun and educational experience for the participants. Special events are sometimes planned including excursions, family days and sleepovers.

First established by the HUOA for Oahu, the program is now also offered on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii with the assistance of neighbor island HUOA member clubs and a financial grant from the State of Hawaii, State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Coordinators from each island develop the program that will best suit their population. For additional and updated information, please visit our website at www.huoa.org, call the HUOA office at 676-5400, or email at kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com.

Listing of Camps and General Information:

OAHU

Location: Hawaii Okinawa Center
 Date of Camp: June 1- 4
(sleepover at the Hawaii Okinawa Center scheduled on Thursday)
 Hours: Tuesday – Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Friday: 9 a.m. – noon
 Coordinating Club: Hui O Laulima
 Directors: Wendy Yoshimoto and Jean Tsuda
 Registration: \$85 (discount for multi-child households)
 Number of Kids: 80
 Contact: Karen Kuba-Hori, (808) 676-5400
kuba-huoa@hawaii.rr.com
(go to www.huoa.org for application form)

MAUI

Location: Maui Okinawa Center
 Date of Camp: June 1 – 4
 Hours: 9:00am – 4:00pm
 Coordinating Club: Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai
 Directors: Traci Villarosa and Denise Villanova
 Registration: \$100 for MOKK members;
 \$125 for non-members
 Number of Kids: 30
 Contact: Maui Okinawa Center (808) 242-1560
 P.O. Box 1884, Wailuku 96793

HAWAII – HILO

Location: Honpa Hongwanji, Hilo Betsuin
 Date of Camp: June 6 – 11
(Excursion scheduled for Thursday – with a Wednesday Fun Night)
 Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Co-Sponsoring Club: Hui Okinawa
 Registration: \$85 (discount for multi-child households)
 Number of Kids: 48
 Director: Ruby Maekawa
 Contact: Ruby Maekawa (808) 959-4855
rmaekawa@hawaiiantel.net

KAUAI

Location: Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall
 Date of Camp: June 13 – 15
 Hours: 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Coordinating Club: Hui Alu, Inc.
 Registration: \$50
 Contact: Gary Ueunten (808) 332-8111

HAWAII – KOHALA

Location: Hawi Jodo Mission Hall
 Date of Camp: June 19
 Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Co-Sponsoring Club: Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai
 Registration: \$15
 Number of Kids: 20
 Director: Kathy Matsuda
 Contact: Kathy Matsuda, (808) 889-5801

Registration Form—Oahu Okinawan Children’s Day Camp

Name of Child _____

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

Returning Child: [] Yes [] No No. of Yrs Participating: _____

Name of Child _____

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

Returning Child: [] Yes [] No No. of Yrs Participating: _____

Name of Child _____

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

Returning Child: [] Yes [] No No. of Yrs Participating: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Parent or Legal Guardian’s Name(s) _____

Work Ph _____ Home Ph _____ Cell Ph _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Registration Fees:

One child (\$85) _____

Two children (\$165) _____

Three children (\$245) _____

Junior Leader—14 yrs and above (\$10) _____

(All new Junior Leader candidates – will be interviewed by staff coordinator, before acceptance.)

Please indicate additional shirt sizes

Quantity _____ Size _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to HUOA. Mail to:
 HUOA
 Children’s Day Camp
 94-587 Ukee Street
 Waipahu, HI 96797

Upon acceptance, additional forms will be mailed to you.
Ippee nifee deebiru



Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuyu Madin

おかげで
まで

2010 HUOA Ikuyu Madin Golf Tournament

The Plan

The plan focuses on a special project for the creation of an income-producing property that will ensure the sustainability and long-term goals of HUOA. The first step in this vital project was the land acquisition of the property, conveniently located across the street from HUOA at 94-587 Ukee Street, Gentry Waipio Business Park. After that, the conceptual plan calls for development of the land, following a careful market survey to determine what kinds of buildings and facilities will comply with the existing zoning and will best suit our ultimate goals. These could include such diverse structures as warehouses and dining facilities.

The Dream

With these additional and significant financial resources, we will be a step closer to realizing a long-term dream of a center with facilities that promote Okinawan businesses, government, and culture, as well as HUOA programs. It will not be an easy path, with strict zoning restrictions and other hurdles to overcome. With your support we can do it!

With your support of this golf tournament we can realize our dreams of perpetuating the Okinawan Heritage in Hawaii for all to share the "Uchinanchu Spirit." To all our supporters we say "Mahalo" & "Ippee Nifee Deebiru."

Deadline to register for the golf tournament is May 31, 2010. For registration information please contact Gladys Tokunaga-Asao at 832-0822 or 235-2184. Tournament entrants will be limited to the first 180 golfers. 



(L-R): 2008 HUOA President Jon Itomura, Co-chairs Maurice Yamasato and Gladys Tokunaga-Asao, and Title Sponsors Alan Chinen, Mark Teruya and Cliff Tamura. These individuals, who were key players the first successful Ikuyu Madin Golf Tournament in 2008, are spearheading the second tournament on June 24, 2010.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Ewa Beach Golf Club

Registration: 10:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11a.m.

Shotgun Start: 12 p.m.

Format: Three (3) person Scramble

Proceeds from the golf tournament will go to the capital campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

Hawaii Okinawa Center Clean Up Service Projects

A great way to start your Saturday or Sunday is to be at HOC at 7 a.m.! In two short hours, you'll get some exercise and help us keep HOC clean! Although HOC has janitorial services, we still need you to help us give HOC that extra shine. Clean up crews tackle the stage and back stage area, the mezzanine, exterior windows and trash bins, and the men's and women's restrooms. Let your young ones know that this is a great way of also fulfilling their community service projects for those active in service organizations.

