



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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30th Okinawan Festival: Are You Ready?

Are you ready to experience an unforgettable, energetic, jump-out-of-your-seat show? If so, get ready to enjoy two full days of live entertainment at the Kapiolani Park Bandstand on Saturday and Sunday, September 1 and 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year's 30th Okinawan Festival will feature special performers from Okinawa along with many of our favorite local artists.

One of the featured performers, Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, will be joined by Naha Daiko, its sister group from Okinawa, to celebrate this festive occasion. Although it was formed only three years ago, this will be Chinagu Eisa Hawaii's third appearance at the Okinawa Festival, while the ever-popular Naha Daiko will be making its fifth Okinawan Festival appearance. The group's dynamic and energetic performances have never failed to thrill and delight Festival audiences. As an added bonus, this year the two groups will be joined by prominent Okinawan artist, Ikeda Suguru.

Naha Daiko

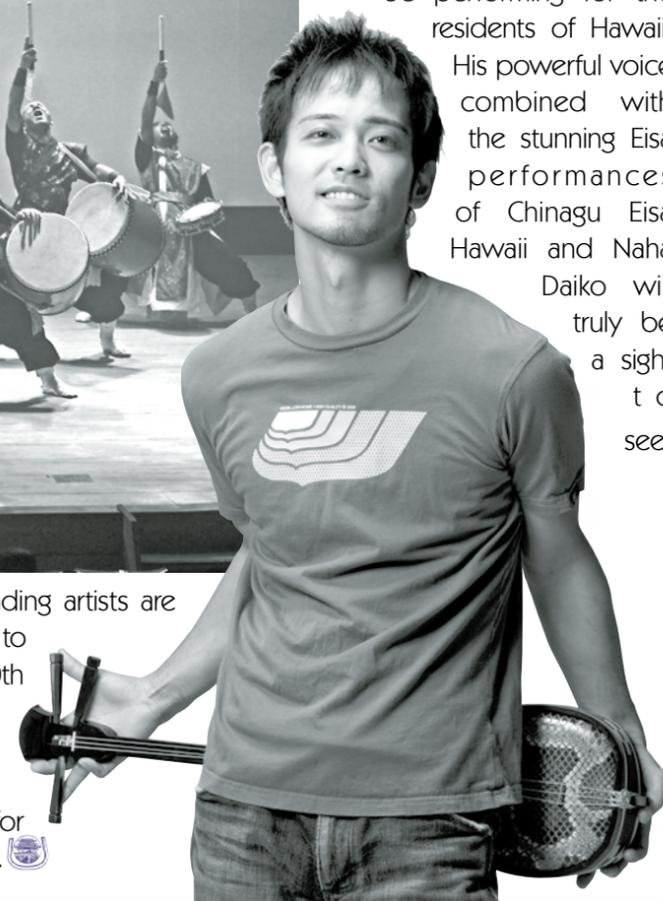
was formed in 1997 for the purpose of promoting cultural exchange and enriching the musical legacy of youth in Okinawa. This group is known for its exciting, original style of Eisa, which is firmly grounded in traditional Okinawan Eisa. Their dynamic and visually stunning performances are sure to engage and inspire everyone in attendance.

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, Naha Daiko's fame continues to grow internationally, as they have achieved great success in other Asian countries, Hawaii and Guam. The group has always dreamt of staging a full concert here in Hawaii, a dream that will finally come true this year. Naha Daiko, Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, and Ikeda Suguru will be hosting a concert on September 8 at the Mamiya Theater. (More information on this concert appears elsewhere in this newsletter).



Ikeda is well known throughout Japan and has performed in the United States and Canada as well. He played the lead role in the television series, *Endo no Hana* (Flowers by the Wayside). One of his most popular songs, *Obaachan no Uta*, is a beautiful ballad dedicated to his grandmother living on Iriomote Island.

Ikeda expressed his joy to be performing for the residents of Hawaii. His powerful voice combined with the stunning Eisa performances of Chinagu Eisa Hawaii and Naha Daiko will truly be a sight to see.



Ikeda Suguru,

one of the most celebrated new generation performers in Okinawan music, will add his powerful voice as a guest vocalist with Chinagu Eisa Hawaii and Naha Daiko in the number, *Niraikanaihe*. Ikeda's debut CD, *Shima no Hito Yo* (Oh, Islanders), was released in 2000. The talented artist is also an actor, radio personality, lecturer and author.

Many more outstanding artists are coming from Okinawa to help celebrate our 30th Okinawan Festival. Please check the next "Okinawan Festival Issue" of Uchinanchu for additional information. 

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President's Message By Cyrus Tamashiro



Nourish Your Spirit!

Koryu, or “exchange,” is the term used for international student exchange programs. In the past month, there were many events that involved a variety of exchanges, between cultures, people and ideas. In this issue, I would like to share stories of a few of the memorable events of May that involved exchanges between people from different countries.

On May 12, 2012, the northeastern slope of Diamond Head reverberated with the thunderous beat of taiko emanating from the Great Lawn of Kapiolani Community College. Six taiko groups performed at the 2nd Eisa Drum Festival but it was more than just percussion instruments. Okinawa's Daiichi Hirata, who brought the stage production *Amawari* to Hawaii in 2008, was the featured artist. With Hirata-san performing a Ryukyuan chant and KCC Language, Linguistics & Literature Department Chair Kawika Napoleon performing a Hawaiian oli, the dramatic juxtaposition of styles showed how Okinawan and Hawaiian chants are remarkably similar and equally moving. Kudos to Shari Tamashiro for conceiving the idea of a celebration of Eisa, and for bringing so many taiko groups and music schools to perform together on stage as one. Shari also produced, directed, and marketed the event, attracting an enthusiastic audience of thousands. In jubilation, the entire cast of taiko players, musicians, dancers, karate practitioners, singers, shishimai performers and whistlers were on stage for the grand finale. To Shari Tamashiro, Dorene Niibu and all cast and crew members, thank you for nourishing our spirit!

Kenjinkai presidents from Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, the Philippines, Canada, Los Angeles and Hawaii were invited to the Okinawa Reversion 40th Anniversary Ceremony on May 15, 2012 by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. The ceremony was held in the Theater of the Okinawa Convention Center in Ginowan.

Speakers at the Reversion Anniversary Ceremony included:

- Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda
- Okinawa's Governor Hirokazu Nakaima
- Speaker of the Japan House of Representatives Takahiro Yokomichi
- President of the Japan House of Councillors Kenji Hirata
- Chief Justice of Japan's Supreme Court Hironobu Takesaki
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to Japan John Roos
- Former Minister of State, Director-General of the Okinawa Development Agency Kohsuke Uehara
- Japan's Minister of State for Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs Tatsuo Kawabata
- Speaker of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Zenshin Takamine

Prime Minister Noda and Governor Nakaima were co-hosts of the event attended by many of Prime Minister Noda's cabinet, Governor Nakaima's cabinet, Japan Diet members, Okinawan legislators and mayors, and top U.S. military officers stationed in Okinawa and outside Okinawa. It was truly a high level event and it was a privilege to be invited.

Speakers from Okinawa talked about their hopes and dreams for a better Okinawa, for a vibrant, more diversified economy. They expressed firmly their desire to catch up to the rest of Japan in improved infrastructure and their belief in their right to self-determination. Speakers from the Central Government acknowledged the sacrifices of Okinawans since World War II, expressed understanding of the challenges of the prefecture, and pledged to do more to help bring prosperity to Okinawa. To have the top people in Japan's Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government speak at this event gave hope that the Central Government would make decisions with Okinawa's interests in mind.

Following the formal program, guests were escorted to the larger Event Hall for a reception. There were gracious opening remarks by Prime Minister Noda and Gov. Nakaima. Then came *Kagami-biraki*, the ceremonial opening of sake barrels with mallets. Dignitaries participated in this simultaneous tapping of the lids of sake barrels, including many members of Prime Minister Noda's cabinet and leaders of all Japanese political parties. A vigorous kanpai by former Gov. Keiichi Inamine signaled the start of refreshments and entertainment.

First on stage were a dozen artists in yellow bingata and hanagasa performing the classical Ryukyuan dance Yotsutake. Next, 27 senior black belt holders demonstrated Karate Do punching techniques. Intangible cultural asset skill holder, 10th dan Ryuko Tomoyose then demonstrated the form of Seisan. Entertainment moved from traditional to modern, featuring Okinawan star Natsukawa Rimi singing popular songs including *Tinsagu nu Hana* and *Nada Sou Sou*. Following Rimi's spell-binding performance, elementary and junior high school hip hop dancers took the spotlight with tight, energetic routines. In the grand finale, all performers returned

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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 *ippée niffee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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UCHINANCHU

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HUOA President Cyrus Tamashiro
Executive Director Jane F. Serikaku
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Continued from Page 2

President's Message

to the stage. Classical dancers, karate sensei, and hip hop dancers, about 80 in all, swayed left and right while Natsukawa Rimi led them and the audience in an uplifting rendition of *Shimanchu nu Takara*.

