



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

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2013 HUOA Legacy Award Honorees

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association will present its Legacy Award to six exceptional individuals at a luncheon banquet on November 3, 2013, at the Sheraton Waikiki Ballroom. These outstanding people are:



Charles Toguchi



Cheryl Nakasone



Dr. Doris Ching



Grant Murata



Henry Isara



Jackson Nakasone

Charles T. Toguchi, former Hawaii State Senator and Superintendent of Education. Charles Toguchi served in both Houses of the Hawaii State Legislature, was State Superintendent of Education, and was Chief of Staff for Governor Ben Cayetano. During his tenure as a legislator and Superintendent, Mr. Toguchi initiated progressive ideas like school-based management (SCBM) in the DOE to empower local schools. Among his educational accomplishments, he sponsored a legislative bill in 1986 that legalized the teaching of the Hawaiian language in public schools. Okinawa has looked to Hawaii's success with its Hawaiian language immersion program as it tries to revitalize Uchinaaguchi, the Okinawan language. In 1990, Lt. Gov. Ben Cayetano and Superintendent Toguchi collaborated and initiated the A+ After School Program in all DOE elementary schools throughout the State. Since 1998, he has been in the private sector with his own governmental affairs consulting business. Mr. Toguchi is currently the Chair of the Aloha Stadium Authority.
(Charlie Toguchi is a member of Ginoza Sonjin Kai)

Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone, Artistic Director of Jimpu Kai USA, Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Hawaii Shibu. Cheryl Nakasone was born into a family of prominent Okinawan musicians, among them her uncle, Harry Seisho Nakasone. As a result, she fell in love with Okinawan music and dance, and began formally learning dance at the age of seven. As an adult, she trained in Okinawa under Master Kin Ryosho, and in 1977 was awarded a teaching certificate and appointed Shibu-cho of Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho. She is the first foreign-born dancer to pass all three levels of the rigorous Ryukyu Shimpo Konkuru. In Hawaii, Cheryl Nakasone Sensei teaches on Maui as well as Oahu, and from 2003-2012, taught at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Under her direction, Jimpu Kai USA has won numerous grants. In her Kaimuki studio, Cheryl Nakasone Sensei teaches regular classes in dance and Shuri-style *Kumiwudui*.
(Cheryl Nakasone is a member of Okinawa City- Goeku Son)

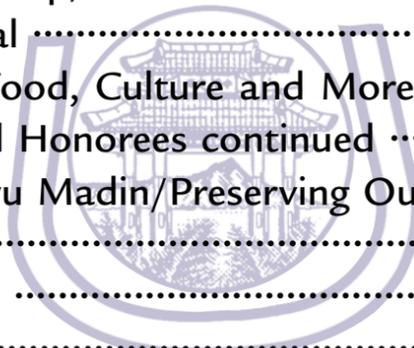
Dr. Doris Ching, Vice President Emeritus of the University of Hawaii System. Doris (Yamauchi) Ching was a middle school teacher who became Chair of the Education and International Division of the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research, Associate Professor of Education, and Associate Dean of Education. Then, from 1987 until 2005, Dr. Ching was Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Hawaii. She was the first woman of color and first Asian/Pacific Islander elected President of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Dr. Ching served on the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, on accreditation teams of universities in California, Hawaii, and Guam, and on many other national boards and commissions. She continues to inspire her colleagues, students, women and minorities through her speaking engagements. Dr. Ching is currently Chair of the Hawaii State Judicial Selection Commission.
(Doris Ching is a member of Yonabaru Chojin Kai and Hui O Lailima)

Grant "Sandaa" Murata, President of Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu. Grant Murata became interested in Ryukyuan minyo (folk) music at the age of twelve. He studied sanshin under Master Henry Masatada Higa, and earned his teaching certificate in minyo in 1981. In 1984, he traveled to Okinawa to study Okinawan koten (classical) music under Japan's National Living Treasure Choichi Terukina. Sandaa Murata Sensei was awarded a Kyoshi teaching certificate in 1994 and founded Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu. In 2007, he was awarded the title of Shihan, or Master Instructor, from the parent organization in Okinawa. Through Sandaa Sensei's guidance and encouragement, many of his students have traveled to Okinawa to test against international competition at Konkuru for Afuso Ryu. Sandaa Sensei has taught a Shihan and six Kyoshi, most of them Hawaii-born, who teach over 150 students on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Los Angeles. *(Grant Murata is a member of Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai)*

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President's Message

By George Bartels, Jr.



Ukazi Deebiru – Because of You!

This year's Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park was host to 292 guests from Okinawa, many of whom performed during the two-day event. The list included Radio Okinawa's 2013 Miuta Taiso winner, Lucy Nagamine; Hui O Leinani Group, Nobuo Utsugi, Director; Senbaru Eisa from Kadena Town, Kojiro Hanashiro, Leader; Naha Mayor Takeshi Onaga; Mitsuko Yamauchi, Designer; Johnny Ginowan; Namihira (Hanja) Bo from Yomitan Village; and members of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai, who were instrumental in the coordination of the Okinawa performers.

Participants from the neighbor islands included Hui Okinawa Kobudo Taiko, Troy Sakihara, Leader, from the Big Island; members of Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai Hawaii from Maui and Kauai; and RMD from Kauai. We even had models Jason Hondo from Maui and Alan Hiranaka from Kauai participate in the Mitsuko Yamauchi fashion show.

The participation of cultural groups from abroad and the neighbor islands reflect the *Uchinanchu Spirit of Aloha*, the theme of the festival. This spirit flowed to the Maui Okinawan Festival three weeks later at the Maui Mall. Participants from Oahu included Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai Hawaii, *Ukwanshin Kabudan*, Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone, and Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii/Urizon Minyo Group. They collectively helped to lure a record crowd of 8,500. It is a good feeling to see the *Uchinanchu Spirit of Aloha* exhibited by the support shown at each of the events.

Earlier this year, the *Uchinanchu Spirit of Aloha* was evident at the Hui Alu Kauai Okinawan Dance Festival with the participation of Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai Hawaii, Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai, and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii...also the participation of Norman Kaneshiro, Keith Nakaganeku and Eric Wada at the Kohala, Honoka'a and Kona Shinnen Enkai. Looking forward to next year, let's all reserve the date and prepare to attend Hui Okinawa's Haari Boat Festival and Races in Hilo.

On Sunday, November 24, 2013, you will have the opportunity to view a collaborative group of talented *Kenpi* students that have trained and studied diverse fields of the Okinawan Culture. A "*Kenpi*" is someone who has received a scholarship from the Okinawan Prefectural Government to study in Okinawa for a year at a university in order to learn about their culture, history and their family. Individually, they comprise of senseis in their schools and recognized in their fields of expertise. Although their study in Okinawa did not overlap, their similar experiences created an unbreakable bond. Please join Alison Yanagi, Kenton Odo, Lisa Nakandakari, Melissa Yueunten, June Nakama, Lynette Teruya, Arlene Kamita, Ann Moribe, Alfred Kina, Jodie Ching, Mina Tamashiro, Lynn Miyashiro Masuda, Dazzman Toguchi, Alison Ebesu and Grace Nushida in their performance, as they share their experience of Okinawa with you. And if you are someone who is interested in applying for a *Kenpi* scholarship, please do not hesitate to ask them questions about their experiences.

They always say that we have so many events happening throughout the year, and that the HUOA is so busy. But once in awhile we must stop and take a look at the accomplishments of our largest asset, and that is our members. This year we are proud to honor six special individuals who are recognized for their outstanding achievements in their fields and significant contributions to our local, national and international communities. Please join us in honoring the 2013 HUOA Legacy Award recipients: Dr. Doris Ching, Henry Isara, Grant "Sandaa" Murata, Cheryl Nakasone, Jackson Nakasone, and Charles Toguchi on Sunday, November 3, 2013. *Ukazi Deebiru, Because of You* and all that you have done for us and our community, *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

OGSH Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii is celebrating its 20th year anniversary at a luncheon to be held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The date is Saturday, November 16, 2013 in Legacy II Ballroom. You are all welcome to join us to honor some special persons who have supported the society through all these years. There will be door prizes, entertainment and special presentations. Adults: \$25, Children (5 - 15): \$15, Ages 7 and below: no charge. For more information contact: Rodney Kohagura, phone 623-7256, email rodtad64@gmail.com. Reservations are requested by November 1.