Many thanks to the following Clubs who have signed up for clean-up dates:

Sun, 3/28 Awase Doshi Club

Sat, 4/10 Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai

Sun, 5/2 Okinawa City-Goeku Son

Sun, 5/23 Urasoe Shijin Kai

Sun, 6/27 Ginowan Shijin Kai

Sat, 7/11 Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai

Sat, 10/17 Nago Club

Sat, 11/21 Urasoe Shijin Kai 

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Our Supporters

Continued from Page 8



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

Donations listed were received from January 16, 2010 to March 15, 2010

Lorraine Arakaki
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin M. Fukuji
David Funakoshi
Hideo Goya
Allan & Charlotte Hashimoto
Betty U., Laverne & Kevin Higa, Honzen & Setsuko Kishimoto



Laverne T. Higa
Kyoko Hijirida
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In Memory of Mark Matsusei Higa by Jean K. Nishikawa
In Memory of Mrs. Yoshiko Iida by members of Hui O Lailima
In Memory of Ryozan & Kama Kuwaye
In Memory of Yaeko Miyashiro by Members of Hui O Lailima
In Memory of Rokuro Nakasone by members of Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshikai
In Memory of our long time friend and faithful member, Mr. Seitoku Oshiro by members of Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
In Memory of Minoru Tamashiro by Shigeru & Nancy Yogi
In Memory of Bob Meiso Terukina by Dorothy & Wayne Terukina and Joan Doi
In Memory of Roger & Chiyoko Toguchi by Ruth Okubo

In Memory of Roger & Chiyoko Toguchi by Sally C.T. Dang
In Memory of Mrs. Tsuruko Uyehara by members of Itoman Shijin Kai
In Memory of Seitoku & Haruko Yonamine by Maurice Yonamine
In Honor of Your 100th Birthday, Mrs. Tsuruyo Asato, by Wallace Asato
In Honor of Your 100th Birthday, Mrs. Tsuruyo Asato, by Bob & June Asato
In Honor of Richard Hansuke Morishige & Catherine Sumako Morishige by Janice A. Toshikiyo, Christine S. Taylor and Leslie T. Morishige



Preserving Our Legacy

2009 TO 2010-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



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 over \$94,000.

The following donations were received from January 16, 2010 to March 15, 2010.

PLATINUM (\$2,500 TO \$4,999)

In Memory of Mark Matsusei Higa by his Family

GOLD (\$1,000 TO \$2,499)

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Taro Yonamine by Lester Yonamine

BRONZE (\$250 TO \$499)

Stanley & Gerry Katayama

Ken & Amy Mijo

In Memory of Seitoku & Haruko Yonamine by Maurice Yonamine

CONTRIBUTOR (\$100 TO \$249)

Tomoe Fukushima

Herbert & Elaine Higa

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In Memory of Michael K. Miyashiro by Mitzi Miyashiro & Joy Guilao

In Memory of Takashi Motoyama by Hakuko Motoyama

In Memory of Kana & Seiichi Nakasone by Hiroshi & Kazuko Nakasone

In Memory of Mitsuko Nakasone by Stanley & Jane Pascua

In Memory of Tenpo & Hatsue Taba by Taba Service Inc.

In Memory of Sokichi & Umuto Toguchi by Seikichi Toguchi

SUPPORTER (\$50 TO \$99)

Connie & Joe Chun

Chieko I. Dela Cruz

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Stella S. Okuma

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In Memory of Clyde Imada by Joyce N. Chinen, Phd

FRIEND (\$25 TO \$49)

Gentoku & Kay Y. Kamiya

Diane Kawakami

Robert S. Nohara

Haruko Soma

Evelyn Stambler

J. Wheeler

In Memory of Kwanko & Kana Goya by Betsy S. Han

Okinawan Culture Day: A Day of Sharing

By Allison Yanagi, Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu

On February 15, students from the Punahou Japanese and Okinawan Club spent an activity-filled day with members of Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu. In an effort to gain a better understanding of the differences between Japan and Okinawa, the students cooked traditional Okinawan foods such as tofu-goya champuru, yakisoba and andagi with Teishin Kai members. Teishin Kai members also organized games and a short history lesson to explain to the students how truly different Okinawa's past is from its mainland Japan counterpart. In turn, the students created entertaining and engaging games that allowed them to interact with the Teishin Kai members while using the Japanese that they learned in their classes at school.

Culture day was the first time that these two groups came together, and it all started with a simple email conversation between Allison Yanagi of Teishin Kai, Jan Asato, the advisor to the Japanese and Okinawan Club, and the Club's President, Kelsey Ige. The email exchange soon led to a meeting to discuss what the two groups could do together that would be fun, informative and interactive.

"When I first met and talked to the officers of the club, many of them expressed an interest in Okinawa, especially because many of them are part Okinawan. But, many of them said that they really don't the difference between something 'Okinawan' versus something 'Japanese,'" said Allison. "I know that aside from playing sanshin, our Teishin Kai members have a lot of knowledge and experience that they would love to share with the students, and the students seemed very excited at the thought of doing some activities with us."