This short two-day trip allowed me to network with leaders of overseas kenjinkai who spoke Portuguese, Spanish and English, but the most common language of communication was Japanese. We engaged in conversation on the day of the Reversion Anniversary Ceremony and the day of our joint courtesy call with Governor Nakaima. I took the opportunity to talk to other presidents about our Okinawan Festival and invited them to join us in Hawaii. Many of them have been to our Festival in the past. Some will come this year. Okinawan government leaders believe firmly in international exchange, whether it's students, young adults, kenjinkai members, or people in government or business. We are thankful that they provided us with this opportunity to network, to strengthen our kizuna, to nurture our brotherhood.

From May 15-20, Nago City Board of Education, School Education Division Director Tatsunori Ishikawa and Supervisor Hisahiro Toguchi made site visits to Hilo and Honolulu to study the practicality of a junior high school homestay program for 10 students this summer. Nago and Hilo are Sister Cities and Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine felt it would be good for Nago students to broaden their horizons by living in Hilo this summer for a month. The pair arrived in Honolulu on May 15 and were taken to places of educational interest by HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku before boarding a plane that afternoon for Hilo. In Hilo, they met the wonderful members of Hui Okinawa, Mayor Billy Kenoi, County Council Members and community leaders. They were impressed by the hospitality and left the island encouraged that the student travel abroad program would work.

On May 18, Ishikawa san and Toguchi san flew to Honolulu and were hosted for dinner at the Pagoda Restaurant by members of Nago, Haneji and Yagaji clubs, and HUOA officers. As I was driving the Nagunchu to dinner, Ishikawa san inquired if I knew of a restaurant that specialized in ox tail soup. I said of course, that would be Gary Mijo's Asahi Grill across the street from the Pagoda. Ishikawa san had met Gary Mijo in Okinawa so after dinner we walked to Asahi Grill, but unfortunately, Mijo san was not at his restaurant.

On May 20, before I picked up the educators at their hotel to take them to the airport, I called Gary and learned that the men had gone to Asahi Grill on their own and were able to have a long conversation with him. The Nagunchu enjoyed their ox tail soup and also met a famous person from Okinawa. Mijo san introduced them to sanshin master Sadao China, who was dining with friends on another table. This



Group courtesy call on the day after the 40th Anniversary of Reversion Ceremony: Okinawa Governor Hirokazu Nakaima (center) with kenjinkai presidents from (L-R) Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Los Angeles, Lethbridge (Canada), the Philippines and Hawaii's Cyrus Tamashiro.

was especially exciting for Toguchi san as he is a big fan of Sadao China. He thought that it was so amazing to meet such a big star from Okinawa in Hawaii when he had never had that opportunity back home! Stop by Asahi Grill. You never know what celebrity you might meet!

On June 23rd, the United Japanese Society of Hawaii will be holding its annual Installation Banquet at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Congratulations to David Arakawa for completing a successful term as UJSH President and representing the Japanese community well. Christine Kubota, who is also an attorney, will be the 2012-13 UJSH President. At the banquet, Norman Nakasone will be honored as HUOA's Member of the Year. Well-deserved congratulations to David, Christine and Norman!

Join us on the HUOA Study Tour to Okinawa from October 4-15. Take part in the Naha Matsuri with the Great Tsunahiki Contest and the Worldwide Eisa Festival. Visit Shuri Castle, Churaumi Aquarium and historic sites. Experience Okinawan culture like no other! Visit our website www.HUOA.org or call 676-5400 for more information.

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Senjukai Hawaii students www.senjukaihawaii.com

Second Eisa Drum Festival a Resounding Success

By Shari Tamashiro

The 2012 Eisa Drum Festival was held on May 12 on the Great Lawn of Kapi'olani Community College (KCC).

Eisa is a form of folk dance unique to the people of Okinawa that originally had an important religious function of giving repose to the dead. Some groups perform at Obon ceremonies, while others experiment with new styles. We showcased a spectrum of Eisa styles that ranged from traditional to contemporary to give people a better understanding and appreciation for Eisa.

Performing a traditional style, we had the Paranku Clubs of Hawaii, Young Okinawans of Hawaii, and Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai. Showcasing a contemporary style, we had Chinagu Eisa Hawaii and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii. In the spirit of making connections, Taiko Center of the Pacific joined the festival to showcase Japanese taiko.

One of the goals for the Eisa Drum Festival was for all the groups to work together for the finale, learning the same choreography so the end result was a unified effort. We set aside barriers like being eisa or taiko, traditional or contemporary, Okinawan or not Okinawan. . . because my fervent wish is that those kind of trappings or barriers should never stop us from joining together as one community and celebrating our heritage.

The most powerful and moving performance was the "Chant of Island Peoples" that brought together Hawaii and Okinawa. Kawika Napoleon, Chair of the Language, Linguistic and Literature Department at KCC, and Daiichi Hirata, Director General of the Department of Culture, Tourism and Sports of the Okinawa Prefectural



Above: Photographed by Milton Hee



Above: Photographed by Shasta Yamada



Government, forged a connection between their two cultures via chant and drumming. Daiichi then chanted while his wife Yoko danced the hula. It was "chicken skin" and one performance that will be forever engraved in my heart.

What made the festival special this year was the presence of Daiichi and Yoko Hirata, who brought incredible joy and energy to the event. Traveling all the way from Okinawa, they brought a bit of last year's Uchinanchu Taikai to Hawaii with the song Shinkanyucha, which symbolizes the connection between Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart all over the world. Hirata-san also helped debut Hawaii's youngest shisa! It was an honor and privilege to get to work with and connect with these two extraordinary performers.

Special thanks to Dorene Niibu, Karen Kuba Hori, and Norman Kaneshiro. Mahalo to KCC for hosting and sponsoring this event. *Ippei Nifei* < Photographed by Chris Kwock

Deebiru to Chancellor Leon Richards, Keith Kashiwada, and the Office of Student Activities. Mahalo to Hui O Laulima, A Little Bit of Everything, Aloha Tofu, Pacific Guardian Life, Trans Pacific Tours, and Pacific Money Exchange for their additional financial support. Thanks to KCC, these organizations, and the many individuals who also donated money, we were able to keep the event free for the public.

For those of you who missed it, Hawaii Okinawa Today will be airing a broadcast of the event. Please check the HOT schedule for dates and times.

For links to photos and videos from the event, please visit www.pigsfromthesea.com or www.facebook.com/eisahawaii < Photographed by Milton Hee

Hawaii Taiko Kai Celebrates 25 Years

On April 15, 2012, the Hawaii Taiko Kai celebrated its 25th anniversary with a luncheon at the Hawaii Okinawa Center attended by family, friends and supporters.

The Hawaii Taiko Kai was started in April 1987 by Henry Isara, Derek Ichiro Shiroma and the late Kiyoshi Kinjo. Classes were held at Derek Sensei's home in Kaimuki until 1990, when permission was obtained to use the Hawaii Okinawa Center for classes. Also, in that year, Terry Higa was asked to take over instructional duties so Derek Sensei could pursue other endeavors.

The Hawaii Taiko Kai teaches Okinawa *koten*, or classical taiko, based on the stylings of Mitsufumi Ryu Hozon Kai, which is headquartered in Naha, Okinawa. What makes

Hawaii Taiko Kai unique in Hawaii is that it uses the traditional Okinawan taiko set, and players sit *seiza*, or Japanese-style, on the floor. The taiko playing accompanies Okinawan classical music. Over the years, Hawaii Taiko Kai has added

Okinawan folk and contemporary numbers to its repertoire to enhance the enjoyment of audiences more used to non-classical music.

The celebration's program included a performance by Hawaii Taiko Kai and two other groups who have valued connections to the club: *Urizun*, headed by Derek Shiroma Sensei, and *Ukwanshin Kabudan*, which is lead by Eric Wada, Norman Kaneshiro and Keith Nakaganeku. Hawaii Taiko Kai's portion of the program was put together especially for this occasion to reflect its classi-

Continued on page 9



UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight: Nobuo Takeno



Uchina-nchu, *Shimanchu* and *Uminchu* all refer to an Okinawan person, but with a slightly different nuance for each term. *Uchina-nchu* is probably the most encompassing of all Okinawans. *Shimanchu*, simply translated, means “island person” (*shima* = island and *chu* = person). For Okinawans, however, there is a deeper meaning for *Shimanchu* because *Shima* also refers to one’s birthplace—the city, town, village, locality that draws a sense of belonging and pride. Meeting a fellow *Shimanchu* evokes a sense of kinship, while having an understanding and appreciation for great times

as well as the sharing of challenging times.

Uminchu, on the other hand, is likened to “ocean people” or “people of the sea.” The image of an *Uminchu* is of one who lives by the nature of the ocean. *Uminchu* are fearless and respectful of the oceans surrounding the once island kingdom. *Uminchu* are mindful practitioners of *yuimaaruu* and understand the deep and beautiful meaning of *chimugukuru*.

