



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

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## New Year's Celebration in Okinawa

By Darcy Gibo

*Ii Soogwachi Deebiru!* This is the term for “Happy New Year” in the Okinawan language. In Okinawa, New Year's was only celebrated during the lunar calendar, but now days, it is celebrated both in the solar and lunar calendars. January 1 is the solar calendar New Year, while the lunar calendar New Year usually happens sometime in February. When I hear “New Year's,” many things come to mind. Right away I think of *otoshidama*, *oseibo*, *nakami jiru*, and *batsumode*.

From as early as October, supermarkets and department stores in Okinawa have their *oseibo* displays out. *Oseibo* are gift boxes that people exchange with family and friends who have helped them out during the year, and to continue their friendship for many years to come. These gift box sets include things ranging from daily goods such as cans of tuna, cooking oil, and detergent, to snacks and sweets such as tea, cookies, or rice crackers. Exchanging *oseibo* with others at New Year's in Okinawa, can be compared to the Christmas tradition of exchanging presents.

For me, I think the kids are the ones who luck out at New Year's because family, relatives and friends usually hand out Disney-themed envelopes or envelopes with Japanese animation character designs to the kids. Inside



these envelopes is money for the kids to go on a shopping spree or save up for something good! Amounts given range from 1,000 Yen (about \$10) to 10,000 Yen (about \$100).

The thing that I

get most excited about during New Year's is the food! During New Year's, I usually go to my relatives' place to help prepare food and taste test on the side. Almost all Okinawan households will have *Nakami Jiru* on the menu for their New Year's meal. *Nakami Jiru*, or pig's intestine soup, also includes *shitake* mushrooms, green onions, and if you like you can also put grated ginger inside. Since the pig's intestine is cooked for a couple of hours, it gets very soft and becomes easy to eat.



Finally, when 12 midnight strikes on January 1, many families head out to the shrine to pray for good luck for the coming year. On New Year's Eve, you can see long lines outside of the shrines after midnight, and those who don't have a chance to go on New Year's Eve, will go whenever they can. Shrines are usually packed with New Year's visitors throughout the month of January. At the shrines, you can buy paper fortunes, lucky charms, and read your luck for the year, or you can write a wish for the new year on wooden blocks and hang it on the trees near the shrine.

If you have a chance to be in Okinawa during New Year's, be on the lookout for these things and it can make your experience in Okinawa even better. However, don't expect it to be nice and warm like Hawaii, the coldest temperature is around



60 degrees during the months of December and January. Happy New Year!

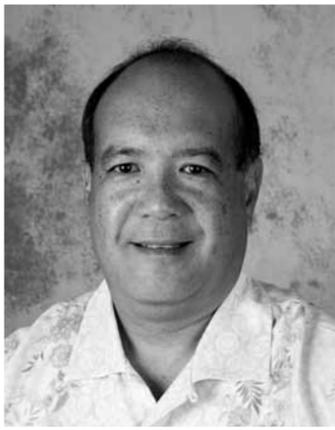
**Author's Note:** Darcy was a Kenpi scholar and studied in Okinawa in 2008. She loved Okinawa so much that she stayed and is working as an English Teacher at Ameku Elementary School. Her passion is learning Okinawan dance from Izumi Higa sensei, Oyadamari ryu, Kagati Kai. 

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# President's Message

## By George Bartels, Jr.



*Ukazi Deebiru – Because of You!*

**C**ongratulations to the 2013 *Uchinanchu of the Year* award recipients for your dedication, contributions to and support of your individual clubs and the HUOA. It is through your efforts that our clubs are sustainable and we are able to share our heritage with future generations and inspire others to join our mission. *Ukazi Deebiru!*

To the HUOA Board of Directors, the 49 member clubs and club members, it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the HUOA during this past year.

Most rewarding and memorable was being able to make new friends and share new experiences as our paths have crossed many times, at many events, and many places throughout the islands and in Okinawa. What sets our organization apart from the many other community and cultural organizations are our members—you are the heart of the *Uchinanchu Spirit*. Thank you for your hospitality, the many memories that I will always cherish, and for letting me be a part of your *ohana*. *Ichariba-chode*, "Once we meet, we are brothers and sisters."

Thank you to the members of the 2013 Executive Council. As we have spent countless hours together at meetings, functions and events, you have become my second family as we have worked together promoting the values of HUOA and the ambassadors of the organization. As individuals, you took on tasks to promote the HUOA, and as a team we made it happen.

Thank you past presidents, David Arakawa, Ford Chinen, Paul Komeiji, Norman Nakasone and Cyrus Tamashiro for your advice and support. Thank you to Chris Shimabukuro for taking the helm in 2014. HUOA will be in excellent hands under your leadership and charisma. *Ukazi Deebiru!*

Thank you to Jane Serikaku and the entire HUOA staff for your guidance and support. You are an integral part of every HUOA function, from planning, printing, manpower, coordinating and cleaning up. The countless hours and efforts are greatly appreciated and help assure that each event is a success. You are the heart and soul of our organization, and you always do it with a smile. *Ukazi Deebiru!*

Oroku Azajin Club, Ginowan Shijin Kai, and Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai, thank you for your encouragement and help. It has been an honor to represent you in 2013. The attendees of this year's HUOA Study Tour were able to connect with the village of Oroku and the city of Ginowan. This experience has rejuvenated their *Uchinanchu Spirit*, in thanks to the hospitality that welcomed them in Okinawa. *Ukazi Deebiru!*

We started 2013 with a song, *Mihai Yu*. Thank you to my aunts Myrtle Yoshioka and Alice Eto, who shared with me the music and words, and Aunt Myrtle for your lovely hula. Little did I know that this song from the Yaeyama Islands would bring so much tears of joy to so many, from Kauai, Oahu, Maui, the Big Island and Okinawa. The chorus translates: Thank you, Thank you, To my parents I thank you from the bottom of my heart with deep appreciation! *Ukazi Deebiru!*



# 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 October 1 to November 15, 2013.*

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

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## UCHINANCHU

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

- |                               |                     |
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| HUOA President                | George Bartels, Jr. |
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**This is Your Newsletter**  
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# UCHINANCHU SPOTLIGHT

## Spotlight: Tsutoe Taira, Oroku Azajin Club's Beloved 'Andaagi Sensei'



An aromatic scent wafts through the air... aaah, it's so inviting. A light switch in the brain immediately activates the direct wiring to the palate and opu and we're on autopilot looking for THE source of this fragrant enticement. What could be so powerful to our senses? It's one of our favorite Okinawan treats... *andaagi*, the infamous ball-shaped Okinawan doughnut!