Months of planning and more email exchanges culminated into the culture day that took place in the Serikaku Chaya at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The event truly was a day of sharing. The ladies of Teishin Kai planned a menu that highlighted the more popular and well-known dishes of Okinawa, and students took turns dropping andagi and cooking the champuru that everyone would eat for lunch. Between cooking activities, students involved the Teishin Kai members in games that brought tremendous laughter and excitement to all who participated. The "Japanese charades" was especially memorable, as participants were divided into teams, and people did their best to use their bodies to "write out" various Japanese characters, in kanji, hiragana and katakana, as their teammates shouted out guesses



Andagi experience



The Sanshin experience

to the correct character.

During the lunch hour, a short history presentation was given by Fred Shinsato, who concisely emphasized that many of Okinawa's influences came from China, rather than Japan, and the students



Students get to eat what they learned to cook

played an Okinawan name game, created by Harris Shiroma, in which the contemporary pronunciation of a name had to be matched with its more traditional Ryukyu pronunciation. It was an eye-opening game that even caught many of the Teishin Kai members by surprise!

After lunch, students got a chance to play traditional Okinawan instruments. With the assistance of Hawaii Taiko Kai members, led by Terry Higa Sensei, and Miyashiro Soho Kai members, led by Bonnie Miyashiro Sensei, the Punahou students had an opportunity to handle all of the major instruments in the traditional Okinawan orchestra, from sanshin, koto and taiko to fue and kucho. It was a wonderful opportunity for the

students to experience something completely new and for the musicians to pass on to others much of what they have learned through the years.

"Okinawan Cultural Day was both engaging and enlightening," said Punahou Student, Nicole Sato. "Although I couldn't understand or speak the language, I was able to absorb the culture as I listened to others speak. I even learned a word or two from one of the Okinawan speakers! I enjoyed both cooking and then eating the yummy andagi, along with the various other Okinawan dishes. Additionally, I had the opportunity to play the sanshin, shamisen, fue, koto and the taiko, all of which were fun and unique experiences."

Club President Kelsey Ige said, "This past President's Day, I had the honor of attending an Okinawan Culture Day hosted by the Okinawa Center and Allison Yanagi. From morning to afternoon, we prepared our



Learning to play the taiko

own food, played games and learned a lot about the Okinawan culture. After studying Japanese for six years, this day was a breath of fresh air. I am Japanese-Okinawan, but I didn't realize how definite the distinction was between the two cultures until this past Monday. I have considered myself Okinawan, as I am in blood, but to understand their culture and music helped me feel connected with my past and helped me understand more about myself. The distinct taste of the Okinawan food, the very distinct instruments and the sound of the music brought the culture to life. It was nice getting to know the Ladies that lived in Okinawa and were so kind to share their bit of information and knowledge with us throughout the day. From fun games to learning new words and the history of Okinawa, it was nice to get out of classroom setting, but learn so much in just one day!"

All of the students expressed their appreciation for the efforts that made the day a great success! And, the members of Teishin Kai had a gratifying time of giving back to the younger generation. 🍵

Photos courtesy of Jan Asato



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Sakugawa Captures 32nd Maui Okinawan Golf Tournament

The 32nd Annual Maui Okinawan Golf Tournament, played on February 13 and 14 at the Waiehu Golf Course, was a measure of one's versatility – rain on Saturday was followed by hot and humid weather on Sunday. The ultimate survivor, unfazed by the challenging conditions, was Lee Sakugawa, who shot a two-day low gross score of 134.

The annual event was a success, welcoming well over a hundred golfers from the neighbor islands and the mainland to the two-day tournament, which culminated with the awards banquet and buffet dinner at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center. Prizes in excess of \$2,800 were given to top golfers of the various tournament flights.

First place winners:

Low Gross – Lee Sakugawa, 134

Low Net – Riley Kaneshina, 132

A Flight – Randy Nakamura, 137

B Flight – Donald Shimabukuro, 142

Guest Flight – Roy Okazaki, 133

Senior Flight – Richard Miyahira, 137

Women's Flight – (tie) Cheryl Garcia and Jennifer Horikawa, 140

Much thanks to co-chairpersons Todd Hondo and Ron Gibo and the dedication and hard work of all involved in making the tournament a success once again. Be on the lookout for next year's tournament applications at the beginning of 2011!



MOKK Golf Low Gross Winner Lee Sakugawa with Maui County Mayor Charmaine Tavares.



SPORTS CORNER

40th Annual HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament May 29 & 30, 2010, Pali Municipal Golf Course

Wouldn't you like to be amongst the lucky golfers being greeted by HUOA's 48 club banners waving majestically along the golf path at Pali Municipal Golf Course as they head to the first tee?

For a fee of \$125, you will have the pleasure of "hitting that ball" while enjoying the camaraderie of your golf pals for two whole days, followed by a great Awards Banquet at Jikoen Hongwanji Hall on Sunday evening. Check out our website: www.huoa.org for more information and the entry form; or, you can pick one up at the Hawaii Okinawa Center or at most public golf courses. Questions? Call HUOA at 676-5400 or Wes Teruya at 235-3117 or 228-8696.



www.huoa.org for more information and the entry form; or, you can pick one up at the Hawaii Okinawa Center or at most public golf courses. Questions? Call HUOA at 676-5400 or Wes Teruya at 235-3117 or 228-8696.

Hawaii Okinawa Center - Improvement Projects & Sponsorships

The year 2010 commemorates Hawaii Okinawa Center's 20th anniversary. Thanks to the support of our volunteers, supporters like you and your Club, we have been able to accomplish many improvement projects.

Projects completed last year include at the Legacy Ballroom: carpet replacement, men's shower stall replacement, stage drapes repair, and light control repair. The roof and thermostat were repaired at the Higa Building. And that is only a portion of the projects. This year, we have continued to make the following improvements to the Center: replaced the ice machine in the kitchen, repaired the room partition in the Ballroom, and continued work on table repairs.