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.

Uchinanchu Donors July 16 to September 30, 2013.

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LOST AND FOUND ITEMS AT OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

Did you lose something at the Festival? Your sunglasses, eye glasses, cap, shoes, etc.? If so, we are still holding about 35 items for folks to claim. Please call HUOA at 676-5400 to inquire about your lost item.

Please Kokua

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

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Please include this form with your donation and send to:
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UCHINANCHU

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| HUOA President | George Bartels, Jr. |
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 Please send us your club news items and photos.
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UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight: Doris Arakaki

What's your comfort food? Chocolates, hot fudge sundaes, peanut butter on a spoon, a piping hot bowl of pig's feet soup? It would seem that everyone has a different opinion of what comfort food means. The Okinawan Festival offers a variety of epicurean delights that some may consider as giving much comfort... any favorites of yours? Besides *andagi* and the Festival offerings, there is one little element that is actually referred to in Okinawan theatrical plays and conjures up a nostalgic, homey image and that's "*andansuu*," which is more familiarly known in Hawaii as "*andamiso*." It's that little dab of pork-miso that's served as part of the Okinawan or champuru plate at the Festival. What is its relationship to this issue's spotlighted volunteer?



Doris Arakaki has been involved with the Okinawan Festival since its earliest days at McCoy Pavilion 31 festivals ago. She explained that with the exception of one—when her leadership was needed in the Cultural Exhibition Tent—she has been working side-by-side with members of her Hawaii Shuri Naha Club, first in the Pig's Feet Soup booth and now for several years in the Okinawan Plate booth.

Since every Okinawan household has their own version of *andamiso*, Doris was asked whose recipe was being followed for the Festival and she replied that there was no special recipe, but an agreement of a consortium of ideas and palates. The spirit of *yuimaaruu* in many different people is probably the reason why the Festival *andamiso* tastes so good and sells out at the Festival's Country Store every year. Try it in place of an umeboshi in your musubi riceball.

Doris's volunteerism and leadership within her club and the HUOA has a very long history. She was first asked to be president of her club back in 1988 and, since then, she has applied her philosophy of "don't commit to anything if you

can't participate or contribute any assistance." And, Doris has made good on her philosophy. Initially, she felt that it was really important to know her membership and learn about the relationship among them. Subsequently, Doris served as Shuri's president for multiple terms and has also applied her leadership and volunteer philosophy for major HUOA events, such as the craft fair. Whenever there has been an HUOA event, even if she is not part of the assigned committee, Doris will be somewhere helping out.

To save costs for our organization, the HUOA staff has taken turns for many years to prepare lunches for our volunteers and Doris has very generously prepared some of those meals. She often contributes refreshing desserts and treats for our Board meetings, too. When her seasonal flowers are in bloom or she has a bountiful harvest of fruits (her cleaned and segmented *jabon* is a treat!) from her garden, she'll share with our office and other volunteers.

We look forward to Doris's continued assistance and inspiration to the members of her Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club and our HUOA family. To Doris Arakaki, the HUOA expresses our *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

"Doris has been involved with the Okinawan Festival since its earliest days at McCoy Pavilion 31 festivals ago."

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31st Okinawan Festival – Thank you for the Magic!

By Chris Shimabukuro, Festival Co-chair

There is something magical about the Okinawan Festival. It goes beyond our sense of sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. That’s not to say that our senses aren’t in overload at the Festival, because they are. Just the sight of thousands of people from Hawaii locals, mainland tourists, and visitors from Okinawa and around the world is impressive and a bit overwhelming. The sounds of the Festival are just as diverse as the people in attendance. From *taiko* drums and Okinawan music to children screaming as they slide down the inflatable rides, the Festival is alive and loud. The smell and taste of so many wonderful foods is abundant. From the traditional *Champuru* plate, Okinawan *soba*, pig’s feet soup, and *Andagi* to *Yakitori* bento, Oki dog, chili frank plate, and *huli* chicken, our mouths water and our appetites are satisfied with so many delicious choices.

Even with all of our senses fully engaged, the essence of the Festival goes much deeper. The magic of the Festival is how it makes you feel. When you attend and truly experience the Festival, you feel nourished (and not just physically from all the great food), but soulfully nourished. Maybe the power of the *taiko* drums or Okinawan songs touched you, or the beauty of the *bonsai* plants brought you a little peace, perhaps you visited the cultural tent and learned about your family roots with help from the Okinawan Geneological Socitey of Hawaii, or were brought to tears, like I was, after reading the Battle of Okinawa display, or even learned about the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project and felt nourished with the hope as to what the future may hold.

Perhaps you saw the glowing face of a child winning their first liter of soda in the games booth or the joy of finally getting their large rainbow shave ice after waiting patiently in line. I know many participated in the *Bon* Dance and had their spirits lifted to great heights. I only watched people dancing and it lifted mine. Maybe you, like so many other volunteers, worked side by side with friends, family and new acquaintances and shared special moments of camaraderie and nourished your soul that way. There were moments of magic taking place everywhere, and I hope you were able to experience many of them.

There is also magic in the people, and it comes from the members of the 49 HUOA clubs and the 3,000-plus volunteers who give their blood, sweat and tears

to make the Festival possible and who do it with smiles on their faces. I have never seen so many people work so hard and so unselfishly and love every minute of it. It truly is magical and inspiring. It also comes from the 292 guests from Okinawa who make the Festival a priority so that they may experience its magic firsthand.

There were many heroes at this year’s Festival—too many to name them all, but I would like to recognize several who worked tirelessly to make the Festival special: Masa Shiroma and his crew, who set up and broke down the entertainment stage, booths and everything else that was needed; Mel Horimoto, head of electricians at the Festival, wants to acknowledge his team of helpers, with special thanks to Douglas Zakabi, who acquired three plastic 55-gallon drums to make six containers with handles to store the new light fixture; and Glen Masuda, who ordered all of the new electrical materials, filled the refrigerators with diesel fuel, and was the standby guy for any trouble calls; Walter Takara for serving as this year’s plumber; Larry and Carol Yamamoto for feeding all the volunteers during set up and breakdown; Dwight Ikehara and his cafeteria crew; Wayne Takamine for handling all the sound for the *Bon* Dance; Earlyn Koizumi for your attention to detail; Tammy Namihira for accommodating everyone’s supply requests; Max Shinkawa for doing everything; Alan Isara for supporting Max and being the go-to guy; Steve Arashiro and our HOT TV video crew; George Bartels, Jr. for serving as Festival Co-Chair when you weren’t supposed to; David Jones and crew for working the parking lot; David Funokoshi and Sue Gushiken for doing an amazing job with safety; Dexter Teruya for making everyone around you happy; Ford Chinen for overseeing our buses to KCC; Tom Yamamoto for emceeing; Lynn Miyahira for serving as our translator; Cyrus Tamashiro for taking care of all our visitors from Okinawa; and lastly to two unsung heroes, Paul Komeji and Norman Nakasone, for showing up every day at Kapiolani Park for one week straight to oversee the set up, breakdown and logistics for the Festival, and to Norman for also serving as Finance Chair.

To all of you, the 49 HUOA clubs who sold scrips and worked at the Festival, and to the many, many other volunteers, a sincere thank you. You are the magic that made this 31st Okinawan Festival magical. *Ippee Nifee Debiriu!*

Seventh Annual Okinawan Festival Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of this year’s Okinawan Festival Photo Contest! We want to thank the talented photographers that participated in this year’s contest. To view the photos in color, visit the Okinawan Festival website.