The *andaagi* is one of the mainstays of our Festivals, craft fairs, and major fundraising events. Lines of patient patrons will lead you to a tent or booth of volunteers with these treats and, in the near proximity, you'll usually find another team of

volunteers working around woks cooking these treats to a nice golden brown.

Many of HUOA's clubs have teams of members who respectively mix the batter, cook, package and sell the *andaagi*. One such group is the Oroku Azajin Club and, in this issue, we're spotlighting their *Andaagi* Lady aka *Andaagi Sensei*, Mrs. Tsutoe Taira. Tsutoe-san is a spry 84-year-old mother of seven, grandmother of nine, and great-grandmother of four family members.

Tsutoe-san is the ninth of 11 siblings who were born to *issei* parents Kama and Moshi Takara, both of Aza Oroku. When asked how she learned to cook *andaagi*, she replied with a twinkle in her eyes that she watched and helped her mother. Like many whom we consider as "experts," measurement was done by sight and feel. Consistency depended on one's sense of knowing the texture and nature of the ingredients. Tsutoe-san explained that her mother would taste the mixed batter and know exactly what more of an ingredient was needed, if anything at all.

Later, after moving to Honolulu, she married Wilfred Masaichi Taira, whose family was also from Aza Oroku. As the wife of the first son, she shared the responsibility of caring for her husband's family of 13 siblings. Tsutoe-san has earned many fine merits as the *chounan's oyomesan*, including a reputation for her great *andaagi* in Hawaii and her family in Okinawa. This can be credited in part to Tsutoe-san's application of *yuimaaruu*, to work towards the successful conclusion of

a project or purpose with the satisfaction of knowing that every effort was expended to reach that goal.

It's amazing that while Tsutoe-san's legs have weakened and her daughter, Pat, assisted her in moving about in a wheelchair at the recent Winter Craft Fair, when the need arose, Tsutoe-san was elbow to elbow with her fellow Aza Oroku members at the wok's edge. Matriarch Tsutoe canvassed members of her family during Thanksgiving dinner and recruited a total of seven members of the Taira ohana to help out at the Craft Fair. Onsite, she was like the commander of a battleship. She gave her intense instructions on controlling the temperature so that we'd have perfectly golden treats. Like knowing what would make great *andaagi*, Tsutoe-san also balanced her know-how with a sense of *chimugukuru* or having a beautiful heart and kindness to understand the mind and spirit of others.

Tsutoe-san stressed the importance of knowing one's roots and when asked

about her family she proudly shared her *yagoo* (name of a household). Particularly, the Taira family's *yagoo* is Uchiuebaru and the Takaras' is Miinakagushikuda. On an earlier trip to Brazil, the introduction of the Takara *yagoo* opened the door for her to meet and make connections with 50 cousins and the discovery of two uncles—brothers of her father! She also hopes that the younger people will keep their minds open to learn about their heritage, too.

The HUOA takes this opportunity to say *Ippee Niffee Deebiru* to Mrs. Tsutoe Taira for her efforts to help the HUOA in fulfilling its goals and for being a role model to all of us.



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Our culture has taught us respect, honesty and the importance of helping others with sincerity. We believe in perpetuating our culture of high values and making a difference to the community. Ipee nihee deebiru for your support over the years! May your home be filled with lots of joy, laughter and love.



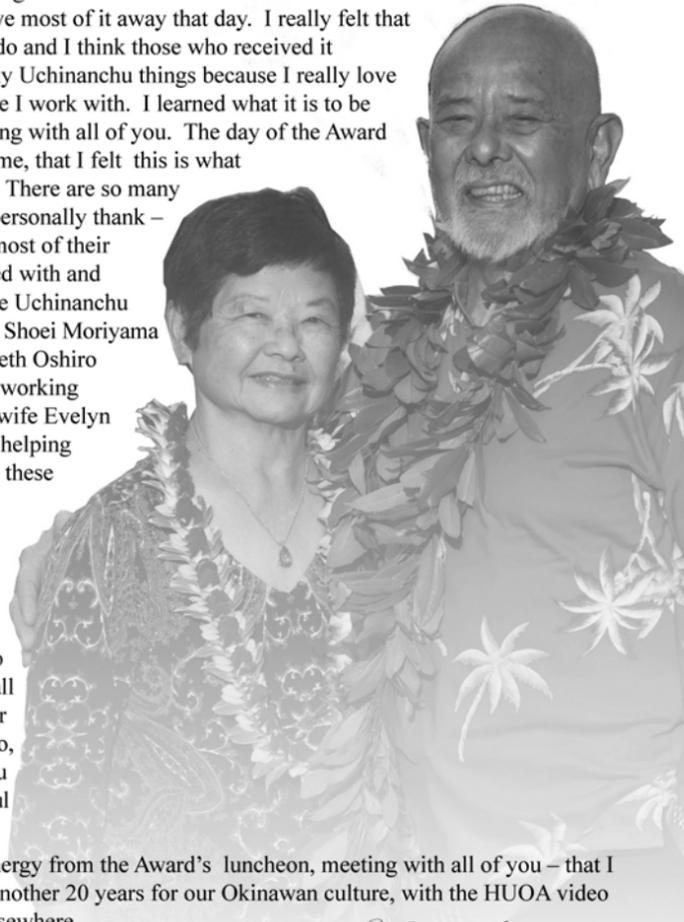
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IPPEI NIHEE DEEBIRU, ARIGATO, MAHALO AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH

To all of you who came to the Legacy Luncheon and came to congratulate me – my deepest mahalo to all of you.

When I was informed that I was one of the honorees for the Legacy Award I did not feel any excitement. I was very calm and relaxed. The day of the Award was entirely different. To see all of you who presented me with leis, flower bouquet, wine and other gifts, I was so surprised and speechless. For all of you to remember me made me so happy that it took me a whole week to come down from cloud 9. I don't know if I'm back to earth yet, but could not think of anything else but all of you who were there. Trying to remember all of you is not easy but you all made that day a very memorable one for me. I worked with many of you all these years and knew many of you by just doing Uchinanchu things, it was just unbelievable for me.

All of the leis that was given to me were so beautiful that I could not throw it away so I gave most of it away that day. I really felt that was the best thing to do and I think those who received it appreciated it. I do my Uchinanchu things because I really love it and enjoy the people I work with. I learned what it is to be Uchinanchu by working with all of you. The day of the Award was so enjoyable for me, that I felt this is what being Uchinanchu is. There are so many people that I would personally thank – but, those that gave most of their time and who I worked with and learned what it is to be Uchinanchu are Kiyoshi Kinjo and Shoei Moriyama who along with Kenneth Oshiro we spent many hours working together. I thank my wife Evelyn and all my family for helping and supporting me all these years.