This issue’s Uchinanchu Spotlight shines extremely brightly on one of our community’s hardworking volunteers. He is “*Uminchu-at-heart*” Nobuo Takeno of the Tamagusuku Club. Nobu is a survivor of World War II. After the war, he came ahead of his family from Osaka to his mother’s birthplace of Kahaluu, Hawaii. Here, Nobu mustered a firm resolve to survive in this foreign country. His diligent study in school allowed him to skip two grades in middle school and graduate from Castle High School. Years later, Nobu returned to complete his studies at the University of Hawaii.

It was not until he came to Hawaii that Nobu learned about the *Uchina-nchu* culture. He noticed that Okinawan gatherings were always lively and admired the people who were generous and worked hard. He also found the *Uchina-nchu*, especially his lifelong sweetheart and wife, June, to be *churakaagi* (beautiful)! These traits are what have attracted Nobu to strive and apply himself to continue contributing his time and resources to help the HUOA.

Nobu has long volunteered for the Okinawan Festival. From the early days at McCoy Pavilion and Thomas Square through all of the years since 1990 at Kapiolani Park, he has actively volunteered with pre-Festival preparations and throughout the Festival. On Saturday, he divides his time at the Okinawan Genealogical Society (OGSH) and, recently, the Uchinaaguchi tables in the Cultural Tent. On Sunday,

he continues to work with fellow Tamagusukunchu members under Uncle Taka’s (Takashi Tsuhako) leadership to man the ever-popular Pig’s Feet (Ashitibichi) Soup Booth. When called upon, Nobu has rolled up his sleeves and donned a *hachimaki* to keep the beads of perspiration from flowing into his eyes. He continues to fulfill many successful leadership positions within his club and for HUOA events.

Nobu’s philosophy is to share what he has learned. He says that the more he studies about the Okinawan culture and history another chapter opens for him to continue his studies. Nobu has earned a section of OGSH’s monthly meetings at the Hawaii Okinawa Center entitled, “*Nobu’s Champuru Corner*,” to share aspects of Okinawan culture and history. For example, in March he talked about the *Hamauri* observance. In April, he explained about the *Shiimii* (Ching Ming in Chinese) event. And, in May, he covered the *Haari* or “dragon boat” races.

Nobu credits fellow Tamagusuku member, the late June Arakawa, as the person who recruited him in 2000 to assist with HUOA’s centennial publication, *To Our Issei, Okagesamade*. That project introduced him to the work of translating our pioneers’ names into English. He found a great need to study even harder because many Okinawan names and addresses were challenging to read, but this gave Nobu a reason to study harder and share his knowledge.

He believes that the sharing of knowledge about our cultural legacy and history will open the door for succeeding generations to formulate their ethnic identity. This reflects HUOA’s goals and serves as the foundation of our community’s growth and continuity.

Nobuo Takeno personifies the spirit of an *Uminchu*. For this, and more, the HUOA extends its heartfelt *Ippee Niffee Deebiru* to you for all that you do. Also, Happy Golden Anniversary to you and June! 🍷

“Nobu’s philosophy is to share what he has learned. He says that the more he studies about the Okinawan culture and history another chapter opens for him to continue his studies.”

Omedeto Bob Nakasone

Robert Toshio Nakasone, HUOA’s first Executive Director of HOC, was honored by the Japanese Government with the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, on June 5. He was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S.

Bob, a Born Again Uchinanchu, volunteered with thousands of others to build HOC in honor of the Issei, including his parents. For 20 years, he picked up opala at the Okinawan



Festivals with the WUB Gomi-Gumi.

Bob’s numerous awards and accomplishments include: *Ryukyuu Shimpo* and *Okinawa Times* Awards; Goodwill Ambassador of Okinawa; Sr. Advisor, UH Center for Okinawan Studies and University of the Ryukyus International Institute for Okinawan Studies; Founder, Worldwide Uchinanchu Business (WUB) Network (now with 23 chapters in 15 countries); President, United Japanese Society of Hawaii; Coordinator, Okinawa Projects-Obuchi Program, East-West Center; President, Ishikawa Club; Treasurer, HUOA; Executive Director, Economic Development, Honolulu City; Vice President, Central Pacific Bank; and President, Duracell Japan.

Bob’s very supportive family includes wife Wakako, son Dennis, daughter Nancy, and five grandchildren. *Omedeto!* 🍷

Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo presents Bob Nakasone with the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

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Congratulations Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone Sensei!

Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone Sensei was recently honored by the Nihon Bunka Shinkou Kai (Japan Culture Promoting Association) with its highest cultural award, the International Academy Award. An esteemed panel of distinguished officials of this organization made a thorough review of Toguchi Sensei's credentials, performance history, and cultural promotions in Japan and overseas. They determined that Toguchi Sensei deserved the high honor of their International Academy Award and made their presentation to her recently in Tokyo.

The Nihon Bunka Shinkou Kai was established in 1971 for the purpose of Citizens' International Culture and Cultural Exchange organization and Awards organization. The objective of the organization is to recognize those who have been or are promoting and making advancements for the Japanese culture internationally, international goodwill and friendship.

Toguchi Sensei is the first Okinawan traditional performing arts master from Hawaii to receive this distinction. The Award truly reflects her lifework spanning more than six decades in the preservation and promotion of the Okinawan culture through many facets of the Ryukyuan dance arts. It also reflects her tireless efforts of community service through the promotion of these arts.

While in Tokyo to receive the award, Toguchi Sensei was also invited to perform a dance during the ceremonial festivities at the Yasukuni Shrine. Yasukuni Jinja is the national shrine of Japan especially dedicated to the soldiers and others who died fighting on behalf of the Emperor of Japan. Toguchi Sensei was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her performance.

The HUOA extends its *Omedetoh gozaimasu* and heartiest applause to Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone Sensei for her International Academy Award! Best wishes for your continued success and recognition in the performing arts.



RMD Hawaii Members Perform in Washington, D.C.

By Melissa Ching

Last fall, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) Hawaii received a very exciting invitation to participate in the 2012 National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. This was a very special year for the festival since it was the 85th Cherry Blossom Festival and the 100th anniversary of the original friendship gift of cherry trees from Japan to the United States. We eagerly began working on arrangements for our club's first mainland trip.

In all, our group of 10 travelers included six performers (Macy Luke – 5th grade, Nikka Kahalekulu-Nakama – 5th Grade, Christine Kim – 8th grade, Alex Au – 9th grade plus my husband Jonathan Loomis and I), our club's advisor Akemi Martin-sensei, two parents (Shelby Kahalekulu-Nakama and Val Kaneshiro) and one grandma (Susan Kahalekulu). We traveled to DC a few days before the start of the festival to explore our nation's Capitol. There was so much to see and do in Washington, D.C. We visited many wonderful museums where we were able to see amazing things from the Wright Brothers' airplane and the Apollo 11 capsule to Egyptian mummies and Dorothy's ruby slippers from the Wizard of Oz! We also went to the National Zoo where we saw Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, the Giant Pandas. We stopped by the White House and even visited the National Bureau of Engraving and Printing where we saw actual money being printed! The days flew by and soon the other groups began arriving for the Festival.

One of the goals of our club's founders in Okinawa is to build cross-cultural and international friendships through the spirit of Eisa taiko. We were fortunate to join together with members of several other Eisa groups who had learned some of the Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko choreography, including Imajin Taiko from Okinawa, the Okinawan Taiko Drummers of Wisconsin (under the direction of Akemi-sensei's long time friend Heidi Hastings), drummers from the Chin Hamaya Culture Center in Maryland, and the Atlanta Okinawa Kenjin Kai, as well as drummers from Philadelphia and Washington DC. Altogether, our combined group had over 150 drummers!

We met for practice in the hotel's banquet room and were truly impressed by the spirit of *ichariba chode* (we meet and we are brothers). We felt an instant bond with our fellow drummers. It was truly amazing that although we had all traveled from so many different places, we could immediately connect through Eisa taiko.

Together we performed at the National Sylvan Theater in the shadow of the Washington Monument. Each group was featured in a song or two to showcase their individual style. We also collaborated on several songs to show our spirit of cooperation and to allow the audience to experience the thunderous sound of so many taiko players working in unison.

The next day, we woke up early to prepare for the National Cherry Blossom Parade. Our members from Hawaii were huddled together, wearing jackets over our uniforms and shivering in the chilly morning air as we waited for the rehearsal to begin. Next to us, the students from Wisconsin were relaxing on the grass in their short-sleeved uniforms commenting about how it was so much warmer than "back home." The parade was about an hour long, but we played and marched the entire way. We were truly impressed by the *Chibariyo*-spirit expressed by our fellow Eisa taiko players, some of whom were only in pre-school. Shortly after the parade finished, we received a phone call from Macy's parents back in Hawaii who woke up at 4 a.m. to watch us live via the Internet!

After a quick lunch, we rushed to the Sakura Matsuri – Japanese Street Festival. Again, each group performed individually and cooperatively and we finished by dancing *kachaashi* with the audience. That evening, we gathered one last time in the hotel banquet room for a farewell party. Each performer was presented with a Certificate of Participation and we were able to relax and talk story. We exchanged *omiyage* and it was a great chance to get to know some of our fellow drummers. We closed the evening by singing *Tinsagu nu Hana*, led by Tomoyo-san of Imajin Taiko who is a *geidai* student in Okinawa.