Grand Prize Winner - \$150
Title: Culture Through Dance
Photograph by: Karli Ann Lum



**Culture
Category
Prize Winner -
\$50**

**Title: A
Delicate
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**Photo by:
Martin
Nakasone**



**Ohana
Category
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Title: Shaka!

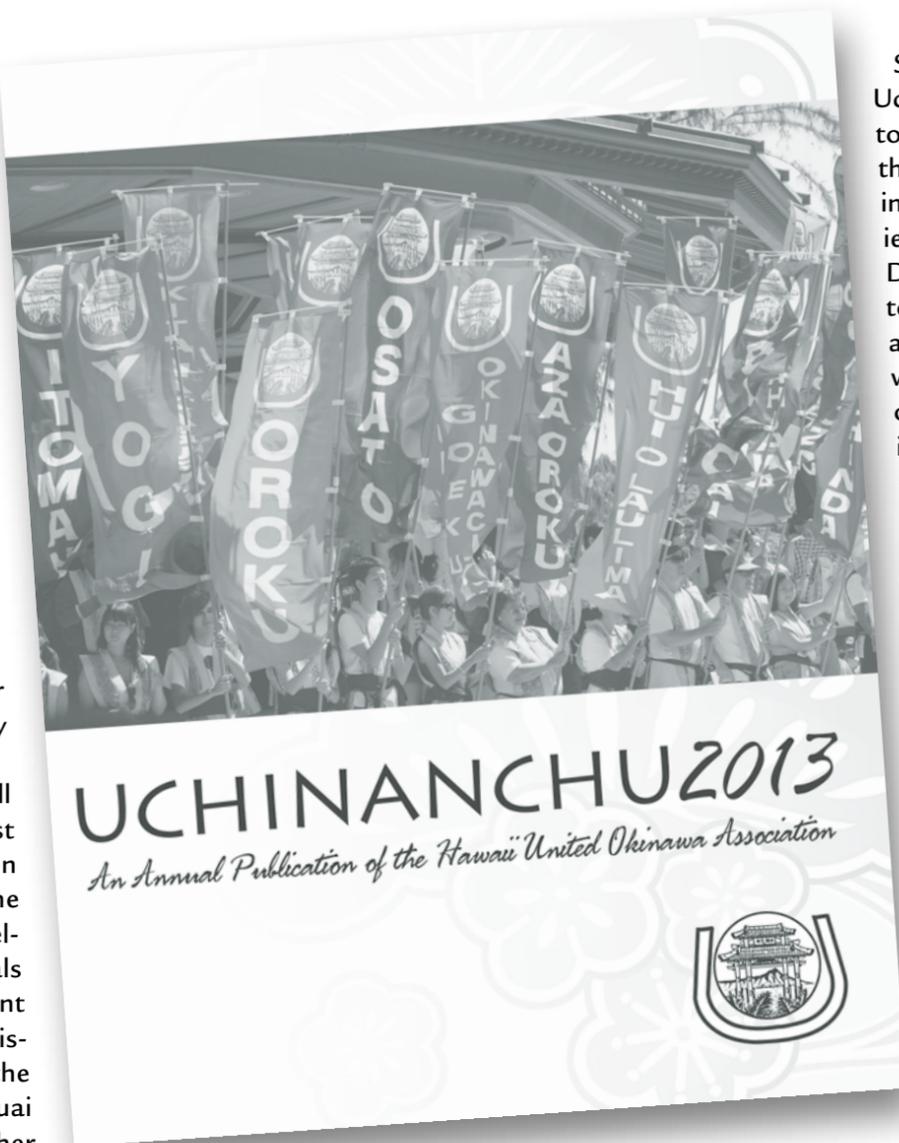
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Uchinanchu 2013: New Annual Publication to Capture HUOA's Year in Vibrant Color

Every other month, the Uchinanchu newsletter documents the impressive variety of activities of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) and its members. To keep costs down, Uchinanchu is produced on newsprint in black-and-white. Unfortunately, part of what is sacrificed in the process is the vibrant color of the costumes, food, settings and people that makes these events so spectacular.

In light of this situation, the HUOA is pleased to announce the publication of Uchinanchu 2013: An Annual Publication of the HUOA, which will feature pictorial highlights from each year in vibrant, high-resolution color printed on glossy, magazine-quality paper.

The 100-page inaugural issue will capture the highlights from this past year, starting with the Installation of Officers and Uchinanchu of the Year Banquet; club Shinnen Enkai celebrations, music and dance festivals and recitals; study tour and student exchanges; sports highlights; fundraisers such as the Taste of Marukai; the Okinawan Festival; the Maui and Kauai Okinawan festivals; and (every other year) the Haari Boat Festival in Hilo.



Some members save back issues of Uchinanchu just to have a record of what took place that year, especially if they, their group, or someone close to them was involved. "People ask us for extra copies all the time," reports HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku. Newsprint tends to fade, however, whereas the Uchinanchu annual will be an attractive product that would look great on any bookshelf, desk or coffee table. It would even be an ideal item to give as gifts, especially to friends and family outside of Hawaii.

Sponsors are currently being solicited to help cover the cost of producing the booklet, which will then be sold to provide a welcomed source of income for the HUOA. Incentive sales programs for member clubs are being considered.

**Ad Deadline (Space reservation):
November 8, 2013**

**Ad Deadline (Artwork due):
November 22, 2013**

**Delivery of Inaugural Issue:
January 18, 2014 (HUOA Installation
Banquet)**

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Hamaishigaki – Past, Present & Future

By Paul Uyehara

In 1908 my dad, Sanra Uyehara, emigrated from Itoman, Okinawa, to Hawaii seeking a better life. He worked at a sugar plantation and, by 1940, had a family of nine children. As long as I can recall from childhood and beyond, my dad never mentioned or spoke about his family in Okinawa. I often wondered if he had brothers and sisters, much less a father or mother. Did I have any cousins? On an isolated occasion he did mention that he was a Kaneshiro (Kinjo). Why, then, was our name Uyehara? Years later, in 1988, I asked one of his Okinawan friends, “Why is my dad an Uyehara?” His curt reply was, “Don’t ask too many questions!” I thought, “What! Come on, man!”

His reply heightened by family stories, gossip and innuendos was that dad was a fugitive immigrant who had stowed away on a ship to Hawaii—even using someone else’s identity. My dad, an *Uchinanchu* “identity thief”? These myths (?) spurred me to embark on a search for answers.

So, where and how do I start this search? How do I go about on this new adventure? I had heard and read about the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii. Some of its volunteers meet Fridays at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in the Chaya. So, I thought I’d give it a shot. Sally (Kamiya) Tsuda, Robert Kishaba and the “Friday Group” of genealogy workers got pestered by me for about a year. I was relentless, and Sally was patient, but persistent. (an *Itomanchu* woman’s trait, I am told.) My quest became her personal quest. Then—pure luck! My prayers of wishing and hoping befell me. Sally had communicated my plight to Yoshimasu Kamiya (her cousin of some sort), who in turn related my dead-end genealogical search to his colleague and friend, Masaru Kinjo, in this same Itoman



City Hall Office. Masaru is a giant, and expert, a whiz in genealogy, and belongs to the *yago Hamaishigaki*. I found out that my *yago* is *Hamaishigaki* and that was only seven months ago. Masaru and I are cousins!

Masaru has researched, documented and printed a *Hamaishigaki* Genealogy book of 107 pages. Within this book is Nabe Uyehara (my grandfather) and that jisan’s family consists of four sons and two daughters. My dad, Sanra, is his third son. My uncles and aunts are all in Brazil with their descendants—my cousins numbering close to a hundred. Awesome! And the Sanra Uyehara mystery is no more!

Ancestors are very important to the lives of Okinawans. *Uchinanchus* are noted for ancestor worship. In September 2013 I went home to Itoman, the place of my ancestors. My grandfather’s residence, home to my dad, is still there. Jisan, as I was told, was not the normal, run-of-the-mill guy, since he was a village administrator (some sort of chief). He was Nabe Uyehara, the fifth son of Nabe Kinjo, my great grandfather. They had different last names—another part of the family story subject for discussion. My grandfather and great-grandfather are both resting in a tomb built especially for Kinjos situated on a special Itoman hillside.

Lastly, I went to a Kinjo household to pay homage at the family’s *butsudan*. I offered *senko* and prayed. My miraculous genealogy success is credited to the “Friday” group of the Chaya room and to my ancestors. Were not my prayers answered?

So if you’re thinking about genealogy search, be passionate about family, have a positive attitude, and don’t ever give up. 🍀

Games, Food, Culture and More at the Okinawan Festival

By Krislyn Miyagawa

The 31st Annual Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park was held from August 31-September 1. It is a gathering to celebrate time with one another and enhance the knowledge about the Okinawan culture.

Jane Serikaku, executive director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, says, “It’s wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves working, enjoying the program, spending time in the cultural tent, searching for Okinawan goodies in the Country Store and Heiwa Dori.” The event included 10 food booths, a cultural tent, a Heiwa Dori booth, children’s games and more. It attracts over 50,000 people and is assisted by over 3,000 volunteers each year.