Thank you, Cyrus Tamashiro, George Bartels, Jr. and your committee for doing a wonderful job on the luncheon and all the work you did prior to the Luncheon. Also, Jon Itomura thank you for being my wonderful chaperon.

I received so much energy from the Award's luncheon, meeting with all of you – that I will be able to work another 20 years for our Okinawan culture, with the HUOA video production team or elsewhere.

*Henry Isara*

# 2013 HUOA Legacy Award Banquet

By Cyrus Tamashiro, Legacy Chair

Heavenly music from Dustin Ebesu's harp and luscious floral creations by Nobuko Kida Sensei and her Ikenobo Ikebana students greeted guests as they entered the Sheraton Waikiki Ballrooms for the HUOA Legacy Award Banquet on November 3, 2013. Five hundred fifty-six people were seated at this gala honoring the achievements and contributions of six exceptional individuals, Dr. Doris Ching, Henry Isara, Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei, Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone Sensei, Jackson Nakasone and Charles T. Toguchi.

Following the Call to Celebration by the Paranku Clubs of Hawaii, emcees David Arakawa and Moanike'ala Nabarro introduced Doris Ching's nephew, Gary Yanamura, who flew in from Arizona, to give the invocation. HUOA President George Bartels, Jr. welcomed all guests and gave a message of congratulations and appreciation for the honorees. Following a scrumptious meal, the program began and guests were able to enjoy videos of honorees created by Steve Arashiro, Ron Miyashiro and Toby Anguay that were inspiring, humorous, and very touching. Following each person's video, entertainers selected by each honoree performed for the audience. Through each honoree's segment, familiar Okinawan melodies were played by Dale Senaga on piano.

The first honoree recognized was Cheryl Nakasone, who as a young adult became the first foreign-born dancer to pass all three levels of the rigorous *Ryukyū Shimpo Geino Konkuru* certification test in Okinawa. She became a *Shiban* (master

violin solo, *Chorus from Judas Macabaeus*, the audience erupted in applause for the Nakasone Family.

Next, we honored Dr. Doris Ching, Vice President Emeritus of the University of Hawaii System, who has received numerous national awards for her work in educational administration and service to students and minorities. She has had a remarkable career and continues to be in demand nationally as a speaker, but remains humble and true to her ancestral roots. Doris continues to serve our community as the Chair of the State Judicial Selection Commission. Doris is a member of Yonabaru Chojin Kai and Hui O Laulima. She selected her brother-in-law, Stanley Ishikawa, a well-known *ukulele* maker and *sanshin* student to perform for her. Stanley played *ukulele* and sang *Ashibina* and *Gakusei Bushi* with *sanshin* backup from Afuso Ryu Choichi Kai members, creating an instrumental fusion of cultures.

The penultimate honoree was Charles Toguchi, former State Representative, State Senator, Superintendent of Education and Chief of Staff for Gov. Ben Cayetano. During his career in public service, "Charlie" Toguchi, pushed for progressive ideas like school community-based management (SCBM), began the statewide A-Plus Afterschool Program with then Lt. Gov. Ben Cayetano, and helped to initiate the Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program, now in its 23rd year. He shepherded the creation of the Hawaiian language immersion schools,



Governor Neil Abercrombie congratulates our Legacy honorees: Charles Toguchi, Jackson Nakasone, Cheryl Nakasone Sensei, Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei, Henry Isara and Dr. Doris Ching. Photo: David Shimabukuro

instructor) in 1997 and has taught the *Kin Ryosho* style of Okinawan dance in Hawaii and on the mainland. Cheryl is a member of Okinawa City-Goeku Son. She selected Earl Ikeda Sensei, who studied dance with her in Okinawa, to perform the classical Ryukyuan dance, *Ze*, as the opening number. Then, her former student, Corey Zukeran Sensei, performed an excerpt from the *kumiwudui Murikawa nu Shi*. *Kumiwudui* is a classical dance-drama art form designated by Japan's government as an Important Intangible Cultural Property so the performance was a treat for everyone.

The second honoree was Henry Isara, who has served Kochinda Chojin Kai, the HUOA and cultural groups in many capacities for over 60 years. He helped to start the HUOA sports leagues, Hawaii Okinawa Today television, Hawaii Taiko Kai, and has chaired recitals and has been an advisor to music and dance schools. Henry participated in fundraising for the Hawaii Okinawa Center and was involved in the Okinawan Festival from its first year. His eight sisters and one brother (from California) presented a *hula/taiko* medley danced to Choichi Terukina's *Mensore*, then capped off their performance with an umbrella dance with brother Henry's recorded voice singing *Singing in the Rain*. The entire performance was a surprise for Henry. The Isaras are a tight-knit family and share a lot of love between them.

The third person honored was Jackson Nakasone, CEO of Newmark Grubb CBI, Inc., a commercial broker and real estate advisor who helped in the acquisition of the land on which the Hawaii Okinawa Center was built, and continues to provide assistance in the development of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. Jackson is a member of Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club. His family of high achievers is also very talented. Jackson's son, Dr. Cass Nakasone, played guitar and sang *Wabine 'Ilikea* beautifully while Jackson's daughter Rae Yazawa and daughter-in-law Tina Nakasone danced the hula. Then, 11-year-old grandson Cole Nakasone soloed on piano with Coronation March. When 8-year-old granddaughter Nicole Nakasone finished her

and in doing so helped revitalize the Hawaiian language. Okinawa has looked to Hawaii's success in this area as it seeks to revitalize *Uchinaaguchi*, the native Okinawan language. Charlie currently operates a governmental affairs consulting business, Charles T. Toguchi & Associates, LLC, and is Chair of the Aloha Stadium Authority. Charlie is a member of Ginoza Sonjin Kai. The flamboyant Dazzman Toguchi was happy to entertain the crowd for Uncle Charlie with the celebratory dance, *Iwai Medetai*.

The final honoree was Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei, founder of Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu. His study of *sanshin* began when he was 13. By age 19, he earned a *Kyoshi Menkyo* in *Minyo* from Master Henry Masatada Higa. His journey to learn more about Okinawan culture and arts took him to Okinawa to train under National Living Treasure of Japan, Choichi Terukina in 1985. Sandaa Murata, now a *Shiban* in *Koten* (classical music), promotes the use of *Uchinaaguchi* because through its use, one understands the deep meanings of songs and dances from the days of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Sandaa Sensei now oversees the instruction of over 150 students on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Los Angeles. Grant is a member of Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai. For entertainment, it was impressive to see on stage playing *Amakaa*, seven certified teachers that he trained, five of them *yonse*. Then about forty more students surprised Sandaa by going on stage to sing and play "*Ippei Nifwee Deebiru*," an original composition written just for him. It was an emotion-filled performance as *Sensei* and students wiped away tears.