It was truly an amazing and memorable trip. We met and made so many new friends and learned so much! We are grateful to Akemi-sensei for helping to arrange this opportunity for us and are already looking forward to our next big adventure!



Sensei with performers at the Washington Monument.

Yuimaaruu Project

Hawaii is the first official immigration destination, as our brave pioneers arrived from Okinawa on January 8, 1900. Throughout our 112-year history of Okinawans in Hawaii, we have maintained a very close kinship with families and friends in Okinawa.

The spirit and application of *yuimaaruu*—helping out, being thoughtful without any expectation or compensation—is an important principle that our *issei* practiced as an ethnic custom and matter of survival. This principle has transcended generations of Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart.

One of the most historic efforts after World War II and the devastation of the Battle of Okinawa was made by our Uchinanchu community when it raised funds to purchase and transport 550 pigs to Okinawa. Other efforts included fundraising to send milk goats to Okinawa, clothing drives, and performing arts concerts to raise money for school and medical supplies.

We have recently learned that Hawaii's Oroku Azajin Kai sent money to their locality in Okinawa in the post-war period. Their generosity was used for many things, including the building of a school for the children of Aza. There were, of course, other individuals, clubs and organizations that mirrored these efforts. Did your club initiate an effort to help Okinawa? Many of those active members are no longer with us, but hopefully the HUOA will be able to record these efforts before memories are totally lost.

Please help—we would love to hear from you if you can share a memory of Hawaii's assistance to Okinawa especially after World War II. You are welcome to call (676-5400), fax (676-7811), or send an e-mail (jserikaku@hawaii.rr.com) to our office. If you would like to mail anything to us, our address is:

Hawaii United Okinawa Association
94-587 Ukee Street
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
Attn: Jane F. Serikaku, Executive Director
Projects of Yuimaaruu

Ippee Niffee Deebiru for your understanding and participation in this important project.

Okinawan Cooking 101: Calling all Foodies



Have you ever wanted to make a delicious Okinawan meal for your family but weren't sure where to start? Or, do you want to learn a little bit about the foods and culture of Okinawa while preparing (and eating) yummy Uchinanchu dishes? If so, then you need to sign-up for the HUOA Club Development's Okinawan Cooking 101 Class!

The evening will start off with meal preparation in small teams of five people and will end with everyone enjoying an Okinawan meal together.

All cooks 16 years old or older—of all experience levels—are welcome. Don't worry if you "can't cook," we'll show you how!. We expect this small group, hands-on learning experience will be as fun as it is maasan!

WHEN: Thursday, August 9, 2012 – 6:30-9 p.m.

WHERE: HUOA Legacy Ballroom

COST: \$20 (payable by check made out to Hawaii United Okinawa Association)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 1, 2012 (but sign up early, space is limited)

MENU:

- Mock Ashitibichi ("Pig's Feet Soup" made with Spareribs)
- Andasu
- Fuu Champuru
- Sweet Potato Mochi
- White Rice and Pickles (pre-prepared)

Any questions? Please email Val Kato, Jen Waihee and Gail Haraguchi at: huoacookingclass@gmail.com

Red Daikon and Sharing

This is a simple story of how ordinary people quietly doing everyday things exemplifies the Uchinanchu spirit of sharing.

One day during lunch break with other HOC volunteers, George Nakasone shared a Sunset Magazine article in which a lady made fresh salad with greens and some red daikon from her garden. The group was intrigued by the red daikon. Ron Miyashiro read the article and pointed out the website of the seed company. Mamo Kuniyoshi ordered the seeds and planted some in the vegetable garden at HOC. About two months later, with the first harvest, we copied the lady in the magazine and made a



green salad garnished with red daikon and shared it with the volunteers. Red daikon was new to everyone. It was good. Chic Takara asked for some seeds, which he planted in his garden. He said that he shared some seeds with his sister from the Big Island. Laura Nakasone harvested some and made red takuwan, which she shared with the group.

We have also planted some green meat daikon and red leaf lettuce and are waiting to see how those turn out. Maybe soon we can make a salad of red leaf lettuce garnished with green daikon and also perhaps enjoy some green takuwan.

Whatever happens, we will share. 🌱

Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi No Kai
Nakasone Dance Academy
Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone, Grand Master
Presents

Ryujin ni Mau Dance to the Dragon God 56th Anniversary Super Recital

October 20, 2012

6:30 PM

Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall

Please join us for a night of Okinawan entertainment to celebrate Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone and her dedication to perpetuating the Okinawan culture.



Find us on facebook:
[facebook.com/hooge.kai](https://www.facebook.com/hooge.kai)
For ticket and other information:
hoogekai@yahoo.com

Ticket Committee Ph: (808) 227-4925 or (808) 366-6033

OKINAWAN COOKING 101 - REGISTRATION FORM:

ATTENDEE NAME(S): _____

CLUB AFFILIATION: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL (If any, for updates): _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please enclose a check, \$20 per attendee, made out to "Hawaii United Okinawa Association and mail (to arrive by August 1) to: HUOA - Cooking Class, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, HI 96797

Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuyu Madin

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

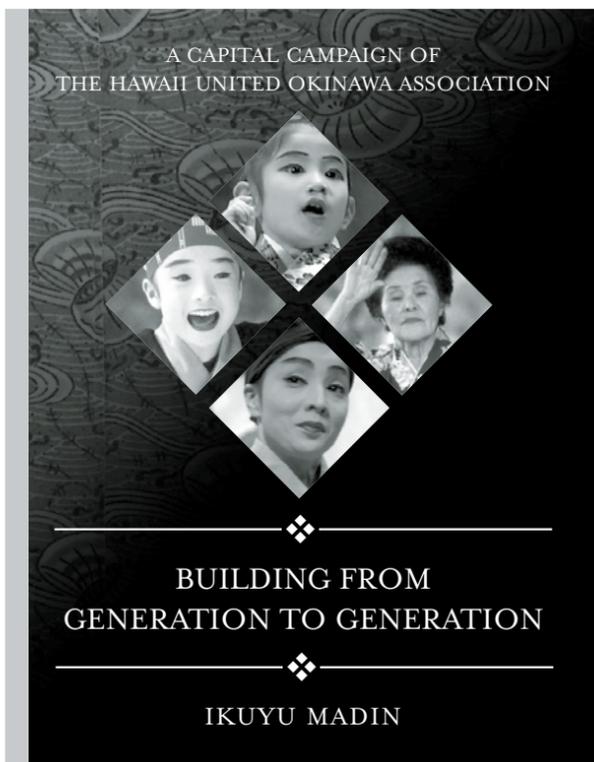
The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Capital Campaign. We are grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donation. *Magukuru kara ippee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

Donations listed below were received from April 1, 2012 to May 31, 2012.

Terry Agena
 Helen T. Aragaki
 Michael Arakaki
 Mae Chung
 Hatsue Hattie Higa
 Andrew Ikehara
 Mr. & Mrs. Tarosuke Ishikawa
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 Timothy & Darlene Kaneshiro
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 Masuo & Alice Kino
 Ruth Umeyo Kobashigawa
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Senki & Florence H. Uyeunten
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 In Memory of Florence Misako Funakoshi
 Lau by Stanley and Gerry Katayama
 In Memory of Rose Nagahama by
 Ginowan Club
 In Memory of Mrs. Matsu Nagamine by
 Nago Club
 In Memory of Rose Y. Nagahama by
 Yomitan Club
 In Memory of Gicho & Tsuru Takaesu by
 Harriet Takaesu
 In Memory of Roy Kozen Tamanaha by
 Ginowan Club



Name _____ Club Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____
 My gift to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Capital Campaign of: \$ _____ For a period of
 Is enclosed. Please bill me: Quarterly Bi-annually Annually
 1 year
 2 years
 3 years
 Please charge my: Visa MasterCard
 Card number _____ Expiration date _____
 Card holder name _____ Card holder signature _____
 My gift is in memory of _____
 My gift is on behalf of _____
 My gift will be matched by _____

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

Preserving Our Legacy

2011 TO 2012-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated towards our annual fund drive. Our campaign, launched on October 29, has raised contributions totaling over \$125,097.00, representing over 1031 contributors. We are truly grateful to your commitment to our culture and Association. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

Our list of donors below reflect contributions received from April 1, 2012 to May 31, 2012.