The first Okinawan Festival was initiated in 1971 and was not known as the “Okinawan Festival.” It was called “Cultural Jubilee.” The Cultural Jubilee was originated by an Okinawan women’s group called Hui O Laulima. Hui is a club or organization and Laulima means cooperation. Therefore, Hui O Laulima is a club of women working together to create a new event. The goal of the group was to share the Okinawan culture with the public through displays and demonstrations.

As the word of the Cultural Jubilee made its way to Okinawa, the government sent dance professionals to perform in Hawaii and to participate in the Cultural Jubilee. The event was held at the Ala Moana Hotel and had precious artifacts from Okinawa on display for others to study. As the years continued, Cultural Jubilee evolved and, in 1982, it became known as the Okinawan Festival.



Every year, Krislyn (middle) enjoys the Festival with her friends and family.

In the early years of the festival, it was held at McCoy Pavilion in Ala Moana Park. Each year, the festival brought new events and more people. As the participation in the Okinawan Festival grew, the space had gotten smaller and smaller over the years, and it was moved to Thomas Square. It didn’t stop there. At 6.5 acres, Thomas Square is big, but just not big enough, and that is why the Okinawan Festival is held at Kapiolani Park, its current location.

As the festival continues to evolve, volunteers, friends and family enjoy this time at the Okinawan Festival together. Tamlyn Miyagawa, a volunteer, expresses, “A tradition we look forward to every year.” It is

a place where people can experience a new culture and adventure new things. The event is open to everyone and anyone who wants to participate. Talent doesn’t have an effect on your appearance. For that matter, you don’t need to be part of the entertainment to attend, you just need show your Okinawan spirit. Jon Itomura, MC of the Okinawan Festival shares, “I may not be able to dance, play *sanshin*, sing, or cook, but I provide my hands, feet and thoughts to be a productive participant...to be Okinawan because after all, it’s the Okinawa festival.”

The Okinawan Festival has been a tradition for many families and friends. It is a place of gathering and celebration. “The festival provides a convenient venue for

friends, family and even visitors from other states and countries, including Okinawa,” Itomura adds. It has been a success over the years, from Cultural Jubilee to Okinawan Festival, from Ala Moana Hotel to Kapiolani Park, and now attracts over 50,000 people each year. “Everyone walks away with a different experience, whether they come to eat, perform, shop, or just sit with old friends and enjoy the hours of entertainment,” says Jon.

Krislyn is a 10th grade student at the Mid-Pacific Institute. She wrote this article about the Okinawan Festival because she attends the Festival with her family every year. Besides being familiar with the activities and food, she says that she wanted to share her culture with everyone and explain how we celebrate time together. 🍀

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Chu Hisa – First Steps: A Premier Presentation of HI-SAI Okinawa

By Jodie Ching

It all began in a little cottage at Natsunoya Tea House. From the hilarious to the heartwarming—stories were shared over ono food and lots of laughter. Allison Yanagi, Alfred Kina, Ann Moribe, and Lynette Teruya had gotten us (a group of the Okinawan Prefectural Government Scholarship Recipients Alumni) together to share photos and experiences from our year in Okinawa and to catch up on what we were currently doing in our lives.

As for myself, it has been about 15 years since I returned from my year at the University of the Ryukyus (a.k.a. Ryudai). This scholarship provided students with a full year's tuition and lodging at Ryudai or The Okinawa Prefectural University of the Arts (a.k.a. Geidai).

While on scholarship we attended classes that focused on what our interests were, whether they were academic or in the fields of the arts. Outside of that we were getting the experience of surviving in a foreign country. One of us got our clothes stolen, for example, while another turned heads with her blue eye shadow and false eyelashes that were "Sooo in" during the '80s, and all of us brought home to Hawaii a piece of Okinawa in our hearts.

Many of us also attended private *dojo* (studios) to deepen our cultural experience in various performing or visual arts. At this first joyful gathering at Natsunoya, we all expressed how wonderful it would be to inspire other young people to go to the motherland because words alone could not even come close to showing them the life altering power of our experiences. So if words alone would not do the job, how else can we give others a taste of our individual adventures? This is what we came up with.....

On Sunday November 24, 2013, at 2 p.m. at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, we will present a variety show that will be different from what has been traditionally presented in the past. Our experiences as government scholarship recipients have inspired us to not just play *sanshin*, dance and be active in the local community. Our time in Okinawa has literally changed the way we live – how we work, how we reach out to others and how we raise our children.

Please come to our variety show, "*Chu Hisa-First Steps*." We have gone beyond song and dance, but I dare not spoil the surprises that we have crafted within our show with the many talents, warm hearts, passion and humor that make up this group, *HI-SAI Okinawa* (Hawaii Scholarship Alumni Inspired in Okinawa). After coming to our show, who knows, you may want to begin YOUR ADVENTURE!

HI-SAI Okinawa members are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lisa Mika Nakandakari | Alison Mika Oshiro |
| Ann Tazuko Moribe | Alyce Yumiko Nakama |
| Arleen Fumiko Kamita | Lynn Midori Masuda |
| Alfred Yama Kina | Melissa Uyeunten |
| Wesley Iwao Ueunten | Dazzman Seichi Toguchi |
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| Alison Sachie Ebesu | Dana Tai |
| Lynette Kiyomi Teruya | Christina Takushi |
| Allison Tokuko Yanagi | Gary Uno |

For more information about this event or about available scholarships to Okinawa please contact the HUOA at 676-5400 or info@huoa.org.

Continued from Page 1

Legacy Award Honorees

Henry Isara, Hawaii United Okinawa Association video producer, cultural leader and volunteer. Henry Isara has devoted a lifetime of service to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association in many areas including the promotion of Okinawan culture, fundraising to build the Hawaii Okinawa Center, coordinating sports leagues, and broadcast communications. Mr. Isara assisted the late Shoen Moriyama in creating and constructing props and backdrops for many Okinawan Festivals and stage productions and helped HUOA formulate procedures for supporting cultural organizations. For many years, he was one of the voices of HUOA on KZOO radio and since 1997 has been a producer, interviewer, and editor of Hawaii Okinawa Today, helping to develop it into one of the most popular ethnic television programs on Oceanic Cable's 'Olelo Community Media. He is a unique contributor whose spirit is representative of the volunteers who support the HUOA with their time, skills and passion. *(Henry Isara is a member of Kochinda Chojin Kai)*

'CHU HISA' ~ 'First Steps'
 (An Okinawan-Themed Variety Show)
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Doors open 1:30 pm • \$15
Hawaii Okinawa Center
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Jackson Nakasone, President and CEO of Newmark Grubb CBI, Inc. Jackson Nakasone founded his commercial real estate brokerage and property management company in 1982 and has represented major U.S. and international corporations. In 2012, Mr. Nakasone was named Commercial Broker of the Year by NAIOP Hawaii, a commercial real estate development association. He has used his experience and knowledge in real estate to advise and guide many non-profit organizations, including Palama Settlement, Epiphany School, and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Mr. Nakasone helped the HUOA acquire the property on which the Hawaii Okinawa Center was built, and continues to advise HUOA on the development of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Mr. Nakasone was President of the McKinley High School Foundation, Chair of the City and County of Honolulu Planning Commission, and Land Use Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. *(Jackson Nakasone is a member of Hawaii-Shuri Naha Club)*

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Higayū Madin

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

Okinawa Heritage Challenge – Update

By Jon Itomura, Capital Campaign Chair

Our version of the “Okinawa Roll Call” got off to a successful and exciting start at the 2013 Okinawa Festival. Shari Tamashiro, along with her dad, George, mom, Emeline, and countless other family, friends and volunteers coordinated “pop-up” Okinawa performances and encouraged any and everyone to participate in the Okinawa Heritage (Name) Challenge. There were a couple assumptions 1) Shari Tamashiro, utilizing her boundless energy, would recruit every Festival participant to sign up as a “Tamashiro” and 2) contributions from all the “Higas” would do well in excess of all the other Okinawa and non-Okinawa names because everyone in Hawaii is related to or knows a “HIGA”!