2012 Legacy Honoree and HUOA Past President Stanley Takamine led an energetic *Karii* toast to the honorees. Everyone participated in the traditional *kachashi*, but it was Henry Isara and Dr. Cass Nakasone who deserve special mention for dancing until the very end.

To all of our honorees, sponsors, donors, committee members and volunteers, *Ippee Nifwee Deebitan* for contributing to a memorable Legacy Award Banquet! 🍻

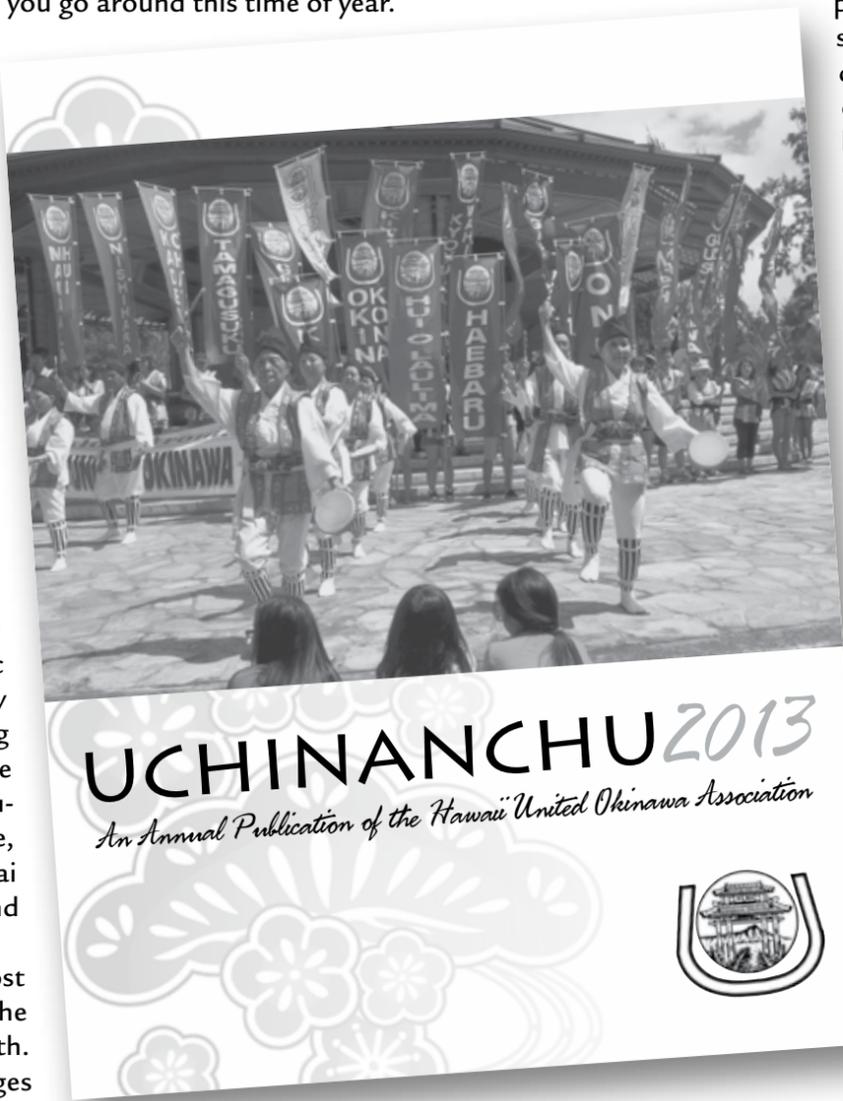
# Uchinanchu 2013: Annual Publication to Capture HUOA's Energy, Spirit in Vibrant Color

You hear it uttered nearly everywhere you go around this time of year.

Holiday greetings are quickly followed by the inevitable question, "Where did the year go?" While most of us can only wish that we did a better job of preserving our memories in family albums, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association is pleased to announce the launch of Uchinanchu 2013: An Annual Publication of the HUOA. Think of it as a year-in-review photo album of the HUOA Ohana.

The year starts off with a bang, highlighted by the Installation of Officers and Uchinanchu of the Year banquet, along with spirited Shinnen Enkai celebrations by member clubs across the state. Then, the HUOA's annual calendar simply gains momentum, like an amazing whirlwind filled with music and dance festivals and recitals; study tour and student exchanges; sporting activities; fundraisers such as the Taste of Marukai, Haari Boat Race, community service projects, and, of course, the Okinawan Festival, Maui and Kauai Okinawan Festivals, craft fairs and parades, to name a few.

Uchinanchu 2013 will select the most memorable images published in the Uchinanchu newsletter every other month. Instead of the black-and-white images printed on newsprint, however, the annual



publication will be able to preserve these special moments in vibrant, high-resolution color. By collecting each Uchinanchu annual, over time, a person will assemble a chapter-by-chapter history of the organization. It would make a meaningful gift for friends and family who reside here or, especially, outside of Hawaii.

Please Support Uchinanchu 2013!

Uchinanchu 2013 also provides the HUOA with a welcomed means of raising precious funds. Gratefully, clubs, performing arts groups, and businesses supportive of the HUOA have purchased advertising to help offset production costs. Now, hopefully, this attractively designed and printed booklet will be something that all members would be proud to own, collect and give as gifts. The targeted release date is January 18, at the HUOA's Installation/Uchinanchu of the Year banquet.

The new publication will be sold for \$10 per issue by the HUOA. Clubs ordering quantities of 25 or more will receive a discount of \$3 per issue, which in essence will provide a fundraising opportunity for clubs as well. The net proceeds from Uchinanchu 2013 will support the HUOA.

Please see the order form provided below. Questions regarding Uchinanchu 2013 can be directed to Executive Director Jane Serikaku or Communications Committee Chair Vince Watabu.



*2014 Hawaii United Okinawa Association  
President Chris Shimabukuro*



2014 incoming HUOA President Chris Shimabukuro is the son of Herbert and Lillian Shimabukuro. His Okinawan ancestry can be traced back to his grandparents, Choyu and Matsuko Agarie Shimabukuro who arrived in Hawaii from Okinawa in the early 1900's and worked on the McBride Sugar Cane Plantation in Eleele, Kauai. After traveling to Okinawa in 1966 and having the opportunity to see the small village where his grandparents grew up, Chris developed a deep fondness and appreciation for the Okinawan culture as well as his family roots. Chris is an active member of Haneji Club and has served as an Advisor and Vice-President to HUOA. He attended Iolani School, the University of Oregon and UH Manoa where he received a BBA in Management. He has worked at Iolani School for 20 years and currently serves as its Development Director.