CONTRIBUTOR (\$100 TO \$249)

Anonymous
 Mr. & Mrs. Francis K. Oshiro
 Roy M. & Frances F. Oshiro
 Yoshiko Rabe
 Dorothy J. Shimabukuro
 In Memory of Kiyoshi & Kiyoko
 Ginoza by George Ginoza
 In Memory of Tamotsu Nakata by
 Shizuyo Nakata and LouAnn Nitta

In Memory of Albert Nishimura by
 Hiroshi & Kazuko Nakasone
 In Memory of Norma Oshiro by
 Members of Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen
 Doshi Kai
 In Memory of Robert Yonamine by
 Members of Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen
 Doshi Kai

FRIEND (\$25 TO \$99)

Mae M. Chung
 Chieko Dela Cruz
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 Richard Kiyabu
 Ruth Ann Nakasone
 Dennis Shiroma
 Russell & Joyce Tanji

Franklin & Kay Toma
 Lorraine Yamada
 In Memory of Masaichi Gushikuma by
 Wayne & Cora Gushikuma
 In Memory of Sadako Higa by Jean K.
 Nishikawa
 In Memory of Chris Takeshi Okuhara
 by Marcia K. Oshiro
 In Memory of Jeanne H. Okuhara by
 Marcia K. Oshiro

Continued from page 6

Hawaii Taiko Kai

cal roots, the significance of the celebration, and the Okinawan ideals that have kept it going all these years. The program included some classical numbers performed by the club for the first time in public.

Special recognition was given to four current members who have been with the club since its inception: Ed Asato, May Asato, Annette Platt and Kaaren Takara. There were other charter members in the audience who helped make this celebration memorable. Seven members from Maui also participated in the program.

If anyone should be interested in this form of taiko, the Hawaii Taiko Kai practic-



(L-R): Sensei Terry Higa, May Asato, Ed Asato, Kaaren Takara and Annette Platt.

es on Sunday mornings at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Beginner's classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the regular class meets from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Because players are generally required to sit seiza, new members must be at least 11 years of age. Interested persons can call Terry Sensei at 487-6772.

Hawaii Taiko Kai would like to extend its thanks to all present and former members and their families, friends and supporters. It could not have made it this far without your support, patience and understanding. *Ippei Nifwei Debiru.*

MANPOWER NEEDED!



*We really
need your
help at the
Okinawan
Festival!*

PRE FESTIVAL CONSTRUCTION & SET UP Tuesday, August 28 to Friday, August 31 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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 and extra helpers to assist. We are also in need of plumbers and electricians.

POST FESTIVAL CLEAN UP

Monday, September 3: starts at 8:00 am

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

If you can volunteer for one or more days, please call us at 676-5400 or email to huaa@huaa.org.

Save this date
September 8th
Mamiya Theatre

2pm to 3:30pm
or
6pm to 7:30pm

NAHA DAIKO
with
CHINAGUEISA

A joint Eisa Concert
between Sister Cities
Honolulu & Naha City

\$20 general
\$40 reserved
For Tickets contact
Lisa - 391-0193
Devin - 554-6164
Valet Parking, hosted
(gratuity not included)



Kansha-Okinawa to Hawaii no Kizuna

A Joint Concert Between Sister Cities:
Honolulu And Naha City

A joint concert between Naha Daiko and Chinagu Eisa Hawaii featuring Ikeda Suguru will be held at the Mamiya Theater, September 8, 2012, with one show at 2 p.m. and a second show at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for general and \$40 for reserved seating. The theme of the concert is Kansha and Kizuna: Gratitude and Bond. Naha Daiko and Chinagu Eisa Hawaii would like to express their gratitude to the Uchinanchus of Hawaii for always being so supportive and would like to return the warm aloha they have received with a dynamic performance. The two groups have developed a bond over the past few years and the concert will present the importance of cultural exchange. Please join us in this extremely rare opportunity as two sister groups will come together in unity with the art of Eisa and the Okinawan spirit!

30th Okinawan Festival Scrip

Don't stand in line this year for your Okinawan Festival scrip! Get them early and support your club, contact your Club President to purchase.



CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

2012 Haari Boat Festival August 16-18, Wailoa State Park

A new start to the Haari Boat Festival weekend will be a concert celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko on Thursday, August 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the historic Palace Theater in downtown Hilo. The concert will feature Okinawan performing arts groups from across the Big Island. It will be a lively celebration of our Uchinanchu heritage through a variety of performances, including Okinawan dance, *uta-sanshin*, *eisa daiko*, *koto*, *shishimai* and *kobudo taiko*. Rarely has such a diverse and unique collection of Okinawan performers come together for a concert in Hilo. Don't miss out on this opportunity to see our local Okinawan talent at their best! Concert tickets will go on sale starting July 1 and can be purchased at Nancy F. Nakaishi and Associates, Inc., 190 Keawe Street - #33, Hilo, HI 96720.

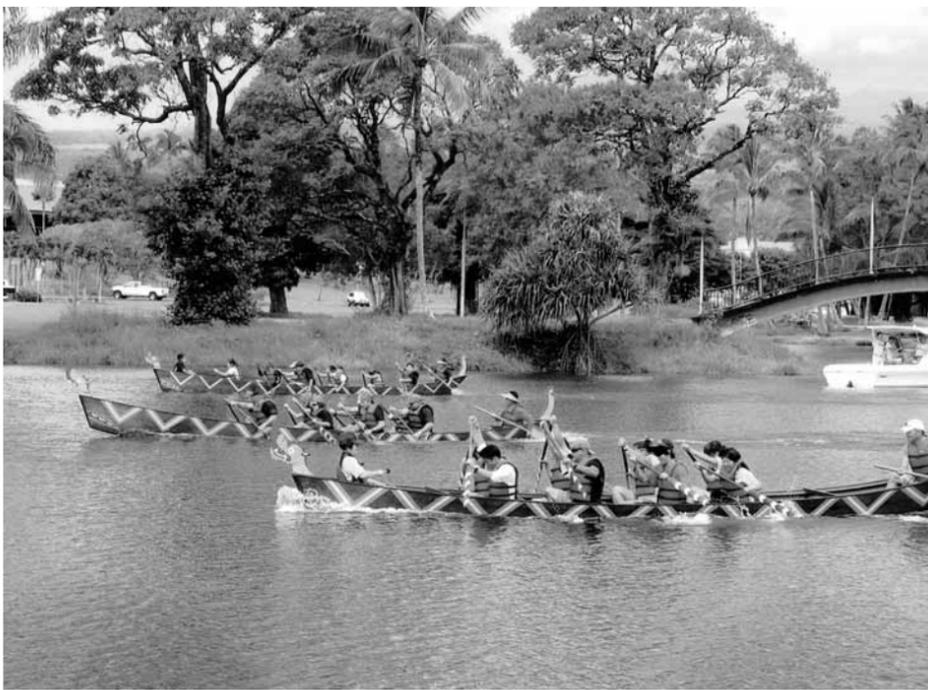
Friday, August 17, will be the day to set-up the park and race course. Practice times for the teams will be available in the afternoon. Team captains need to contact Margaret at matori58@msn.com or call her at 808-895-0994 to reserve a time for practice.

Saturday, August 18, is FESTIVAL DAY starting at 7:30 a.m. with a pre-race parade and opening ceremony, followed by the RACES. During the RACES, the Open Market will open for sale of Okinawan foods and a cultural display. Among the foods available will be Pigs Feet Soup, Shoyu Pork Plate, Soki Soba, Andagi, Prime Rib Plate, Bentos, Spam Musubi, Ice Shave, Bruddah Pops, beverages, Okinawan food products and miscellaneous homemade packaged items such as Manju, Mochi and Cookies. There will be a crafts booth by the Kohala Okinawa Kenjin Kai.

After the Races, the Awards ceremony will be held to present the winners their trophies. An After-Race Party will end the day.

The HAARI BOAT FESTIVAL website: www.haariboatfestival.com has forms for Race teams, T-shirt presale, After-Race Party tickets, Race Team Contest Information, and other information about the Festival. Forms can be downloaded from the site or call Margaret at 895-0994 for any of the forms.

For more information or questions, please contact Chairperson Lloyd Sanborn at 895-2328, or secretary Margaret at 895-0994 or email: matori58@msn.com.



42nd Annual HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament

Neither the strong winds nor the occasional downpours dampened the spirit of 121 enthusiastic golfers at Pali Golf Course on May 26 and 27. With the first group teeing off at 6:15 a.m., golfers waited in their carts along the pathway lined with 48 waving HUOA club banners. They were greeted by HUOA President Cyrus Tamashiro and immediate past President Norman Nakasone, with wife Renette taking photos of each team.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru to Co-Chairs Wes Teruya and Neal Takara who coordinated this tournament and to the many volunteers who gave up their weekend to assist in this event.

19-year-old Mike Matsushima clinched the Grand Champion title with a 75-71-146 Low Gross score. Mike is a sophomore at University of Hawaii Hilo and is on the school's golf team.

Tournament Results - Continued on Page 11

Yomitan Club News

By Fred M. Higa, President

Yomitan Club celebrated its 85th anniversary on February 18, 2012, when members gathered for their annual Shinnen-enkai dinner at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Over 450 guests attended the event to help bring in the New Year and renew friendships. The evening started with games and crafts to entertain the children, a photo booth for all to capture some memorable moments, and guests indulging in the ever-increasing array of pupus donated by the club members. After a short welcoming speech, members enjoyed another great meal provided by A Catered Experience.

Co-emcees for the event were Fred Higa and Thelma Lam. Special guests for the evening included the 2012 HUOA President-Elect George Bartels and Mrs. Bartels, HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku, and staff member Bonnie Miyashiro.