So where do we stand? Shari “almost” signed up everyone as a “Tamashiro” and raised almost \$2,000! The Higa’s, however, prevailed and contributed over \$5,500 to currently hold the top spot! The top 10 contributors for the Heritage Challenge also included the following for the “OKINAWAN Roll Call”: Shimabukuro, Serikaku, Miyashiro, Tengan, Uezu, Itomura, Asato, and Kikuyama! The current total tally is over \$14,000!

For the remainder of 2013, we are going to continue this fun “Heritage Challenge.” Please remind everyone that this Challenge is not limited to only Okinawa family surnames Funds raised by this challenge will continue to be used to assist fundraising efforts for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza final construction costs.

Also, some names can be consolidated based upon the understanding that many names evolved from similar names such as Kaneshiro, Kanegusuku, and Kinjo. We will continue to run a tally which will be posted on the Hawaii United Okinawa Association website to keep everyone informed on how their surname is doing. When all is done in December 2013, each surname that surpasses donation totals that will be assigned to specific “naming” opportunities at the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be noted on the website and in the Uchinanchu newsletter.

Please don’t hesitate to call the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (676-5400) *Chibariyo!*

HIGA.....		
TAMASHIRO....	\$1,900	\$5,520
SHIMABUKURO	\$1,020	
SERIKAKU.....	\$1,000	
MIYASHIRO....	\$790	
ITOMURA.....	\$600	
TENGAN.....	\$591	
UEZU.....	\$500	
ASATO.....	\$370	
KIKUYAMA.....	\$240	
KOHAGURA....	\$200	
OSHIRO.....	\$125	
MAESHIRO....	\$102	
YONTANZA....	\$100	
TAIRA.....	\$100	
NAKASONE....	\$100	
IKEL.....	\$100	
IKEHARA.....	\$100	
ARAKAWA.....	\$100	
ARAGAKI.....	\$100	
KANESHIRO....	\$60	
UYESATO.....	\$50	
TONOUCHI....	\$50	
KAWAMOTO....	\$50	
KUBA.....	\$40	
LOUI.....	\$25	
UCHIMA.....	\$25	
SAKIHARA....	\$20	
NISHIMURA....	\$20	
JITCHAKU....	\$20	
HORIKAWA....	\$20	
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AKAMINE.....	\$20	
MIYASATO....	\$13	
UYEHARA.....	\$10	

*What's
in a
Name
Uchinanchu
Pride*

**Heritage
Name
Challenge**
(OCTOBER 2, 2013)

**TOTAL
\$14,038**

Our Supporters

Continued on Page 9



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign or are participating in the Heritage Name Challenge. We are grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations. *Magukuru Kara Ippee Nifee Deebiru* – from our hearts, thank you very much.

Donations listed below were received from July 16, 2013 to September 30, 2013.

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Preserving Our Legacy

2012 TO 2013-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) would like to acknowledge all of the individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated towards our annual giving program. Our campaign, launched on November 19, 2012, has raised gifts totaling \$132,579. To our 908 donors, thank you for your generous contributions and display of confidence in HUOA. We are truly grateful for your commitment to our culture. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru!*

The list of donors below reflects gifts received from July 16, 2013 to September 30, 2013

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Continued from Page 8



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Iwakuni Odori Ai Ko Kai
Hatsuko Gushiken
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Jane Takara

A Shinjinsho Experience

By Jason Hondo

Every year, the *Ryukyu Shimpō*, one of Okinawa's major newspaper companies, sponsors *geino konkuru* (Okinawan performing arts competitions). Through these competitions, participants earn certifications of varying levels in their respective specialties. In August, I traveled to Okinawa to participate in the *konkuru* for *koten* (classical) *uta-sanshin* in the Afuso style and received my *Shinjinsho* (beginner or newcomer certificate).

I began studying *uta-sanshin* about four years ago. My *sensei* is Kenton Odo, who comes to Maui once a month to instruct the Afuso-Ryu Choichi Kai – Maui group. Our Maui chapter has performed with the Oahu, Kauai and California chapters on numerous occasions, and many of us have discussed attempting the *shinjinsho*. Our *sensei* have always encouraged us to go through the experience. They said it would not only better our singing and *sanshin* skills, but we would also get to know the international Afuso-Ryu Choichi Kai family and its namesake, Japan National Living Treasure Choichi Terukina more intimately, and make us feel closer to Okinawa and our *Uchinanchu* culture. Now that I have gone through it, I realize they were right about everything.

In short, the *shinjinsho* involved learning one song, “*Nufwa Bushi*,” traveling to Okinawa, and performing (singing and playing) this song in front of a five-judge panel made up of respected Afuso-Ryu *sensei*. To receive the certificate, I needed to perform the song without major errors, finish it in as close to 6 minutes and 30 seconds (the proper time) as possible, and most importantly, express the poem, or song lyrics, correctly.

Once I committed to study for the test, the months of practice and preparation with Kenton-sensei quickly went by. Knowing he would not be able to accompany me to Okinawa, I performed in front of him, my family, my Maui *sanshin* group, the Hawaii Taiko Kai – Maui group, anyone who happened to be at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center, all to re-create the stressful panel-of-judges situation of the test. By the time I boarded the plane to Okinawa on Sunday, August 4, Kenton-sensei had me well-prepared.

Much of Monday through Wednesday was spent at the Terukina *dojo* practicing. Students from Choichi Kai chapters from Tokyo, Osaka and Kagoshima were also there. Two members of the Los Angeles chapter—Kyle Yamaoka and Aimee Buday—were also there. Being with other English speakers helped ease the stress quite a bit, especially having Aimee, who was fluent in Japanese and would help translate what was being said on countless occasions. Our shared experience will always connect us.

During the day, we took turns playing privately for the 80-plus-year-old Terukina-sensei himself, a privilege that I heard very few now experience. His English, though

limited, was enough for me to understand. Having met him before, we also spent part of each mini-lesson talking about this-and-that, short conversations that took my mind away from the test. This meant a lot to me. When we were not with Terukina-sensei, we practiced on our own in front of the *dojo* mirrors. At times, Terukina-sensei's son, Tomokuni, listened and advised us; other times, *sensei* from other chapters helped us.

We often took breaks and talked story, learning about each other's backgrounds and experiences. These newfound friendships made the world feel just a little bit smaller. In the evenings, the students living in Okinawa trickled into the *dojo* from work or school. Being their turn for private lessons with Terukina-sensei, I didn't stay much longer. I made the 15-minute walk to Kokusai Dori, Okinawa's tourist equivalent of Waikiki, ate dinner, and returned to my nearby hotel where the exhausting and stressful events of every day put me right to sleep.

Thursday was the *shinjinsho* test day. Eager and excited, I was at the *dojo* early, where two paid assistants helped me into my *kimono*. Other Choichi Kai *sensei* and students not taking the test shuttled participants to and from the Ryukyu Shimpō Hall, the test site. The hall lobby was filled with family and friends who offered encouragement and support. Chairs and a TV monitor were set up to view participants taking the test.

About 15 minutes before my number was called, I walked upstairs to the judging room. The room was dark, except for the spotlights on the stage. About 10 yards in front of the stage sat the five judges. Behind them was a video camera recording each participant, and behind the camera were about 20 or so chairs for the few audience members who paid an entrance fee. As I walked around to the back of the stage, the pressure truly set in. What were the words again? What was the first note?

What if I stopped in the middle of it? How could I return home and face everyone if I didn't pass? Just when I thought the doubts would overwhelm me, the one person who took them all away, the only person I believe that could have done so other than Kenton-sensei, appeared at the stage's entrance. Terukina-sensei himself stood there, greeted me with a smile and reached out his hand to tune my *sanshin*. Then he stood behind me, told me to take two deep breaths, then whispered in my ear, “*You can do.*” Coming from him, it was all I needed to hear. My number was called, and as I slowly walked out onto the stage, for a very brief second, the significance of the moment sunk in.

I, a 5th grade elementary school teacher, born and raised on the island of Maui, was about to perform, alone, a classical Okinawan song, playing a traditional Okinawan instrument, singing in *Uchinaaguchi*, wearing a performance *kimono*, to be judged by *sensei* who have been studying the *sanshin* for most of their lives. This was absolutely awesome. I wish I could've bottled up that feeling, taken a picture of it, and posted it on my Facebook page.

I'm glad I bought the DVD recording they sell to each participant, because the actual performance itself was a blur. But I do remember everything from the moment I bowed to the judges after it was over. Taking pictures with everyone, exchanging performance stories, shaking hands, hugging, I think I fell asleep that night still smiling.