*2014 Officers*

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*Asst. Treasurer* - Stephanie Katayama, Nakagusuku  
*Immediate Past President* - George Bartels, Jr. Oroku Azajin, Ginowan

*Join us as we celebrate our  
64th Installation &  
Uchinanchu of the Year Banquet*

*Hawaii Okinawa Center ~ January 18, 2014 ~ 9:30am, Registration*

*Tickets are \$35.00 and are still available. Members can contact their clubs for tickets.  
Other guests may contact the HUOA office at 676-5400 or huoa@hawaii.rr.com*

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### Vice Governor Takara Visits HOC

Okinawa Prefecture's Vice Governor Kurayoshi Takara (front-center) and his entourage enjoyed a meaningful exchange and dinner with the HUOA Executive Council and many former HUOA Presidents.



### Yaese Town Youth Exchange

A dozen junior high school students from Yaese Town, Okinawa, attended Washington Middle School for two days and were hosted by Hawaii families with Yaese ties. Neal Nakagawa, president of Gushichan Sonjin Kai, and Daniel Arakaki, president of Kochinda Chojin Kai, spearheaded the homestay program and a fun picnic where the students learned to do the hula, engaged in lei making, went fishing, and played games.

Several Yaese students enjoy a photo op together with their newfound Hawaii friends.



Yaese Town's Vice Mayor Masanobu Fukushima and Section Chief Michitaka Nakamura speak to KZOO Radio listeners about their Second Yaese Town Youth International Exchange Program and express their appreciation to Gushichan and Kochinda members for hosting the students.



### Momoto Magazine Features Bond Between Okinawa and Hawaii

Daughter Arisa introduced her father, Publisher Takashi Oshiro, and her mom, Sawako, managing director of Toyo Planning, who delivered Volume 16 of their Okinawan Magazine, MOMOTO. This issue focuses on the bond between Okinawa and Hawaii and features the Okinawan Festival, the big Okuhara family reunion, the MIS Veterans' stories and many others.

Unfortunately, we do not have any magazines for sale, but you are invited to sit in our library area to peruse this wonderful issue during office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.



### Ryukyu Shimpo Study Tour

Thirty members of the Ryukyu Shimpo Study Tour visited Hawaii Okinawa Center and enjoyed food and fellowship with members of the HUOA Executive Council and former HUOA Presidents.



Mr. Junichi Tomita, President of Ryukyu Shimpo, led the group and expressed their appreciation and presented a donation to HUOA President-elect Chris Shimabukuro.



Immediately after returning to Okinawa, President Tomita made good on his decision to send the Ryukyu Shimpo Newspaper to Hawaii Okinawa Center. Now, anyone interested can visit the HOC and read the Ryukyu Shimpo in addition to the Okinawa Times. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

# 2013 Uchinanchu of the Year to be Honored at Installation Banquet January 18, 2014

Our heartfelt appreciation to all the Honorees who have contributed unselfishly to their respective clubs and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

List of clubs and names submitted as of: December 9, 2013

AZA GUSHIKAWA DOSHI KAI \*\*\*\*\* SKYE GOO DARNELL  
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## The Power of Sanshin – its beautiful shape and inspiring sound

Following up on an intense *sanshin* survey taken in Hawaii earlier this year, Ken Sonohara, Curator from the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum, recently revisited Hawaii to borrow seven precious *sanshin* from members of our community for a major exhibit that will open at the Museum on February 18, 2014. In addition to these instruments, Katsumi Shinsato Sensei has donated to the Museum his precious *Chinen Deeku sanshin* and its exquisite Ryukyuan lacquered *sanshin* box from his collection.

Mr. Sonohara was accompanied by Satoshi Teruya of Ryukyu Logistics, a company that specializes in packing fine art and museum pieces. Each *sanshin* was checked and wrapped with special cushioned rice paper and packed in individual, custom-made sponge-lined boxes, which were carefully labeled and placed in larger boxes. Upon arriving in Okinawa, Mr. Sonohara sent word that all of the treasured pieces arrived safely and were placed in the Museum's vault. He also extended his appreciation



to the HUOA and everyone who cooperated and assisted in this project. Additionally, Mr. Sonohara explained some of the details of this exhibit, which has garnered much attention in Okinawa and from anyone having an interest in *sanshin* and Okinawan music and its performing arts.

*The Power of Sanshin* will run from February 18 to May 11, 2014. However, the special corner featuring the Hawaii *sanshin* will be displayed until mid-March due to the Museum's budgetary limitations.

A myriad of activities are being planned, starting from the February 18 opening through the period of the exhibit that will surely heighten everyone's knowledge and interest in the core instrument of Okinawan music. Symposiums with panelists from every academic and technical level, traditional performing presentations, an assessment of *sanshin*, and a special concert featuring *uzagaku*, or court music and dances, are being planned. Preparations to post the schedule of events on the Museum's website are underway and hopefully it will be updated by the end of the year or in early January.

If anyone is planning a trip to Okinawa during this period of time, Curator Sonohara encourages and welcomes you to visit the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum to see and experience *The Power of Sanshin*.

# Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

# Ikuyu Madin

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

## The Ikuyu Madin Golf Tournament was a huge success!



A big Mahalo to our Title Sponsors: (L-R) Cliff Tamura, Tamura Super Market; Mark Teruya, Armstrong Produce; and Alan Chinen, Chinen & Arinaga Financial Group, Inc.



HUOA President George Bartels, Jr. and Ryan Unten were constantly loading the huge coolers with drinks and driving along the cart paths of Ewa Beach Golf Club to replenish the supply at strategic locations and offer drinks and snacks to golfers.



The third place team, YFH Architects, Inc., was declared the CHAMPS since this was the Third Ikuyu Madin Golf Tournament. Taking the place of two players who had to leave early (Maurice Yamasato & Jarrett Miyaji) are Title Sponsors Cliff Tamura and Alan Chinen, with Lloyd Higa accepting the special awards, and Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

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What's in a Name  
Uchinanchu Pride

**Heritage  
Name  
Challenge**  
(November 26, 2013)

**TOTAL  
\$14,801**

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 Niffee Deebiru* - from our hearts, thank you very much.

Donations listed below were received from October 1, 2013 to November 15, 2013.

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# Preserving Our Legacy

2012 TO 2013-ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



## Preserving Our Legacy – Treats for HUOA

Halloween 2013 – the Hawaii United Okinawa Association launched its 14th Annual “Preserving our Legacy” Campaign. Exactly 10,565 mailers were sent to our members and close friends. Our 2012/2013, through the generous support of 908 individuals, families and organizations we raised \$132,579 – a very successful giving campaign.