The outgoing officers, President Ronlynn Arakaki, Vice President Miles Nishizawa, Secretary Elva Furuya and Treasurer Laverne Higa, were introduced and thanked for their dedicated service to the Club.

The new officers for the Club, President Fred Higa, Vice President Ronlynn Arakaki, Recording Secretary Jennifer Nguyen, Assistant Recording Secretary Kristen Murashige, Corresponding Secretary Elva Furuya, Assistant Corresponding Secretary Laura Ajimine, Treasurer Ralph Okuhara and Assistant Treasurer Roxanne Yoshida were introduced and then sworn in by HUOA President-Elect George Bartels, who congratulated the club on its 85th anniversary and thanked the Yomitan Club for their continued support of many of the events sponsored by the HUOA. He looks forward to working with the club in future events.

HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku thanked those Yomitan members who participated in the 2011 Uchinanchu Taikai Festival by helping to lead the 1,500 member strong contingent of Taikai Hawaii along the Taikai parade route. Yomitan members were joined by dancers and musicians from other HUOA clubs who danced to the song, *E Huli Makou*, as they lead the Hawaii group down the 1-1/2 mile route down Kokusai Street, much to the delight of the Okinawan residents and visitors alike.

Clayton and Ronlynn Arakaki were introduced as Yomitan Club's Uchinanchu of the Year for 2011. Recognition was given to our Super Seniors, Kenkichi Arakaki, Miyoko China, Nancy Ichikawa and Harue Kise for reaching the ripe young age of 90. Also recognized were 15 Senior members attaining the age of 65.

Joining the Club as new members were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Anderson, Gashio

Continued on Page 11



Hawaii Shuri Naha club's Ed Kuba relinquishes the coveted Inamine Cup to this year's winner, Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. (L-R): Gary Higa, Katrina Higa, Kristine Higa, Ricky Tamashiro, Kent Tamashiro, Ed Kuba, Les Tamashiro and Lester Higa.

CLUB NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

MORE CLUB NEWS

Continued from Page 10

HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament Results

Grand Champion - Low Gross

Mike Matsushima 75 - 71 - 146

Championship Flight - Net Scores

- 1) Kent Tamashiro 139
- 2) Calvin Shiroma 140
- 3) Tom Nakagawa 142
- 4) Neal Tamashiro 145
- 5) Les Tamashiro 146

A Flight	-Net Scores	B Flight	-Net Scores
1) Keone Gunderson	132	1) Hilton Lau	136
2) Dennis Sanada	133	2) Gary Higa	139
3) Eric Kaneshiro	134	3) Vernon Inoshita	140
4) Paul Tamashiro	135	4) Tom Uechi	141
5) Glen Kaneshiro	138	5) Jacob Pritchard	144

Senior Flight	-Net Scores	Women's Flight	-Net Scores
1) Walter Chur	126	1) Jackie Toya	140
2) Rusty Mitsui	131	2) Thelma Lam	142
3) Tom Teruya	132	3) Katrina Higa	144
4) Bob Tanaka	136	4) Helene Toya	146
5) Wendell Lewis	140		

Guest Flight	-Net Scores	Super Senior	-Net Scores
1) Wendell Kop	142	1) Paul Uyehara	68
2) Cheyne T. Nakata	144	2) Loretta Tokuda	72
3) Lin Akiyama	145	3) Helen Ginoza	112

Continued from Page 10

Yomitan Club News

Ikehara, Sueko Kimura, Gavin Manalo, Jennifer Nguyen, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Tamasaka, and Hanson Nguyen. Welcome to the Club!

The Yomitan Club has had 26 presidents in its 85 years, and it was fitting that all 26 were recognized. Tom Uechi and his team did a great job of gathering official photographs of all past presidents and presenting the photos on a very impressive display board for all to see.

George Bartels and Rev. Shinsuke Uehara led the group in the "Karii" to the Yomitan Club, and to the Guests, respectively.

The highlight of the evening was the "Yomitan Parade of Stars." Committee Co-Chairpersons Shirley Kaneshiro and Ann Moribe put an outstanding cast of performers on stage. More impressive was that all but three of the entertainers were Yomitan members. Traditional Okinawan dances—including *Kagiyadefu* by Ann Moribe and Grace (Kamimura) Carmichael, *Hatoma Bushi* by Marcie and Kacie Moribe, and *Kanayo* by Kinuko Teruya—were beautifully done. Richard Shimabukuro sang a great rendition of *Haha Kage* and Sharon Tomasa did a great job singing *Kimagure Doochu*.

The Yomitan Hula Dancers—Linda Takushi, Judy Takara, Shirley Kaneshiro, Elva Furuya, Kristen Murashige, Joy Murashige, Elaine Higa, Fred Higa, Walter Takara and Chris Okuhara—performed their Taikai favorite, *E Huli Makou*. Ronlynn Arakaki performed her hula rendition of *Tiare*, and Tia Lewis, Kaci Takara and Dominique Hart danced to a heart stomping rendition of *Miruku Munari* dressed as the "Andagi-ettes."

Asadoya Yunta was performed by the late Charley Higa family doing a combination *paranku* and *hara odori*. Performers included Kathleen Yamashiro, Marissa Yamashiro, Sarah Yamashiro, Lacey Yamashiro, Christine Sadoy, Tennille Chibana, Portia Chibana, Shirley Kaneshiro, Keith Yamashiro, Jason Yamashiro and Nelson Sadoy.

Topping off the entertainment for the evening was the ever popular Shishimai Lion Dog dancers—veterans Jon Itomura and Eric Nitta and Yomitan members Kyle Arakaki and Jacob Higa. Kyle and Jacob had never performed as a team before, having practiced for only an hour just two days before their on-stage performance and both did an outstanding job, now they're ready for the "big time!" The evening culminated with the traditional "*Kachashi*" dance led by the entertainers who were joined by members of the audience.

Kudos go out to Thelma Lam, chairperson for this year's event. Thelma and her team did a great job in planning and executing the whole evening, from the photo booth and children's games to the door prizes, not to mention the ono pupus and delicious dinner.

A great time was had by all who attended and we all look forward to next year's party.



HUOA President Cyrus Tamashiro (left) and Gov. Neil Abercrombie's representative Blake Oshiro (right) present HUOA Invitational Grand Champion Mike Matsushima with his awards.

Hui O Laulima Garage Sale

By Doreen Yamashiro

Have you ever heard the saying, "If you want something done, do it yourself?" Well, you can never apply this to the hard-working women of Hui O Laulima. If you want something done, just call on them and they will heed the call. (And some of them will even bring their husbands!)



Buyers rummage through a mountain of gently used clothes.

For the Sixth Annual HOL Garage Sale held at Jikoen Hongwanji Temple on Saturday, April 21, and the set-up the day before, an army of 68 "cha pata pata" (always busy) volunteers collected, sorted, priced, arranged and sold truckloads of donations. Items ranging from plants, clothing, kitchen gadgets,

books and almost any household "must-have" could be purchased at rock-bottom prices. Delicious andagi, sushi and other baked goods were also available to tempt buyers.

Although the garage sale did not officially begin until 7 a.m., a line of treasure hunters looking for great deals was waiting at the social hall door an hour before the opening. Thelma Arakawa, who chaired the event, and her team of energetic worker ants, effectively handled the large crowd of buyers with nary a mishap. Happy shoppers with armloads of bags and boxes, carried out their bargains with money still left in their pockets.

The garage sale is an annual fundraising event that has proved to be very profitable to fill the HOL coffers that awards grants to the Okinawan community. Weary, but happy with the success of the sale, the ladies of Hui O Laulima proved once again that by yuimaaruu (working together), they can do anything.

To all of them - *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*



Paula Kurashige and Joanne Richardson (wo)man the jewelry table.

HUOA DONATIONS

April 1, 2012 to May 30, 2012

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

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Kay M. Higa | Koa Bowl |
| Paul Kimura of City Fender & Body Service, Ltd. | Donation for Student Exchange |
| Clarice Y. Kamikawa | Paul K. Komeiji |
| Edna T. Oshiro | Norman M. Nakasone |
| Gina Relica | Repair/Maintenance Fund |
| Tamagusuku Club | Yomitan Club |





SPORTS CORNER

Volleyball!

2012 OKINAWAN CLUB VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Team photos may not include all members of the team, please accept our apology if any player is missing.