This year, 49 *sanshin* students participated in the Afuso-Ryu *shinjinsho konkuru*, 41 passed, with around 25 of those coming from Afuso-Ryu Choichi Kai chapters, including myself, Kyle and Aimee, the only foreigners who participated this year. Kyle received special recognition for being the second-ranked performer out of those who participated. Overall, the journey was definitely challenging, but, just as my *sensei* said, it was indeed rewarding on many levels and an incredible experience that I will never forget.

I would like to thank the HUOA for the “*With Love from Lorraine*” cultural scholarship that helped to defray much of the travel costs to Okinawa. I also want to thank my family and friends for their support, Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members, and especially Terukina-sensei, Kenton-sensei, and my Afuso-Ryu Choichi Kai family on Maui, Oahu, Kauai, the mainland, and abroad.



Woks Get Special Treatment for Festival

What a pleasant surprise to see so many young people scrubbing and treating all the woks in preparation for the Okinawan Festival! Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai members have volunteered to handle this wok-cleaning task for a number of years: First row: Chanel, Chloe, Dane and Joel; Second row: Gaye, Allison, Darlene and JoAnn; Third row: Jon and Tony; Fourth row: Sandy, Helen, Laura, Gary, Kim, Patti and Cindy; Fifth row: Sharon, Festival Food chair Dwight, Kelli, and Festival co-chair Chris.



This is *Your* Newsletter
Please send us your club news items and photos.
Email us at info@huoa.org Mahalo!

Powerful Cultural Display Highlights Maui Okinawan Festival

By Jason Honda, Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai President

An estimated 8,500 people attended this year's Maui Okinawan Festival on September 21. The event's central location, the Maui Mall in Kahului, was ideal in attracting the large crowds who were eager to see what the festival was all about. From 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., the Festival, presented by the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai, was alive with activity. Appetites were satiated with *Ashitibichi* (Pigs Feet Soup), Okinawan pork plate lunch, *chow fun*, *andagi*, *andadogs*, among others. The country store provided homemade goodies like *takuwan*, brush *daikon*, and baked goods. Craft vendors lined the walkways fronting the mall's shops. It was a sight to see!

One area of our festival garnered special attention. Our cultural display area has grown both in breadth and in depth over the years. The popularity and interest in the information and artifacts presented as well as the guest speaker presentations showed a clear desire for a deeper understanding of our culture by the Maui community.

Presentations included topics like the *jikata* (musical ensemble), how to make *taco-rice*, the *Ichi Go Ichi E*, and Okinawan textiles. *Ukwanshin Kabudan's* Sensei Eric Wada, Keith Nakaganeku, and Norman Kaneshiro were among the list of educational speakers. In another area of the display, The Hawaii Okinawan Genealogical Society helped those interested in finding more about their Okinawan roots. One of this year's special display highlights created much anticipation and generated buzz through local media coverage prior to the festival. Along with information on the Battle of Okinawa and the aftermath of World War II, personal interviews with 10 women who lived in Okinawa during the war were showcased. These women, all but one being current Maui residents, survived the war and the extreme poverty that followed. Their accounts, much of which were never even shared with family members, were incredible, emotional, tragic and moving. The stories showed personal strength, perseverance and determination to survive and lead successful lives for both themselves and

their children. They were illustrations of not only the *Uchinanchu*, but of the human condition as a whole.

The patrons of the festival were also treated to a terrific variety of *Uchinanchu* music and dance throughout the day. Maui's own cultural groups like Afuso-Ryu Choichi Kai - Maui, Hawaii Taiko Kai - Maui, Maui Ryukyu Culture Group, and the *odori*, *taiko*, *sanshin*, and newly-formed *Ichi Go Ichi E* groups supported by the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai all performed. Members of the Maui Ryukyu Culture Group performed the *Shisaa-Mo-I* (Lion Dance), MOKK member Sherry Tamayose sang the popular Okinawan song "*Hana*," and Sensei Robert Montgomery and his students shared the art of *Iaido* (Japanese swordsmanship).

Special guests included Sensei Cheryl Nakasone of Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho, Sensei Sarina Udd and members of Ryukyu Hozonkai Sarina Shokyoku Kenkyusho Hawaii Shibu, Sensei Terry Higa of Hawaii Taiko Kai, Sensei Norman Kaneshiro, Eric Wada, and Keith Nakaganeku of Ukwanshin Kabudan, and Sensei Sandaa Murata, Kenton Odo, and June Nakama of Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu.

Urizun Minyo Group, headed by Derek Shiroma, headlined the event's day of entertainment. Their high energy, musical quality, and youth made a lasting impression on the Maui crowd. The wonderful arrangements of popular Okinawan songs as well as their original works provided a perfect ending to another successful Maui Okinawan Festival.

Mahalo to Janet Miyahira and Christine Hondo, the general chairpersons of this year's festival, and the 200+ performers and volunteers who made this festival a success once again. Special thanks to Nagamine Photo Studio for providing the photography and David Nakama of Sounds Good Maui for providing and running the sound system for the event.



Led by 100-year-old Howard Oshiro (second from left), this group of longtime volunteers helped to set up the cooking implements and cook *andagi*. (L-R): Hideo Goya, Howard Oshiro, Ed Oshiro (Howard's son from Oahu), and Jerry Arakawa.

HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER Holiday Craft Fairs

This holiday season the Hawaii United Okinawa Association will again host two of Hawaii's premier Craft Fairs. On November 30th to December 1st, the Hawaii Okinawa Center will open its doors for the thousands of anxious shoppers trying to find that special holiday gift and don't forget to reserve December 11th for our "An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair."

2013 Winter Craft Fair

November 30th - December 1, 2013

Saturday - 9am to 3pm

Sunday - 9am to 2pm

Hawaii Okinawa Center

94-587 Ukee St. - Waipio Gentry

Parking available across the

Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Early Entry!!! A donation of \$5.00 or more will entitle you to enter the banquet hall at 8:30am, thirty minutes before the general public. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for Hawaii Foodbank.

(Donor to receive a coupon for one free *andagi*)



"An Evening in Waipio"

December 11th - Wednesday

5:30pm to 9:00pm

Great Shopping

Delicious Food - *Andagi*

Santa - Silent Auction

Currently registering interested

vendors and volunteers

contact us at 676-5400

A special mahalo to organizing clubs *Haebaru*, *Haneji*, *Hawaii Sasbiki-Chinen* and *Hawaii Katsuren*, for the Winter Craft Fair and *Hawaii Shuri-Naha*, *Hui Makaala* and *Hui O Laulima* for the Evening Craft Fair.

'With Love From Lorraine' Grant Recipient: Mina Tamashiro

In August 2013, I went to Okinawa to take my *Saikou-sho* test, the final test of the certification or *Konkuru* cycle. It has been 11 years since I started dancing for Tamagusukuryu Senjukai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo, but I did not imagine that I would continue on this far. When I first joined the school, dance was just an exercise for me, but as I went through the *Shinjin-sho* and *Yuushu-sho* testing, I really felt that I loved what I was doing and wanted to excel in it even more. While in Okinawa, I had the opportunity to train under Senjukai's headmasters Yoshiko Tanita Sensei and Mieko Kinjyo Sensei. Every day for a month and a half it was intensive training from morning until night.

There are total of five dance numbers required for the test to train. One male dance "Takadera Manzai" is set, but one classical female dance is selected from "Shudun" or "Yanaji" and one modern dance is also selected from "Kanayo" or "Hamachidori." The examinees do not know which dance numbers are selected until two weeks prior to the testing date so we must be trained in all five numbers. I danced "Shudun," "Kanayo," and "Takadera Manzai."

There were total of 68 examinees and out of 68 only 38 passed. I was so excited and relieved that I had passed. It was a challenge to take the test from overseas because some changes are made to the dances every year so we had to be flexible. During the intensive training, I learned the meaning of the dances on a deeper level so I was able to put more passion and feeling into each movement. Students from different styles and schools gather to take the test, so I was able to study the differences and similarities of each school. I really learned to appreciate the dance and the dancers for their hard work and training. I felt tremendous tension and nervousness taking the test. Once I was on stage, with eight



judges looking at me, I summoned up my courage to continue dancing no matter how shaky my hands and legs were.