When we said “Trick or Treat,” over 417 friends responded with a generous donation towards this year’s campaign. We are extremely grateful to our friends that have responded to our request and look forward in hearing from many more as we approach 2014. These tax-deductible donations in support of annual giving campaign allows us to continue to educate and share our Okinawan culture with the people of Hawaii and maintain the Hawaii Okinawa Center. As of November 15th we collected over \$42,000. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

*Our list of donors reflects contributions from October 1, 2013 to November 15, 2013.*

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*Continued on Page 10*

# Preserving Our Legacy

2012 TO 2013 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN



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# Yuko Kakazu: Grounded in Her Okinawan Heritage, Astronomer Reaches for the Stars

By Arnold Hiura

As a youngster growing up in Naha, Okinawa, Yuko Kakazu's life took a fateful turn when she came upon an ad in a Japanese scientific magazine for the U.S. NASA Space Camp. Just 12 at the time, Yuko asked her parents if she could go, and, to her great surprise, they said, "Yes." The following year, Yuko left Japan for the first time, headed off to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Although she was not proficient in English, within two short weeks Yuko knew that she wanted to become an astronomer.

Pursuing her dream has taken Yuko all over the globe. "I've traveled a lot," she acknowledges with a smile. And a glance at her resumé quickly confirms it. Yuko obtained her undergraduate degree in astrophysics and physics from Tohoku University in "Mainland" Japan, including a stint as an exchange student at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Her experience at UCSC ultimately led her to pursue a Ph.D. in the United States. "Astronomy is better developed in the U.S.—especially Hawaii—and the U.S. seemed to be more open to women in science," she explains.

Yuko embarked on six years of study at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Institute for Astronomy, where she was able to earn her tuition and living expenses as a research assistant. After earning her Masters and Ph.D. in 2008, she worked at the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris in France, followed by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), and the University of Chicago. In September 2013, Yuko returned to Hawaii to assume her current post as public outreach specialist for Japan's Subaru Telescope located atop Mauna Kea on the Big Island.

An observational astronomer who focuses on the study of galaxies, Yuko's research includes observing trips to the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. "I love galaxies," she exclaims. "My research is primarily about galaxy formation and evolution, using multi-wavelength imaging and spectroscopic data." Yuko is a member of both the COSMOS survey and the Dark Energy Survey. "My research interests cover a wide range of subjects. I am particularly interested in the metal poor galaxies and galaxies at high redshift to better understand galaxy formation and chemical enrichment history," she explains.

Yuko understands that such heady topics lie beyond most people's common interests. "Many think of astronomy like science fiction," she admits. "They can't connect it to daily life." On the contrary, many consider astronomy to be mankind's oldest natural science, dating back several thousand years. "Astronomy has played an important role in many ancient cultures—including Okinawa—from religious practices and timekeeping, to determining when to plant and harvest crops," Yuko points out.

Yuko was inspired to explore her Okinawan roots shortly after moving from Chicago to Hawaii. She did so because of a public program she co-presented in October with fellow astronomer Dr. Sherry Yeh at the Imiloa Astronomy Center on the UH Hilo campus. "I had never studied it before, because I was so immersed in modern day astronomy," Yuko reflects. "I learned a lot just by preparing for the talk, so it was a journey for me as well—going back to my own history and connecting the dots."

Imiloa, after all, is a place where culture and astronomy meet. "The Polynesians used the stars to navigate across thousands of miles of ocean to reach and finally settle Hawaii," Yuko notes. "So, naturally, I was inspired to go back to my own roots."

What Yuko discovered was a significant connection between astronomy and Okinawa. Lunar and solar calendars—based on the movements of the moon and sun—are still used in Okinawa to tell the seasons, she notes. "Especially for traditional events like Obon, or when we go to the

graveyard and have a little picnic, and Chinese New Year's as well," she adds.

This is especially prevalent in Yaeyama and Ishigaki, where calendars weren't introduced until the late 17th century. Because they did not have calendars, people in the Yaeyama Islands used star charts not found in mainland Okinawa. "One of the most important constellations they used was the Pleiades," Yuko says. The Pleiades is known as Subaru in Japanese and Murikabushi in Okinawan. "Because it can be viewed nearly year-round from Okinawa, there are a number of stones in Okinawa that people used to gauge the height of the Pleiades in order to tell the seasons."

There is an Okinawan song for the Pleiades (Murikabushi); there is even an *awamori* named after it. ("It's strong, but good," Yuko says.) On Ishigaki Island stands the one-meter optical Murikabushi Telescope, which was built there for educational purposes by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) because of many requests from high school and junior high school students there. Ishigaki's summer stargazing festival draws thousands of people each year, she adds. There are also ancient astronomical instruments located at Shuri Castle—one that relies on the shadow of the sun cast by a stick, and a water clock that tells time by the amount of water that leaks out.

Even in Okinawa, however, not too many people know about these historical sites, Yuko notes, but her efforts are helping to spread the word. Yuko's talk at Imiloa, for

example, was attended by members of Hui Okinawa. "I was really overwhelmed by the presence of the Hui Okinawa members," she adds. "They even invited me to their party, and I helped at their andagi booth at this year's *Bunka no Hi* (Culture Day) event." Yuko has also been asked by the HUAO to speak to visiting students.

Such activities fit Yuko's profile perfectly. "I did outreach activities while in Chicago," she says. "The situation there was really, really sad. Children from poor neighborhoods have almost no opportunities. They are actually really good kids, very curious about just about anything."

Speaking to students in Chicago and Hawaii triggered something deep inside of Yuko. "Students in Okinawa are considered the lowest in the country academically," she says. "When I was a student, I was often told by my teacher that I was not good enough. I was constantly told that we could not compete with the Mainland kids." When she did attend college on the Mainland, she was told by a chemistry professor that women could not become physicists. "However, I saw for myself that people were all the same, so it was okay."

Such experiences now inspire Yuko to motivate others. "You keep being told things like that and you don't feel like becoming an astronomer or an astronaut or something like that, because people would only laugh at you. I want to change that. A lot of students have dreams, but they are discouraged from pursuing their dreams. I think the same thing happens here to some extent, so I'd like to inspire young people in any way I can, especially Okinawan young people, Hawaiians and minorities. By encouraging others, I'm indeed encouraging myself...and this has been exceptionally rewarding process," she concludes.

Physically, Dr. Yuko Kakazu has traveled great distances in her young life. Intellectually, she traverses distant galaxies. It is in the boundless universe known as the human soul, however, that Yuko has now truly found her center. So whether in her worldly or other worldly journeys, she will always know how to find her way home. 🌌



Dr. Yuko Kakazu pauses in front of the Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo.