2012 HUOA Mixed Volleyball League

Winners for the Division round:

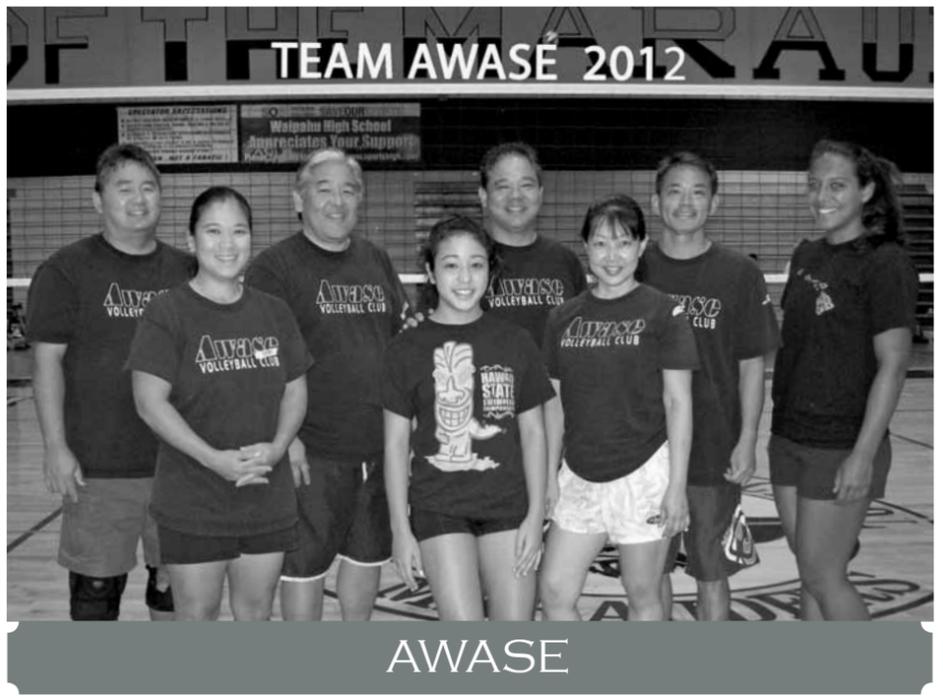
Open Division: 1st place - Urasoe I, 2nd place - Hui Makaala I
A Division: 1st place - Haneji, 2nd place - Gushikawa
B Division: 1st place - Oroku, 2nd place - Kin I

Winners for the Championship playoffs:

Open Division: 1st place - Urasoe I, 2nd place - Hui Makaala I
A Division: 1st place - Yogi, 2nd place - Awase
B Division: 1st place - Kin I, 2nd place - Oroku

Winners for the Consolation playoffs:

Open Division: 1st place - Urasoe II, 2nd place - Ginowan
A Division: 1st place - Aza Gushikawa IV, 2nd place - Itoman
B Division: 1st place - Kin III, 2nd place - Tomigusuku



AWASE



AZA GUSHIKAWA



GINOWAN



HANEJI



GUSHIKAWA



HUI MAKAAALA



TEAM KINI 2012

KIN I



TEAM KIN III 2012

KIN III



TEAM ITOMAN 2012

ITOMAN



TEAM OROKU 2012

OROKU



TEAM URASOE I 2012

URASOE I



TEAM TOMIGUSUKU 2012

TOMIGUSUKU



TEAM URASOE II 2012

URASOE II



TEAM YOGI 2012

YOGI



YouthScene

Youth Spotlight: Allison Yanagi

By David Jones

As we pay respect to our first, second, and third generations for all their accomplishments and sacrifice, it is also important to recognize some of the younger generation in our Hawaii-Okinawan community who are also working hard to perpetuate our culture. For this issue's Youth Spotlight, I have the pleasure of featuring Allison Yanagi, who is not afraid to speak out about her pride for her Okinawan identity and dedication to perpetuating the culture.

The daughter of Carl and Sandy Yanagi, Allison is affiliated with the Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai. She is married with two wonderful children Bryan, 2, and Adele, born only a week before our interview. She is a graduate of Punahou School and the University of Hawaii Manoa with a bachelor's and master's degree in Asian Studies with specialization in Okinawan studies.

Allison has completely dedicated her life to Okinawan culture through education and performing arts. At the young age of 38, her level of artistic experience, knowledge, involvement and accomplishments are mind-blowing. Some of her musical achievements include: a *Kyoshi* status (certified instructor) for *minyō uta sanshin*, Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu, *Kyoshi* status in *kucho* (Okinawan stringed instrument) through Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kyokai, and experienced in Okinawan *fue* (flute.) She is also experienced and currently practices dance through Azama Honryu Sumino Kai in Okinawa. Besides performing arts, Allison volunteers a lot of her time helping the HUOA with Japanese translations and Hawaii Okinawa Today Japanese sub-titling.

You are probably asking yourself by now, "What made Allison so passionate for Okinawa?" She explained to me that her family constantly exposed her to Okinawan activities throughout her childhood. Her grandmother always encouraged her to be involved in dance, played the sanshin for her, and took her to dance and music concerts. She eventually started Okinawan dance with Nakasone Dance Hooge Kai. While constantly immersed in the culture growing up, it was not a passion or a major interest until her college years. While attending UH, she met others her age that were heavily involved in Okinawan culture. Realizing that her peers were also interested was the turning point that ignited the fire for her interest in Okinawa.

After college, Allison craved more Okinawan knowledge and decided to apply for the Kenpi Scholarship. Kenpi is an Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarship program that allows young persons of Okinawan descent an opportunity to learn more about the culture, history, and performing arts of Okinawa. The year-long scholarship covered nearly 100 percent of the student's tuition and living expenses.

Allison had intended to apply for the Okinawan dance program, but there was no slot left for the dance scholarship. Therefore, she applied for the music program and



was awarded the scholarship in 1997. She ended up living in Okinawa for almost two years and studying at the Okinawan Prefectural University of the Arts (Geidai) with a focus on Uta Sanshin.

The time spent in Okinawa was one of the most challenging, yet life changing, experiences for her. She explained that the program was very intensive, demanding 100 percent commitment to learning one's focus of study. Practice and classes are typically ran all day, all week long, with performances required nearly every weekend. She also mentioned that meeting others who live in Okinawa and abroad was an experience she will never forget.

Allison believes that the people of Okinawa are truly special because they will instantly embrace you as their family especially if they know you are Okinawan or have strong interest in Okinawa. Because of living and studying in Okinawa, she

came back to Hawaii with even more passion for Okinawan culture. Since then, she has gone back to Okinawa on numerous occasions to meet with her lifelong friends, family, and to further pursue her musical study in *uta sanshin*, *kucho*, dance, and *fue*.

While passionate about Okinawa, Allison believes there has been a huge decline in cultural interest and loss of Okinawan identity by the younger generation both here and in Okinawa. I asked her what she felt is needed today to keep the younger generation interested. She explained to me that, today, culture and identity have to compete for our kids' attention with devices like television, the Internet, Facebook, video games, and iPads. Nevertheless, immersion schools and Okinawan language classes in our education system would be a powerful tool

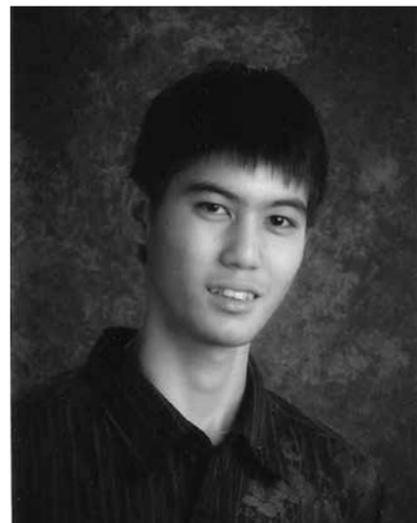
to keep the culture going since language is crucial to exposing our kids and giving them a chance to learn. If our language dies, the culture eventually dies with it. Also, she feels that there is much to be learned from the history of Hawaii cultural renaissance and the implementation of immersion schools. Today, Hawaiian language and culture is surviving and thriving.

I had to ask her, "Do you plan on exposing your children to Okinawan culture?" She explained to me that her kids will be like a laboratory experiment and the plan is to immerse them in Okinawan culture as much as possible. She is not going to force them to like Okinawa, but expose them enough so that they can figure things out on their own and hopefully develop a passion much like her. She feels that you have to give the kids and other younger generation a fighting chance and create an environment for them to get curious. That is why we need to continue to present the Okinawan culture here through performances, education and classes.

As an example, as Allison was preparing for labor with her newborn, her family decided to take her son, Bryan, to the Second Eisa Taiko Festival at Kapiolani Community College. Since then, Bryan has been absolutely crazy about Okinawan taiko and practicing at home every day!

In a 2001 interview article published in "*Uchinanchu Reflections*," Allison said, "I don't think a person is Okinawan just because of the blood that runs through their veins. Being Okinawan is a mindset, it's a belief system, and it's a way of life." We always need to keep this in mind to keep our community strong for now and for our future generations. It is such a pleasure and an honor to have someone young and dedicated to perpetuating the Okinawan culture here in Hawaii. I think we all look forward to seeing more of her in the near future. Also, a big congratulation to Allison and her family on her newborn daughter, Adele! 🎉

Headed for Okinawa!



The HUOA is pleased to announce that Kellen Tatsuo Sakamoto has been selected to participate in the Okinawa Prefectural Government's Year 2011 Uchina Junior Study Tour.

Kellen, the son of Debra and Karl Sakamoto, was recommended to the program by the HUOA. A junior at Moanalua High School, he is a member of the school's Symphony Orchestra, Solo and Wind Ensemble, and the Hawaii Youth Symphony in addition to his school curriculum.