Beautiful newly carpeted Legacy Room.

In the garden, the 20-year-old waterfall pump has been replaced by a pair of energy efficient new ones. The stairwell to the second floor of Higa Building, the planters fronting both buildings, off-colored areas on the exterior walls of both buildings, and the lettering in the monuments located in the Issei Garden have been touched up and repainted thanks to volunteers James Akamine, Tim Oshiro and Ernie Tonaki.

A lot has been done, but many projects remain. One of our goals is to replace all 1,000 chairs in the Legacy Ballroom. Tables are being refreshed with protective coating and new table legs as needed.

You and your Club's continued support keep Hawaii Okinawa Center a perfect place for parties, weddings, recitals and special events. The past monetary support from Clubs to sponsor projects resulted in a positive step forward in maintaining our Center.

We know with the current tough economic times, it is hard to do, however, sponsorship of any project in part or whole are needed and greatly appreciated. Please contact Laura Nakasone at laura@huoa.org or call (808) 676-5400.

Uchinanchu Newsletter 3 Issue Advertising Series Opportunity

Help us commemorate the milestones of our community:

28th Okinawan Festival,
July/August issue with
additional 5,000
copies distributed at
the Okinawan Festival
published end of August.



20th Anniversary of Hawaii Okinawa Center,
Sep/Oct issue, published end of October.

New Year's Special, Dec. issue, published
end of December.

For advertising rates, contact Laura Nakasone at laura@huoa.org, or phone 676-5400.

CLUB NEWS

our clubs, our future

Hui Okinawa News

By Margaret Torigoe, President

The Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko Group held a successful andagi sale at the Chinese New Year's celebration at Kalakaua Park on February 13.

Tadashi, our Shishimai, has performed at several occasions and has even started to dance to more contemporary Okinawan music.

Shinnen Enkai: We had planned to have about 30 members attend and entertain at the Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai on February 27 but, due to the tsunami warning, only four people ended up representing us. Hui Uruma's Shinnen Enkai on March 6 in Honokaa was a nice event that included entertainers from Nidaime Teishinkai and the Ajimines.



Big Island students (L-R): Melanie Matsuda from Kohala Kenjin Kai participated in the Student Exchange trip to Okinawa last year, Jenna Nickl from Kohala and Kathy Oyadomari from Hui Okinawa anticipate going to Okinawa in June.

"I love Loco Moco" from Café 100. Many host families on Oahu must have introduced them to the loco moco, since several students said that's the food they enjoyed most in Hawaii.

Reminder: Invitation for Haari Boat Festival: August 20-21, 2010, at the Wailoa State Park. Friday will be practice for teams and a Friendship Golf Tournament. All current information on the Haari Boat Festival will be on the website sometime this week at www.haariboat-festival.com. Please check it out. All forms and information for teams will be on the website.

Planning and work has begun for the float entries in the Merrie Monarch Parade in April and for the Cultural Day Camp in June.

Check out the HUOA website for our latest Newsletter: the next one will be out mid-April. You can read in detail all that we are doing.

We keep busy! 🍻

Ginowan Club News

By Jane Nakamura



Ginowan members Margaret Asato, Sandra Nishimoto, Betsy Miyahira, Robert Miyahira, and Jane Sakima enjoy the Shinnen enkai.

many door prizes and entertainment. Information on "Ikuyu Madin: Generation to Generation" was presented by Pat Miyashiro with a slide show inviting members to help to pay off the \$2 million debt owed on the land purchased across the street from the Hawaii Okinawa Center and at the same time have the opportunity to be

The Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange potluck social was held on March 11 when we hosted the students from Okinawa. This was a very lively group and the young planners led by Patti Taira-Tokuuke had contemporary music and dance; the students from Okinawa even did a kachashi using very contemporary Okinawan music. The students enjoyed a bento lunch at the Liliuokalani Park before leaving Hilo. They were given a bumper sticker stating,



Students from Okinawa students enjoy Hui Okinawa's potluck dinner.

recognized on an individual, family, club or corporate plaque to be displayed in the HOC Legacy Ballroom.

A moment of silence was observed to remember those members who passed away in 2009. Francis Toyama, Ginowan's Uchinanchu of the Year 2009, was recognized, as were six members reaching age 70 in 2010, 24 members over age 80, and six members born in the year of the tiger. Dayna Miyashiro, chemistry major at Creighton University, and David Kurashige, political science major at Patrick Henry University, were recognized as recent graduates. Larry Morisako and Shigemasa Tamanaha led the Karii toasts.

Harvey Ouchi, Mr. "O," entertained adults as well as the children with his magic tricks. Ginowan member Gail Kohagura performed a solo Okinawan dance. Ellen Higa and Betsy Miyahira performed to "Nee Fie Yu." Francis Toyama's group, "Chinagu Eisa Hawaii," performed several taiko numbers which were enjoyed by all.

Chris Higa kept the children busy and engrossed in the "children's corner" throughout the luncheon, doing crafts related to the occasion.

Our thanks to chairperson Rodney Kohagura and the hard-working committee for planning such an outstanding Shinnen enkai! 🍻

Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai

By President Stan Higa and Bob Asato

At its 2010 Shinnen Enkai held at Masa's Cafeteria in Mapunapuna on February 21, Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai celebrated the 100th birthday of its most treasured member, Mrs. Tsuruyo Asato. We'd like to share a short biography of this remarkable centenarian:

Tsuruyo Oshiro Asato was born in Aza Atta, Kita Nakagusuku Son, Okinawa, on February 10, 1910.