I am very fortunate to have Frances Sensei, who had raised me for 11 years. She took extra time to train me from a year ago and she also was by my side through all the training in Okinawa. She was right beside me until the very moment I was on stage and kept encouraging me that I would be just fine when I told her that I wanted to turn back due to the heavy stress. I could feel that she was very nervous for me, too, and that helped take away some of my nervousness. I could not have gone through this testing without the support of Frances Sensei, Senjukai Hawaii and Okinawa members and many other friends and family.

I received scholarships from Senjukai Hawaii and from *With Love From Lorraine Kaneshiro Foundation*, which helped me purchase dance implements necessary for the *Saiko-sho* dances. I am very grateful for all the words of support and congratulatory messages I received from the Hawaii Okinawa community when I came back home. With the knowledge and experience I gained, I promise to continue to help promote and perpetuate our Okinawan culture.

Thank you very much and *Ippe Nihee Deebiru!*

HOC Volunteer "Mamo"

Kuniyoshi gifted us with the true blue Okinawan *goya* (bittermelon) that he grew in his backyard. So, ono!



Mahalo to HOC Clean-up Crew!

Mahalo to Okinawa City-Goeku Sonjin Kai members for spending their Sunday morning cleaning the windows, bathrooms, stage, and more at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Front row: Steven Takushi, Chloe Talkington, Karen Kuba-Hori, Chrissy Talkington, Janise Oshiro, and Mae Chung. Back row: Craig Fukuhara, Gwen Fukuhara, and Copeland Talkington.



Monday Crafters

The challenge: make 400 lei for the Okinawan Festival to extend our *Aloha* to our guests from Okinawa, dignitaries, and our local performing arts *senseis!* Spearheaded by Renette Nakasone, many volunteered to make those lovely lei... At crunch time, however, we still needed 100 more. Many thanks to our Monday Crafters, who jumped in to complete the task!



CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

Ginowan News

By Jane Nakamura

We are over 100 years old, have more than 100 members, and are involved in more than 100 activities that perpetuate our Okinawan heritage. Our 102nd New Year's luncheon celebration will be held on March 23, 2014, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.



Joyce Logan and Grandma Harriet Goya with prized iPad.

Ginowan Picnic: More than 100 people enjoyed our annual family picnic at Ala Moana Park on August 4, 2014. We all had fun participating in the novel games devised by Sharlene Shimada and Blackie Iha Ohana; old friends renewed friendships over shaved ice and potluck lunch. Prizes were given for all of the games to all participants and an iPad, the grand door prize, was won by Joyce Logan.

Okinawa Festival: We make new friends and meet up with old. Sandy Nishimoto, the volunteer coordinator recruited about 150 people to mix batter and cook *andagi*. Shift coordinators were Wilma Ogimi, Karen Chung, June and Kelli Ann Zakimi and Ellen Higa. Patrick Miyashiro coordinated the 6:30 a.m. batter mixing.

Sales of festival scrip, chaired by Robbie Umeno, brought in over \$3,000 to the club. While club members give much of their time in preparing and cooking *andagi* in the food tent, we are also involved in other festival activities. Ellen Higa, our president, helped set up the Hui O Lailima cultural tent; David Funakoshi heads the Safety Committee, and, spearheaded by Dwight Matsuda, makes significant improvements to the safety and cooking operation of



Games look easier than they actually are.

Picnic Held for Nago City Junior High School Students

On Monday, August 19, 2013, 12 junior high school students from schools in Nago City, Okinawa, participated in a Hawaii-style picnic hosted by members of HUOA's Nago Club, Haneji Club, and Yagaji Doshi Kai. The 10 girls and two boys, 7th, 8th and 9th graders, were chaperoned by teacher Akiko Shiroma and Nago City Board of Education Section Chief Tadashi Nakasone.

The Nagunchu arrived in Honolulu on Sunday, after spending nearly two



Members of Nago Club, Haneji Club and Yagaji Doshi Kai hosted a picnic for the students at Magic Island.

the *andagi* woks. Max Shinkawa ensures that tents are well stocked with heavy cooking supplies; Eleanor Miyasaki, hypertension screening; Chris Higa is all-around, helping Stan (president of Kita Nakagusuku) with Heiwa Dori, the Ikuyu Madin Tent, and "dropping" in the *andagi* tent. Danny Kim and the Aiea Key Club helped keep visitors hydrated with water. Ginowan members were involved in many other areas, but *andagi* is our primary task during the Festival and, in spite of the busy work, many new friendships are made.

Presentation of award to Shigehiko Shiramizu, PhD: The Ginowan club board held a pot luck supper on September 5, 2013 and presented "Shige" a "Certificate of Achievement" issued by HUOA and the Ginowan Club for outstanding achievement on his essay: the Creation of Ethnicity, Hawaii's Okinawan Community, for JSIJ, University of Hyogo, Japan and more than 35 years of association and friendship with Ginowan Shijin Kai and Hawaii's *Uchinanchu* Community.

Message from Dr. Shiramizu: At the commendation reception held at the Serikaku Chaya of HOC, I was in seventh heaven, and I remembered the face of the late Akira Sakima who led me to *Uchinanchu* community here. The essay I wrote was that Hawaii's Okinawan community has had "the *Uchinanchu* Movement" three times in all since 1945. I reviewed especially the second, the 1980s' movement which accomplished two projects, the HOC construction and the Okinawan Festival founding. I explained the young *Nisei*, *Sansei* leaders' orientation. They tried hard to propagate the Uchina-culturalism among Okinawans here. Now many Okinawans can understand what the Okinawan culture is, what the *Uchina* spirit is. Their efforts have been bearing fruit.

Shige, as he is known, brings students from his university in Tokyo to our festival and has them learn "hands-on" various stages of our culture, especially *andagi* making. Annually, there are five to twenty or more undergraduate and graduate students who also study other aspects of Okinawans and the broader Hawaiian culture. You may have met many of them while working in the food tents.



Dr. Shiramizu



Andagi batter mixing members

Future activities: *Andagi* batter mixing for the coming craft fair, Legacy award dinner and the Installation Banquet. Chris Shimabukuro, the new HUOA president will be installed and Ginowan club member of the year, Sharlene Shimada will be recognized. Contact your aza representative for volunteering and tickets.

weeks on the Big Island where they were hosted by Hui Okinawa, one of four HUOA clubs on the Big Island. Hui Okinawa is based in Hilo, which has a sister-city relationship with Nago City.

In 1970, Nago Town and the villages of Haneji, Yagaji, Kushi and Yabu merged to form Nago City. Nago Club, Haneji Club and Yagaji Doshi Kai maintain their separate identities in Hawaii, but get together whenever there is an event for people from Nago City.

The picnic at Magic Island started at 4:30 p.m. with games like Two-Person Geta Race, Feed Your Partner Chocolate Pudding While Both Are Blindfolded, and Water Balloon Toss organized by Jenna Tamashiro. A pot-luck dinner was followed by the Nago students performing a *hula* they learned in Hilo, everyone singing *Asadoya Yunta* with *sanshin* accompaniment by student Runa Yakabi, and two beautiful *hula* dances by Shelby Oshiro that mesmerized the students from Nago. Yagaji member Aaron Nakasone celebrated his 11th birthday at the picnic with a large cake and everyone singing "Happy Birthday"! Aolani Yamasato Gragas, Kathy Arakaki, Yoko Nakasone, Eric Ishihara and Nathan San Juan brought their children and their friends to help create a family atmosphere. The "program" closed with everyone singing *Shimanchu nu Takara*.

Jane and Rod Martin, Loretta Tokuda, Louise Tamashiro, Helen and Ed Ginoza, Maurice Yamasato, Gannon Gragas, Fujiyo Akama, Carol Chun, Chris Shimabukuro, Mark Higa and Cyrus Tamashiro also helped by bringing food, supplies and props, organizing the buffet table, and providing transportation back to the hotel for our guests. Our special thanks to the members of Chinagu Eisa and Urizun who squeezed in our picnic between work and their groups' rehearsals that night. Everyone had fun. We took pictures of each other and some of us got to practice our Japanese.