Kellen has a strong impression of Okinawa and its great food, warm people and surroundings from the stories that he has heard from his grandmother, Sachiko

Shimabukuro, and aunties. He has a profound interest in the genealogy of his Okinawan ancestors, especially his Urasoe and Haeburu connections. He looks forward to learning everything about Okinawa, making connections with his relatives, and building new friends from Okinawa and around the world. He looks forward to the many stories and experiences that he will share with all of us on his return.

Congratulations, Kellen! 🎉

Tad Abe

In 2010, Tad Abe became the first intern to volunteer his time and do research as a requirement for his sociology class under the direction of Dr. Joyce Chinen at West Oahu College.

Tad had a special interest in participating in this project to become aware of his Okinawan heritage, the work conducted by volunteers in caring for its home, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, and assisting the staff in carrying out different tasks for our many projects.

It was interesting to read his extensive 38-page report, which included entries from a journal he maintained and the many interviews he conducted with the volunteers he met. The office staff appreciated his help and enthusiasm in volunteering for many of HUOA's on and off-site activities.

However, what is underscored in his unbiased description of how everything happens at the Center as well as in the community is based on everyone's application of *yuimaaruu*. It's a spirit and sense of pride to participate in "helping to get the job done without any anticipation of a reward other than having applied one's self."

We congratulate Tad for his observations and a great report. From all of us, we say *Ippee Niffee Deebiru—Mahalo Nui Loa* to you, Tad. We truly appreciate your application and spirit of *Yuimaaruu* during your tenure at the Hawaii Okinawa Center! 🎉



We Have A Winner!

By Ronald Miyashiro

For about a month from mid-April, a handful of members of the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH) were glued to their computers. They were part of more than 75,000 volunteers nationwide who joined the 1940 census community indexing project. The purpose of the project is to create a searchable name index for the 1940 United States Federal Census—which was just released to the public on April 2—more than 3.8 million pages with more than 132 million names.

On their own computer at home, these volunteers looked at images of the handwritten census enumeration pages and determined what to type into the online program at the FamilySearch indexing Web site. They quickly learned why searchable names are sometimes misspelled. The process, called indexing, involved two persons transcribing the handwritten census information. A third person, in the role of arbitrator, then adjudicated any differences in interpretation of the handwriting.

As of this writing, the indexing process for six states have been completed and are now searchable online by a person's name. With the helping hand of the OGSH members, Hawaii is 100 percent indexed and, along with 11 other states at 100 percent, are in the process of being posted online on the Internet. The rest of the states are still being indexed, and the OGSH members are helping them also. The total project is about 40 percent complete. Go to Web site, FamilySearch.org, type in a person's name, and view the image of the actual

handwritten census page that person is on. Census pages can also be viewed at the National Archives' official 1940 census Web site, 1940census.archives.gov.

For the genealogist, the census is a goldmine of information. Besides the standard information such as name, age, gender, race, citizenship and place of birth, the 1940 census included questions about housing, highest educational grade achieved, and detailed income and occupation. The census shows at a point in time exactly where people in the United States resided. You can find where your grandparents or parents lived in 1940.

Many genealogical societies throughout the United States were preparing to help index the census months before the census was released on April 2. OGSH got a late start and did not get involved until after its monthly meeting on April 21. The organizers of the indexing project ran a contest for the week of April 26-May 2. OGSH won a printer for being the small-sized society with the largest increase of people to sign up as indexers. The mem-

bers who registered as indexers are Ronald Miyashiro, Amy Tsuru, Penny Sakamoto, Sally Tsuda, Stanley Uehara, Gloria Dugay, and Nancy Yogi. Congratulations and thank you for your time and efforts!



OGSH Census team members (front row): Penny, Stan and Nancy. (back row): Amy, Gloria, Terry Shinsato and Sally. Missing: Ron Miyashiro

2013 Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant Applications

Hui O Laulima is pleased to announce that applications for the 2013 Cultural Grant are being accepted. Deadline for submission is August 31, 2012. All prospective grant projects/activities should take place from January through December 2013. Grant recipients must expend their money within that calendar year.

Hui O Laulima is a women's organization promoting the Okinawan culture and, true to its spirit of "giving a helping hand," it has continued to perpetuate and preserve its culture by awarding grants to individuals and groups that share the same desire. These qualities will be considered of all applicants as well as leadership ability and participation in community service. Grants and scholarships totaling more than \$130,000 have been awarded by Hui O Laulima since 1984.

Criteria for selection include: Interest in the study, perpetuation and promotion, including goodwill projects of Okinawan culture (music, dance, art, or other forms of artistic expressions), language and history; Leadership ability; Community service; Acceptance to study under a recognized instructor of Okinawan culture, language and/or history; Participation in programs for the promotion and perpetuation of Okinawan culture; Financial need; Overall potential for success; Clarity of goal(s); and Two letters of recommendation from individuals other than relatives.

Inquiries and/or requests for application go to:
Karen Fuse, Cultural Grants Committee Co-chair
1525 Ahuawa Loop
Honolulu, Hi. 96816
kcfuse@hawaii.rr.com

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.



Okinawan Proverb

Submitted by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members

Instructor: Dr. Kyoko Hijirida

Choo, noobu nu magai yariwaru tatariiru

ちよー、のーぶぬ まがい やりわる たたりーる

English equivalent: Man can't get along in the world without being flexible just as a folding screen can't stand without folded parts.

人は屏風(びょうぶ)の曲がりであれば立っておれる。

Meaning: 曲がらねば/柔軟性がなければ/この世はわたれない。

正しいこと一点張りではこの世はわたっていけない。

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

May

yui-uta, *n.* Songs sung while engaged in communal cooperative labor.

June

buji, *n.* [buji] Safety; security; peace; tranquility; quietness. *na, adj.* Safe; secure; peaceful; tranquil; quiet.

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

This is Your Newsletter

Please send us your club news items and photos.

Email us at info@huoa.org Mahalo!

HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

July 2012

- 3 Executive Council meeting, 7pm
- 4 Independence Day-HOC Office Closed
- 11 Okinawan Festival meeting, 7pm
- 12 Club Development & Member Sustainment Committee meeting, 7pm
- 16 Communications & Information Committee meeting, 7pm
- 18 Okinawan Festival Food Committee meeting, 7pm
- 20-21 Bon Dance at Jikoen Temple
- 24 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm
- 25 Administration Committee meeting, 7pm

August

- 1 Club Development & Member Sustainment Committee meeting, 7pm
- 7 Executive Council meeting, 7pm
- 8 Okinawan Festival meeting, 7pm
- 9 Okinawan Cooking 101, 6:30-9pm Fee: \$20
- 15 Okinawan Festival Food Committee meeting, 7pm
- 20 Communications & Information Committee meeting, 7pm
- 22 Administration Committee meeting, 7pm

Classes · Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm*
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Thursday, 7pm*
- Ikebana: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm*
- Karaoke nite: 3rd 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 5/14/12)

SPECIAL NOTE: We're showing first-time new premiere shows on certain Saturdays now. The first one is on Saturday, May 5, and the second one is on Saturday, June 2. This is in addition to the premiere shows usually aired on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 pm. The regular airtime for our HOT shows is on every Saturday at 5 p.m. Our shows can be viewed on Oceanic Channel 53, as well as streaming on the Internet from the Olelo Web site (www.olelo.org). Some of the latest HOT shows are available "on demand" on that same Web site on OleloNet On Demand.

Jul 2, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW) & Jul 7, Sat, 5pm- Part Two of Akatsichi, a recital by Yasuko Arakawa and members of her Aki No Kai, held on April 19, 2009 at the Kaimuki High School Auditorium.

Jul 14, Sat, 5pm - Part Two of "Kugani Nuuzi" by the Nakasone Dance Academy - 50th Anniversary Recital held at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall on May 20, 2006.

Jul 16, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW) & Jul 21, Sat, 5pm - Show Two of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai, Hawaii Shibu; Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii; and Nidaime Teishin Kai Hawaii Shibu & HUOA Sanshin Class.

Jul 28, Sat, 5pm (PREMIERE SHOW) Show Three of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Kilauea Okinawa Dance Club; Okinawa Shorin-Ryu-Shinden Ryu Karate Dojo; and Chinagu Eisa Hawaii.

Aug 4, Sat, 5pm - WUB's "Taste of Okinawa", held at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii on June 1, 2006; and the Young Okinawans of Hawaii's Senior Christmas Luncheon held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on December 3, 2006.

Aug 6, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW) & Aug 11, Sat, 5pm - Show Four of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Pauahi Okinawa Buyo Club; Leinani Hula Group from Okinawa; and Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko.

Aug 18, Sat, 5pm (PREMIERE SHOW) Show Five of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyokai, Hawaii Shibu; 2011 Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Group; and Kikue Kaneshiro Ryubu Kenkyu Kai.

Aug 20, Mon, 7pm (PREMIERE SHOW) & Aug 25, Sat, 5pm - Show Six of the 29th Okinawan Festival 2011 at Kapiolani Park, September 3 & 4, featuring Hawaii Taiko Kai; Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai; and Mamoru Miyagi & Yoko Hizuki from Japan.

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