While still attending Chisaba School, and only 13 years old, her father, had migrated to Hawaii earlier with her four older brothers, requested that she start emigration process immediately so that she would be able to board the last ship that was to be allowed to bring Japanese immigrants to the United States.

With mixed emotions, young Tsuruyo left her mother and two older sisters and traveled alone on a big ship to Hawaii.

Upon arrival, she joined her father and brothers in Mountain View, on the Big Island, where she began working in the sugar cane fields.

On August 20, 1926, and only 16 years old, she married Eitai Asato and moved to Honolulu. She raised two daughters and four sons.

In 1935, to help support the family, she worked as a "trimmer" at Libby McNeil and later transferred to Hawaiian Pineapple Cannery when Libby's closed its operation. On March 1, 1973, she retired from Hawaiian Pine at age 63, after 38 years of service.

Mrs. Asato was blessed with a "green thumb." Throughout most of her adult life she enjoyed tending to her orchids and working in her garden. When friends came to visit, they usually found her outdoors, in the hot house or in her garden. She was also successful in growing apple, peach and plum trees from seeds. When Dr. Baron Goto, the horticulturist at the University of Hawaii, heard about the beautiful blossoming peach tree in her yard, he visited the Asato's residence to see it with his own eyes. He was very impressed, because he did not think it was possible to grow a peach tree in Moiliili - especially from a seed. Unfortunately, the three trees fell to termites.

Mrs. Asato also has grapefruit, orange, lemon, lime, tangerine, mango, avocado, lychee, banana, star fruit, and breadfruit trees in her yard.

Although she does not garden anymore, she enjoys looking at her plants from the second floor balcony of her home everyday. However, she still enjoys her other hobbies of knitting and crocheting blankets, vests, caps, socks and leis for her grandchildren.

Mrs. Asato enjoys traveling and has traveled extensively over the years. With her children and grandchildren, she has visited Alaska, Canada, and traveled across the United States visiting the National Parks along the way. She has also been to Australia and New Zealand, and toured Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa. But, nowadays, she enjoys going to Las Vegas the best, where she can leisurely relax with family and play the nickel slots.

Every Thursday, daughter-in-law May drops by to take her to the Lanakila Okinawa Nenchoosa Club. Until a few years ago, she was an active participant in Okinawa dancing, but is now content to take in the entertainment and socialize with old friends.

In December 2009, on the eve of her 100th birthday, an official from the Japanese Consulate in Honolulu, made a surprise visit to her home and presented her with a congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister of Japan and a silver sakazuki (sake cup) memento.

But, above all, her pride and joy are her six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Omedeto, Tsuruyo - "Utanjoobi Kariyushi Unnukiyabira!" 🍻



HUOA President Paul Komeiji presents a congratulatory certificate to 100-year-old Tsuruyo Asato.

Kohala Okinawan Kenjin Kai

By Kathy Matsuda, President

February 27, 2010—what an exciting but scary morning! A tsunami was to hit Hilo about 11:30 a.m. The majority of our Hilo guests and entertainers took precautions and cancelled their trip to Kohala. HUOA President Paul



Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai members prepare the kalua pig in an authentic imu.

Komeiji and State Representative Mark Nakashima called to see if the Shinnen Enkai was cancelled. All activities in Kohala were postponed except the Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai Shinnen Enkai.

The kalua pig committee arrived at 8:30 a.m. to take the pig out of the imu. This process started a week ahead with prepping the imu, picking up firewood, and, on Friday,

slaughtering the pig and placing it into the imu. Once in the imu for 14 hours, we had ono kalua pig ready for our party.

The kitchen crew was busy working at the Hawi Jodo Mission Hall, preparing nishime, shoyu chicken, baked ham, namasu, fried tofu, potato macaroni salad, o-sekihan, rice, andagi, vegetable tempura, sweet potato mochi, tossed green salad, and sweet potato tempura. We also had many donations of desserts and pupus.

The decoration crew placed beautiful floral arrangements on the table made by Arakaki Store. The 30 floral arrangements were reserved for our 30 honorees. For those who were unable to attend, we made sure that they received an arrangement, lei and gift. Three extra special honorees were recognized: Mr. Minoru Nakasato, Mrs. Diana Arakaki, 84 years old, and also Mr. Shinse Kise who celebrated his "beiju." Family and friends came from out of town to pay tribute to all of our honorees. It's always a fun and joyous occasion.

State Representative Mark Nakashima presented a certificate to each honoree, and HUOA President Paul Komeiji installed our 2010-2012 officers.

Great entertainment was provided by Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala,



HUOA President Paul Komeiji greets 92-year-old Myles Arakaki.

Lois and Tahirih Ajimine, Eric Wada and Norman Kaneshiro from Ukwanshin Kabudan, along with a special shisa performance by Aaron and Lawson that was enjoyed by everyone!



HUOA President Paul Komeiji installs the 2010-2012 officers: Kathy Matsuda (Pres), Sam Gushiken (VP), Rayne Pimental (Sec), Minoru Nakasato (Advisor), Jean Matsuda (Advisor), Guy Nakamura (Auditor), Dennis Matsuda (Auditor), Kell Matsuda (Auditor). Missing: Jocelin Matsuda (Treas).

Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai

By Ed Kino, President

One hundred fifteen members, family and guests of Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai celebrated the club's 84th Anniversary at Victoria Inn on February 21. For the 14th year, Kento of the Flyin' Hawaiian Balloons provided table decorations and sculptures for both children and adults.

Members were treated to a resounding performance by the nine boys and girls of Lisa Tamashiro's Chinagu Eisa Hawaii. For the 13th year, Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu, led by Sensei Grant Murata, entertained the audience with Okinawan songs and dances. Sandaa's 7-year-old son also treated the crowd to an Okinawan song.

Kanegusuku's five World War II veterans were recognized during the Hawaii Okinawa Today TV broadcast in January 2010.

Stan Tamayose from Maui was honored in person for his 17 years of volunteering at the Okinawan Festival's Pig's Feet Soup Booth.

The evening of good food, pupu, desserts and fellowship included Grant Murata's June 9-19, 2010, Okinawa tour talk and Patrick Miyashiro's video presentation on Ikuyu Madin. The evening ended with door prizes – Panasonic rice cooker for Garret Yamamoto, hair blow dryer for Stanley Kaneshiro, and the grand prize, a Sony Blu-Ray DVD player, for Jenette Soon.

Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Welcomes The New Year

By Jason Honda, Newsletter Editor

The year 2010 was brought in with sounds of Okinawan music, the sights of Okinawan dance, and the taste of Okinawan Okinawa Kenjin Kai's March 6 at the Maui Center. Distinguished



Ally Yonahara, Lena Gnue, and Reece Murata of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko.

food at Maui Shinnen Enkai on Okinawa Cultural guests who joined our celebration included Maui County Mayor

Charmaine Tavares and Hawaii United Okinawa Association President Paul Komeiji.

Oahu resident Charlene Gima returned to her home island of Maui representing Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryuku Geino Kenkyusho and performed the traditional Kajadefu to open our event. The Maui branch of Jimpu Kai USA also treated the audience to Okinawan odori. Other performances included Hawaii Taiko Kai – Maui with odori by June Konno, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, and a joint presentation by Maui Okinawa Taiko and Maui Okinawa Sanshin. Maui is very fortunate to have members so interested in the perpetuation of the Okinawan arts.



Charlene Gima of Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryuku Geino Kenkyusho.

The membership also paused to appreciate our new octogenarians. Our new 80-year-olds recognized were William Agena, Utae Isaacs, Jennie Nakamoto, Pauline Saiki, Kazuo Sugiki, Flossie Sumabat, Lorraine Teruya, Rikio Tshako, and Douglas and Kazue Zaan. We were so happy that many were able to come and enjoy the evening with us.

All of those in attendance felt the spirit of our culture. They seemed to have the unspoken understanding of relishing in these cultural events whenever there is opportunity. The older folks spoke of old times and old friends, the younger ones performed and ate the delicious food, and all clearly enjoyed being Uchinanchu at heart. Let 2010 bring our members and their families continued health and happiness!



80-year old Douglas Zaan with MOKK President Joe Toma and HUOA President Paul Komeiji.

Young Okinawans of Hawaii Bon Dance Practice 2010

By David Miyashiro, President

Are you getting excited about the upcoming bon dance season? Haven't had your weekly cardio workout? Does that yukata still fit? You are definitely in luck!

The Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH) will be having its 2010 bon dance practices beginning Friday, June 4. Everyone is welcomed to stop by and join us for these nights of practices. As we prepare for another season of fun and energetic Okinawan-style dances, we encourage everyone to come and participate. From the traditional to the modern, we'll teach you the basic steps of our routine and perhaps you will gain a bit of insight regarding Okinawan history and culture.

Please join us and bring your family and friends. Of course if you are interested in joining our club, there are no age limits. Young at heart, young in mind, young in spirit!

- Who: The Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH)
- What: Bon Dance Practice for 2010 Season
- Where: Kilauea Recreation Center
June 4th, 18th – July 2nd, 9th and 16th
4109 Kilauea Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii
- Time: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

If you would like more information about our club, please visit our website and/or Facebook site: YOH Website: youngokinawans.org/
YouTube site: AkisamiYOH

Student Exchange Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Students from Okinawa and their Hawaii host students gather for a group photo with Vice Governor Zenki Nakazato (back row, middle) and Superintendent Seihachiro Kin.



Editor's note: This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange program – the longest educational exchange program involving the Okinawa Prefectural Government. Through this program, students from Okinawa spend two weeks with Hawaii host families. Later in the year, a group of Hawaii students then travel to Okinawa for two weeks, staying with host families, attending high school with their host student, and participating in field trips sponsored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

The following letter was sent to us from a host family. We believe it best captures the spirit of the program and the impact that it has on the lives of all who participate in it.

March 18, 2010

Ms. Jane Serikaku, Executive Director
Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Dear Ms. Serikaku:

Please accept our most heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to be a part of the Hawaii-Okinawa Exchange Program as a host family. We recognize and appreciate all of the hard work and planning that led up to a very successful visit by our students, chaperones and officials from Okinawa.

We applied to be a host family as a result of an article in the HUOA newsletter where it was noted that a few more host families were needed. What piqued my interest was that I saw it as an opportunity to give back to the Okinawan community and the Department of Education. I was very fortunate to have received a scholarship from Hui Makaala some 30+ years ago and, my son is a senior at Kalani High School where we receive wonderful support from teachers, administration, staff and the athletic department. We also saw it as a preparatory step to college for Ryne.