SPORTS CORNER

Mixed Handicap Bowling League

Every Sunday, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. at Leeward Bowl

Season: November – October with byes on special Sundays

Club interested in entering a team (5 regular bowlers, of which at least one must be of the opposite sex and a few subs)

Or individuals who would like to join a team or become a substitute

Please contact: Jane Serikaku at 676-5400 or jserikaku@hawaii.rr.com

Or Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara at 284-0148 or gkiyomoto@hiprince.com

Volleyball League

Volleyball begins the Sunday after the Super Bowl and ends around Mothers' Day

League play is on Sundays. Location to be determined since they can no longer play at the Waipahu High School gym.

If your club is interested in fielding a team (12 players on roster) or if you want to participate as an individual, please attend the Organizational Meeting on Monday December 2, at 7 p.m. at the Hawaii Okinawa Center (Serikaku Chaya).

Softball League

Softball usually starts the beginning of March and ends in June. If any club is interested in fielding a team, please contact steven.gushi@heco.com

Note: All participants in HUAO Sports Leagues must be members of one of the 49 clubs. 

HOL Celebrates 45th Anniversary

Yes, Hui O Laulima is 45 years old—not quite 50, but getting close. This year, Laulima has celebrated this special birthday by hosting a “Spa Day” for its members, a couple of concert outings, Make and Take workshops, and most recently a 45th Anniversary Luncheon at Waialae Country Club and an old-style Okinawan picnic at Sand Island Park. At our luncheon, we were honored to have two of our Charter members in attendance, Jane Sakima and Ella Teruya. Members were given an engraved hanagasa ornament as their commemorative gift and with all attendees an enamel *hanagasa* lapel pin.

For those unfamiliar with Hui O Laulima, our motto is “giving a helping hand,” with the Okinawan flower hat, the “*hanagasa*,” as the symbol of our club. Chinagu Eisa Hawaii started our program literally with a “bang” and Kelly Boy Delima’s group, Kapena, closed our event with heartwarming rendition of “*Hawaii Aloha*.”

To many of our fellow Okinawan clubs, picnics are an annual event that is looked forward to by its members. In the case of Hui O Laulima, we never had one, so our brave committee wanted to try and give our members and their families a sampling of good old fashion Okinawan picnic fun. It was an experience—under the expert guidance of Bertha Arakawa and her committee, over 70 guests and members, played games, threw Frisbees, won lots of prizes, including toilet paper. Everyone partook in lots and lots of food, and ate shaved ice (thanks to Gary Jitchaku and Laura Ajimine). We found out—pot luck works, you need “men”power to put up tents and kids (adults included) enjoy running around and winning prizes. It was so much fun.

Our year of celebration is not yet over. We have a Holiday “Gingerbread House” making session in December. Members are reminded to call/write in their reservation for the Honouliuli clean-up project, our General Membership Meeting at Tsukiji Restaurant on October 26, and our Installation Banquet at Honolulu Country Club on December 15. 

Mahalo Uehara-san!

Yoshio Uehara is hard at work volunteering at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Overwhelmed by the outpouring of assistance from our staff and Hawaii community to him as a researcher from Okinawa International University, Uehara-san appeared at the Center one Friday and began using our carpet cleaner to clean the office and gallery area. Afterwards, he continued his initiative to “give back” and picked up a broom and rake to start tidying-up the gardens, lanai and parking lot. *Ippee Niffee Deebiru*, Uehara-san, and good luck on your Hawaii research project! 



welcome!



Mensore

Tomigusuku Students Visit

Enthusiastic junior and senior high school students from Tomigusuku, Okinawa, enjoy the Takakura Garden at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The 15 students from Tomigusuku Son were hosted by members of Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai of Hawaii during their recent homestay visit.



Nago Students Visit

Nago students were introduced to the Hawaii Okinawa Center and learned about the history of immigration.



Miyakojima Students Visit

Eighteen students from Miyakojima visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center after a wonderful Homestay experience with Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members.



Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai Hosts Homestay Students

By Gaye Oshiro, President

On July 25, 2013, 19 middle and high school students from the towns of Chatan and Kadena arrived in Honolulu for a 14-day homestay and English study at International Hospitality Center (IHC). Six students were placed with three Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai families, and the remaining students were placed with various host families by IHC.

On July 28, Chatan Kadena Chojin Kai member families hosted a special picnic for the students at Kaneohe District Park, nestled at the base of the Koolau Mountains. Our kids introduced their new friends to some of the typical games that we play at our annual summer picnic, such as the geta race, potato sack race, water balloon toss, and tug of war. For lunch, we grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, in addition to other local favorites like potato salad, baked beans, and fresh fruits. Each student received a Hawaiian beach towel, and a limited edition Chatan-Kadena Hawaii t-shirt for *omiyage*. It was a memorable day of fun, fellowship and laughter!



Autumn Okinawa Dance Matsuri



Another huge crowd enjoyed the Autumn Dance Matsuri held on September 21 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, which featured live music and ono food.

Okinawan Proverb

Submitted by HUOA Uchinaaguchi Class

Sensei – Dr. Kiyoko Hijirida

Ashibi nu churasaa, ninju nu sunawai

あしび ぬ ちゅらさー、 にんじゅ ぬ すなわい

The beauty of merrymaking, bestowed upon by a myriad of people

The Okinawan Festival may be the best personification of this expression. There were thousands of volunteers who came together with hearts together to prepare and carry out the event while even greater numbers of friends, families, local and overseas visitors gathered at Kapiolani Park to enjoy the fine entertainment, cultural displays, good food, Okinawan products and much more.

Ukazi Deebiru – It was truly a successful moment of ‘Sharing Uchinanchu Aloha’.

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

September

jin-kwan, n. [genkwan] The entrance; the porch; the front door; the vestibule.

October

iibi-banchi, n. Plucking strings of a (musical instrument) with one’s fingers (instead of with a plectrum).

(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

November

- 10 Nago Club - HOC Clean up, 7-9am
- 13 Administration Committee meeting; HOC, 7pm
Executive Council meeting; HOC, 8pm
- 24 Concert by Kenpi Students; HOC, 2pm
- 26 Board of Directors meeting; HOC, 7pm
- 28 THANKSGIVING~HOC Office Closed
- 30 HUOA Winter Craft Fair; HOC, 9am-3pm

December

- 1 HUOA Winter Craft Fair; HOC, 9am-2pm
- 2 HUOA Volleyball League meeting; HOC, 7pm
- 11 Evening in Waipio Craft Fair; HOC, 5:30-9pm
- 18 Administration Committee meeting; HOC, 7pm
Executive Council meeting; HOC, 8pm

Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm*
- Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 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 mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9am*
- Uchinaaguchi: every 4th Thursday, 7pm*

*for more information, please call 676-5400

Subject to Change (entries as of 9/26/13)

Our television shows premiere on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. on Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53 (Oceanic). The shows repeat on following Saturdays at 5 p.m., except on any fifth Saturday of the month.

All Olelo shows are also streamed live on the Internet at www.olelo.org. Some of our latest shows are available on-demand on the same website at: What's On - OleloNet Video On Demand - Culture and Ethnic.

NOVEMBER 4, MONDAY, 7 PM/NOVEMBER 9 & 16, SATURDAY, 5 PM - Show Nine of the 30th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park on September 1 and 2, 2012. This episode features the sanshin playing of the Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii/Urizon Minyo Group with Derek Ichiro Shiroma Sensei; and the Miyahira, Haebaru/Honolulu, Hawaii Shiisaa Reunion with the Miyahira Troupe and the Young Okinawans of Hawaii.

NOVEMBER 18, MONDAY, 7 PM/NOVEMBER 23, 5 PM - Show Ten of the 30th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park on September 1 and 2, 2012. This episode features the Okinawan dance school of Kikue Kaneshiro Ryubu Kenkyu Kai and, from Okinawa, Radio Okinawa's 2012 Miuta Taisho - Kouta Itoh.

[Note: *Hawaii Okinawa Today* does not air on the fifth Saturday of any month, such as November 30.]

DECEMBER 2, MONDAY, 7 PM/DECEMBER 7 & 14, SATURDAY, 5 PM - Show Eleven of the 30th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park on September 1 and 2, 2012. This entire episode features Okinawa's Keiko Kina and Family.

DECEMBER 16, MONDAY, 7 PM/DECEMBER 21 & 28, SATURDAY, 5 PM - Show Twelve of the 30th Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park on September 1 and 2, 2012. This entire episode features Mamoru Miyagi and Yoko Hizuki. This is our final episode on the 30th Okinawan Festival.

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