This "Taketomi hoshimiishi," a star-watching stone, is located on Taketomi Island, one of the Yaeyama Islands. There are several similar stones located in the Yaeyama islands. People looked through a viewing hole to gauge the height and direction of the Pleiades with respect to the viewing hole or tip of the stone to tell them when to plant and when to harvest their crops.



It is believed that this sunstone on Kumejima Island was used about 500 years ago to tell the seasons based on the position of the sunrise on the stone.

# Chu Hisa – First Steps

By Jodie Ching, 1998 Okinawa Prefectural Government Scholarship Recipient

**C**hu Hisa - First steps. So simple are these two words, and yet they can instigate a lot of emotion when you really think of the potential of what the “first steps” of a child, an adventure, a career, a relationship, or even a meaningful project could lead to. In 1980, Governor Junji Nishime of Okinawa wanted to provide a scholarship to young adults around the world to provide them with an opportunity to come home to their ancestral land and strengthen ties with *Uchinanchu* living abroad. The official title of this amazing scholarship is the Okinawa Ken Kaigai Ijusha Shitei Ryugakusai Jigyo - Prefecture Emigrant Descendants’ Student Program. Recently, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, the beneficiaries of this scholarship presented their first show called *Chu Hisa*. The purpose of this presentation was to take our guests on a journey in hopes that we may start a ripple effect of excitement due to all of the intangible treasures we knew could only be appreciated through this experience.

The journey that took place this past November 24, 2013, was guided by emcees Cyrus Tamashiro, a former president of the HUOA, and Darren Konno, a 1995 scholarship recipient who flew in from Maui with his wife, Mayumi (also a scholarship recipient who originally came from Brazil) and children.

The *makuake* or opening performance consisted of a traditional medley of songs – *Kagiyadifu Bushi*, *Unna Bushi*, and *Nakagushiku Hantame* – carried out in an unconventional manner. Our “tour guides” Cyrus and Darren advised our guests to observe carefully as the musicians demonstrate their versatility by switching instruments for the different songs. Also, throughout the program the dancers and musicians, who come from various schools have created a beautiful blend of the different styles in music and choreography.

Now, if you went to the bathroom during the second performance, that would not have been a good thing. *Nakafu Bushi* performed by accomplished musicians Kenton Odo on *uta sanshin* (stringed instrument and vocals), Alison Yanagi on *kucho* (a small stringed instrument played with a bow) and Lynn Masuda on *fue* (flute) was of “chicken skin” caliber! Prior to the performance was a video that featured Kenton, Alison and Lynn speaking about how this scholarship experience has become a part of who they are and how they perceive the world around them today. So as you watched them perform, you could actually feel part of Okinawa resonate from their hearts throughout the Legacy Ballroom via the musical performance.

The following numbers were also preceded by video interviews of the participants. *Udui Kwadisa* (also known as *Yotsudake*) was performed by Lisa Nakandakari, June Uyeunten Nakama, Mina Tamashiro, Melissa Uyeunten, Ann Moribe, and Allison Yanagi who all came from different dance schools. Lisa is the first scholarship recipient and comes from the nationally recognized Nakasone Dance Academy and Mina was our most recent scholarship recipient and has newly achieved the *Saikosho* (superior) certification under the instruction of Senju Kai Hawaii Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo. All dancers studied at private dojo (studios) in Okinawa as part of their experience as scholarship students.

Mid-program, all the *kenpi* (prefectural government financed) scholarship alumni lined up to present leis to family and friends that were supportive and encouraging of our time of enrichment in Okinawa. Included in the recognition were Shigeko Asato and Chikako Nago. Shigeko was, in the past, a volunteer who assisted in preparing us for our departure to Okinawa. Chikako is the current volunteer. These ladies made sure we completed the proper paper work, communicated with the Okinawan government on our behalf and was instrumental in our smooth transition overseas. At our *Chu Hisa* performance, Shigeko sat with my family. With tears in her eyes she expressed how happy she was to see that we have all come back to tell our stories, express our gratitude and reach out to other young people to take advantage of this opportunity.

The following dances were *Nakazato Bushi* and *Hatoma Bushi*. Telling the aristocratic love story of *Nakazato Bushi*, the charismatic Dazzman Toguchi and the gentle-hearted Alfred Kina were the perfect match. The talent here was not limited to the music you heard and the dance that you saw. Talent was also in the self-woven kimono that Alfred wore in his female role. Looking upon this fabric up close, you could see its intricate, iridescent, emerald green beauty that had just enough sparkle to make it classy and couture. All of Alfred’s creations are so incredibly beautiful, you can practically see the passion coursing through its fibers. *Nakazato* ended with Alfred’s graceful exit and the stage lights were off! While the *taiko* drum beat dramatically, Dazzman shed his outer layer of costume to reveal his next role in *Hatoma*

*Bushi*. Joined by Mina Tamashiro, Melissa Uyeunten and myself, we travelled to the island of Hatoma. Fresh choreography was created in part by Mina, Dazzman and Alfred special for this performance.

The capabilities of this group of *kenpi* students go beyond performing and fine arts, the beautiful slideshow of our memories of Okinawa was compiled superbly by Arleen Kamita and the accompanying music was written by Brandon Ing. Brandon gives the background of how he came to compose the song “*Ichimadin*.”

“The inspiration for this song came from my grandpa, who was sick at the time that I came to Okinawa as a *kenpi*. Since he was always practicing *sanshin* when we would go to our grandparents’ house from the time we were kids, without him, I probably would not have become so interested in playing *sanshin* – which is what allowed me to receive the scholarship to come to Okinawa in the first place. My grandpa passed away before I finished the song, and I think maybe that’s why it ended up having a darker feel to it. I included a few motifs from traditional Okinawan music, both *koten* (classical) and *minyou* (modern). I titled the song ‘*Ichimadin*,’ an Okinawan word meaning ‘forever,’ to express my everlasting gratitude for my grandpa, and everything he has done for me.”

Brandon also cowrote the second song “*Iro Bushi*.”

“Teodora (Brandon’s musical friend from Hungary) wrote the words to this song (in Japanese), which speaks of the various scenes and colors (*iro*) of Okinawa, through her artist eyes. I set the words to music, trying to keep the “colorful” idea in mind.”