So, while we embarked on this effort from a somewhat selfish perspective what we got in return was an experience with memories and rewards that we will carry with us for a lifetime. Ryne initially had reservations – especially when he learned that we were hosting a girl, and had challenges that he didn't expect – like being responsible for another person other than himself, especially at school amongst his peers. However, those quickly disappeared as he warmed up to Moeko (our exchange student) and took the challenge and associated responsibilities head on.

All of our experiences were good though and we want to share all of them but that would probably take a few hours. We do however, want to share a few worthy of mention because they were so heartwarming and quite unexpected.

First off, every day was an adventure as we speak little to no Japanese and we relied solely on our little translator book from Barnes and Noble and an on-line site that translated English to kanji! What started as a huge challenge turned out to be some of the funniest and most rewarding interactions we had. Imagine typing a question into our laptop and waiting for a translation so that we could decide what to do for the evening.

Moeko is what we would characterize as an atypical Asian girl. Stereotypes? Out the window!! We expected and subsequently prepared to serve her "expensive rice". We thought we would be honoring her by serving her only the best! We were quite surprised that on the first day, she said, "I like potato. Cooked potato and fried potato. Moeko does not like rice!" Next, we quickly found out that she prefers oranges over apples, cats over dogs, fried mochi with shoyu vs. with kinako, pizza and spaghetti over loco moco and inexpensive vs. designer omiyage.

Additionally, she quickly inserted herself into our daily family activities and routine. She helped to set the table, took out the groceries from the car, took her clothes to the laundry room and completely charmed our extended families during the 2 Sunday nite dinners that we had.

Lastly, there were many "teachable moments" for our family. The one that was most significant was the sharing of our family life. We learned what it meant to put others before self in everyday situations. Imagine though doing that with a complete stranger! And, doing so not knowing if she understood or even appreciated the implication of our somewhat selfish sacrifices. After a couple of days however, we began to embrace those opportunities and the addition to our family. We miss her so very much!

In closing, we thank you again for allowing us this opportunity to participate in such a wonderful program. We were hoping to do it again but we only have 1 child. However, if you ever need an emergency host family, we would be more than happy to help out. Or, if you need assistance with any aspect of future visits, please feel free to contact us.

Aloha and warm regards,

The Ryne Mizushima family: Ryne Mizushima, Claire Mizushima & Ed China



HUOA hosts dinner for Okinawa delegation (L-R): Stacy Kawamura, David Arakawa, Courtney Takara, Jun Shimada, Tom Yamamoto, Jon Itomura. Back row: Tamotsu Miyagi, Osamu Kinjo, Jane Serikaku, Kenyu Yonaha, Vice Governor Zenki Nakazato, Paul Komeiji, Superintendent Seihachiro Kin, Ford Chinen, Tatsuno Chinen, and Norman Nakasone.



In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the High School Student Exchange, HUOA Presidents in attendance received an Appreciation Certificate from Okinawa Prefectural Government Board of Education. (L-R): 2010-Paul Komeiji, 2008-Jon Itomura, 2007-David Arakawa, 2003-George Tamashiro, 2002-Gladys Tokunaga-Asao, 1997-Dexter Teruya, 2001-James Iba, 1993-94-Jane Serikaku with Superintendent Seihachiro Kin.

HUOA Plans Community Outreach Project, May 8

Members of the HUOA community will travel to Waianae on Saturday, May 8, 2010, to engage the 48 families at Ohana Ola O Kahumana, a Transitional Center, in a typical Okinawan picnic from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The day will feature food, entertainment and



picnic games/prizes for the youngsters and adults. Andagi will be cooked on site and shave ice available during the day. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our Okinawan culture – our Uchinanchu Spirit and Hearts – with those who are struggling to improve their lives.

How can you get involved?

You can join us in the planning and execution of the event, or you can help by donating items such as toiletries and household items. Towels, cleaning supplies, laundry soap, canned goods, diapers, gently used clean clothing for kids and adults, or a check made out to HUOA to purchase needed supplies and materials are all welcomed. Donated items can be dropped off at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Please call HUOA at 676-5400 or email: huaa@huaa.org to let us know how you can help in our effort to reach out to our friends at the Ohana Ola O Kahumana Transitional Center.

Honolulu Festival Parade

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association proudly participated in the 2010 JTB Honolulu Festival Grand Parade! Uchinanchu pride was on display as paranku drummers marched alongside the HUOA banner carriers from Fort DeRussey, through Waikiki, to Kapiolani Park in their club t-shirts, HUOA vests (*uchikake*), and purple sashes.



Members of Paranku Clubs of Hawaii get ready for the JTB Honolulu Festival Grand Parade.



Chondara, Dexter Teruya and the HUOA officers lead 45 parade marchers holding their club banners.

‘Okage Sama De’ Virtual Leadership Study Tour: Bridging the Past, the Present, and the Future

HUOA’s Virtual Leadership Study Tour is scheduled for Friday, August 6 through Saturday, August 7, 2010. Participants are required to attend the entire event, including an overnight stay at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The tour will include a dinner on Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, as well as a combination of lectures, discussion sessions, virtual tours, performances, and other hands-on activities. Participants will be required to also participate in any post-Study Tour evaluation meetings.

According to Vice President Courtney Takara, “This is a wonderful opportunity and an affordable alternative to flying to Okinawa for an actual Leadership Study Tour.” The cost per participant is \$75, which will help to defray the cost of food, drinks and supplies needed for this event. We encourage all clubs to consider at least a 50 percent sponsorship of their two representatives.

Participants must be at least 21 years of age at the time of the Virtual Leadership Tour and is open to any club member interested in enhancing their knowledge about Okinawa and HUOA. Club presidents are in possession of the information/registration forms. If you are interested, please contact your club president. Deadline to register is May 30, 2010. Questions? Call HUOA at 676-5400 or email: huaa@huaa.org

Hui O Laulima 2010 Cultural Grant Recipients

Each year, Hui O Laulima, a service organization of women of Okinawan ancestry and others who are Okinawan at heart, awards individuals and organizations that promote and perpetuate the Okinawan culture in the community. A total of \$5,000 was awarded to six (6) organizations and individuals. Hui O Laulima is pleased to announce the following recipients for 2010:

1. Yoneko Yamashiro Edmondson
2. Hawaii Taiko Kai
3. Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko
4. Diane Hatsuko Kaya
5. Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko – Kohala
6. Mina Tamashiro

Purposes and activities of these recipients include furthering studies of dance and music in Okinawa, participating in recital, dance, music and taiko performances, teaching taiko to classes in Kohala on the Big Island and taking a dance test in Okinawa for certification.

An active member of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Hui O Laulima is proud to support these worthy endeavors and wish each recipient our very best wishes for a successful year.

HUOA STUDY TOUR TO OKINAWA June 2 – 13, 2010

Join us on an exciting Study Tour to Okinawa! Check out our website: www.huaa.org for the complete itinerary and cost. If you don’t have access to the website, call Nadine Shimabukuro at N&K Travel Service Inc. at 739-9010.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

March

dan-gasa, n. (Western-style) umbrella; a parasol. Also rangasa.

April

faa-fuji, n. Grandparents.

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

HUOA DONATIONS January 16, 2010 - March 15, 2010

HUOA sends a sincere ippee nifee deebiru to the following donors:

- Minoru & Michiko Fujii
- In Memory of Edna Fukumoto by Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
- Kin-cho Kin-Ku Traditional Performing Arts Preservation Society
- Kiyoko Kubota
- In Memory of James Seizen Miyashiro by Miyoko Miyashiro
- In Memory of James “Maliko” Seizen Miyashiro by Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
- Kenneth M. & Laura Nakasone Sakae Nakata
- Romeo M. Oliveros
- Pacific Buddhist Academy
- In Memory of Gilbert Shimabukuro by Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai
- Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai
- Dennis & Mary Yoshino

Kokua In-Kind Donations

(Thank you for donating your vehicle to HUOA.)

- Robert & Florence Higa
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- Paul Komeiji
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HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

May 2010

- 4 Executive Council mtg.
- 6 HUOA Evening Spring Craft Fair, Legacy I/II, 5:30-9pm
- 8 Community Service-picnic for homeless; Ohana Ola O'Kahumana, 10am-1pm
- 10 Club Development Com. mtg.
- 14 & 15 Senior Fair, Legacy I/II, 9am-1pm
- 18 Board of Directors mtg.
- 20 Administration Com. mtg.
- 29 Danju Kariyushi concert by Hawaii Taiko Kai and Ukwanshin Kabudan, Leeward Community College Theatre, 7pm
- 29 & 30 40th Annual HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament, Pali Municipal Golf Course
- 30 40th Annual HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament Banquet, Jikoen Social Hall, 6pm dinner
- 31 HOC Office Closed-MEMORIAL DAY
- 31 President Paul Komeiji, President-elect Norman Nakasone and Executive Director Jane Serikaku depart for Aisatsu Tour to Okinawa

June 2010

- 1-4 Children's Cultural Day Camp, Legacy I/II
- 2-13 HUOA Study Tour to Okinawa
- 3 Communications & Information Com. mtg.
- 9 Okinawan Festival mtg.
- 14 Club Development Com. mtg.
- 17 Administration Com. mtg.
- 22 Executive Council mtg.

Classes · Other 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 mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9am*
- Uchinaaguchi: every 4th Thursday, 7pm*

*for more information, please call 676-5400

Subject to Change (entries as of 4/5/10)

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

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

- May 3 27th Okinawan Festival 2009 at Kapiolani Park - Show #1 featuring Opening Procession; Paranku Clubs of Hawaii; Opening Ceremonies; Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai; and Hirara from Okinawa. (Premiere)
- May 10 Chu Hisa Na, "Fulfilling Dreams One Step At A Time" (Part Two) - Frances Nakachi Dojo's First Okinawan Dance Recital held at the Hawaii Theatre Center on May 13, 2000
- May 17 HUOA 60th Installation Banquet held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on December 12, 2009. (Part Two) (Premiere)
- May 24 Hawaii Taiko Kai performance in October 2003.
- May 31 24th Okinawan Festival 2004 at Kapiolani Park - Show #1 featuring "Begin" from Okinawa.
- Jun 7 HUOA Legacy Award Luncheon 2009 held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on Sunday, November 15, 2009. Part One features honorees Kiyoshi Kinjo and Ronald K. Migita. (Premiere)
- Jun 14 Okinawan Centennial Celebration - Opening Banquet - "Okage Sama De 2000", Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha; held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on January 8, 2000.
- Jun 21 HUOA Legacy Award Luncheon 2009 held at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on Sunday, November 15, 2009. Part Two features honorees James Serikaku and Victor Yamashiroya. (Premiere)
- Jun 28 26th Okinawan Festival 2006 at Kapiolani Park - Show #4 featuring Radio Okinawa Miuta Taisho; Nakasone Dance Academy, Hooge Ryu Hanauuzi No Kai; and Nuuanu Okinawa Shorin Ryu/Shinden Kempo Karate Club.

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