As our final destination, we took our guests to *Heiwa Dori*. You have not been to Okinawa unless you have picked up some *goya* (bitter melon), *chinsuko* (Okinawan cookies), and *konbu* (dried seaweed) from this shopping mecca. All of the *kenpi* alumni who participated in the performance created a scene of vendors and featured

a few *obaachan* (gran-nies). They sat at the front of *Heiwa Dori* in hats, frilly flower print aprons, and sassy leopard print outfits, talking about the people passing by and how the young generation has changed. First there was the handsome young man dancing to the popular k-pop song *Gangnam Style* being followed by his groupies donning an “I love Dazz” t-shirt. Then came the two feisty young ladies that collided while they were texting on their phones. They would have gotten into a cat fight if a



First Row (L-R): Ann Moribe, Melissa Uyeunten, Mina Tamashiro, Dazzman Toguchi, Lisa Nakandakari, Allison Yanagi. Second Row: Alfred Kina, Lynette Teruya, Kenton Odo, Alison Ebesu, Jodie Ching, June Uyeunten. Third Row: Mayumi Konno, Karen Nakasone, Grace Nushida, Darren Konno, Lynn Masuda, Arleen Kamita.

young man in a bright *kariyushi* (Okinawan version of our local aloha shirts), braces, thick orange rimmed glasses and tube socks had not stopped them. The hilarity of it all came from the true fact that if you walked down the famous Kokusai Street, you really would see characters much like these!

Now it was time for these crazy characters to say, “Goodbye,” .....for now anyway. Only time will tell where our *chu hisa* - first step has begun to take us! We are all so excited by all the positive encouragement from those who came up to us asking for more! Now we need YOUR help. Tell everyone about this opportunity and how it inspired us to keep the traditions of Okinawan culture perpetually flowing around the globe! Not simply because we want to continue the arts but because what is good for our souls is good for our families which is good for our communities and the world around us.

In order keep this vibration flowing we need scholars. Here is where you begin your voyage:

- You may contact HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku or Hawaii liaison for the Kenpi Ryugakusei Program Chikako Nago at (808) 676-5400.

- Applications are normally due in November of each year and the program begins in late March or early April.

- Participating schools include: University of the Ryukyus, Meiou Daigaku, Okinawa Kokusai Daigaku, and Okinawa Geijutsu Daigaku

- The scholarship includes round trip airfare, school tuition, 70,000 yen per month for living expenses, room and board and health insurance.

- The requirements are 12 years education with at least a high school diploma; up to 34 years old in April of the year you apply; at least a Japanese proficiency test level 3 or same ability; able to pay the incidental expense which the program will not pay; have relatives or friends residing in Okinawa who can sponsor; able to participate exchange events which the Okinawan Prefectural Government sponsors; and able to contribute to the development of Okinawan Community upon return home to Hawaii. 🍡

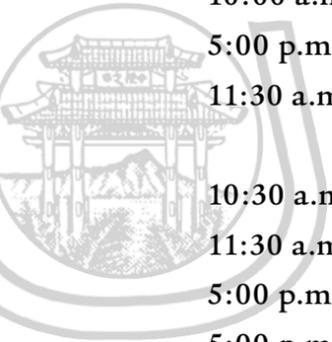


# 2014 SHINNEN ENKAI DATES

(As Of December 9, 2014)



Club	Date	Time	Location
Aza Gushikawa	1/25/14	5:00 p.m.	Jikoen
Aza Yogi Doshi Kai	3/9/14	5:30 p.m.	Masa's Cafeteria
Ginowan Shijin Kai	3/23/14	10:00 a.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Haeburu Club	2/9/14	10:00 a.m.	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai	3/1/14	5:00 p.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Hui Alu	2/23/14	11:30 a.m.	Kauai Veteran's Center
Hui O Laulima	none		
Hui Okinawa	1/26/14	10:30 a.m.	Aunty Sally's Luau Hale
Hui Uruma	3/8/14	11:30 a.m.	Honokaa Hongwanji
Ishikawa Shijin Kai	2/22/14	5:00 p.m.	Pearl Country Club
Itoman Shijin Kai	3/1/14	5:00 p.m.	Masa's Cafeteria
Kin Chojin Kai	2/1/14	5:30 p.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	2/16/14	5:00 p.m.	Masa's Cafeteria
Kochinda Chojin Kai	2/15/14	5:00 p.m.	Natsunoya Teahouse
Nago Club	3/9/14	9:00 a.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai	2/16/14	10:00 a.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Okinawa City-Goeku-son	2/22/14	5:00 p.m.	Natsunoya Teahouse
Onna Sonjin Kai	2/22/14	5:00 p.m.	Pearl Country Club
Oroku Aza Jin Club	3/2/14	10:00 a.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai	3/2/14	10:00 a.m.	Dot's Wahiawa
Yomitan Club	2/16/14	6:00 p.m.	Hawaii Okinawa Center
Yonashiro Chojin Kai	2/15/14	6:00 p.m.	Masa's Cafeteria



## CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our Future*

### HOC Clean-up Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club's HOC Clean-up Crew

A big mahalo to the Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club for contributing their time and hard work in this month's HOC clean up. The 11 members spent their morning making the Center shine and sparkle. A special thank you to Paul Arakaki and Cyrus Tamashiro for bringing their own supplies to help with the cleaning.



Front Row: (L-R) Carol Yamasaki, Leslie Morishige, Chris Taylor, Doris Arakaki, and Paul Arakaki. Back Row: (L-R) Richard Shiroma, Vernon Omori, Gordon Yamasaki, Stacy Watanabe, Janice Kawachi, and Cyrus Tamashiro.

### Nago Club HOC Clean-up Crew

A huge thanks to the Nago Club for waking up bright and early and donating their time to scrub, sweep and mop the Center to keep it looking great! If your club would like to participate in a HOC clean-up day, please give the Center a call at 676-5400.



Front Row: Linda Nakamura, Helen Ginoza, Jane Martin, and Jean Seki. Middle Row: Harold Higa, Ed Ginoza, Sandy Antoque, Jennifer Yamanuba, Cyrus Tamashiro, and Mark Higa. Back Row: Stan Seki, Wesley Nakamura, Cliff Antoque, Gabe Preis, and Rod Martin.

**This is *Your* Newsletter**  
Please send us your club news items and photos.  
Email us at [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org) Mahalo!



## SPORTS CORNER

### HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League Bowling Champs – Nakasone Ohana

The HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League celebrated its season's end at the Natsunoya Tea House. Receiving the coveted Championship trophy from HUOA President George Bartels, Jr. are members of the Nakasone Ohana Team: (L-R) Hiroshi Nakasone, Paul Shinagawa, captain Charlie Nakama, Rachael Milliora, and Daniel Kodama.



### HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League 2014 Officers

Showing the "U" sign for Uchinanchu and, of course, United We Stand, are 2014 Officers of the HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League. (L-R) Secretary-Treasurer Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara, Vice President Carl Nakata, and President Tomomi Shimabukuro were installed by HUOA President George Bartels, Jr. at the annual bowling banquet.



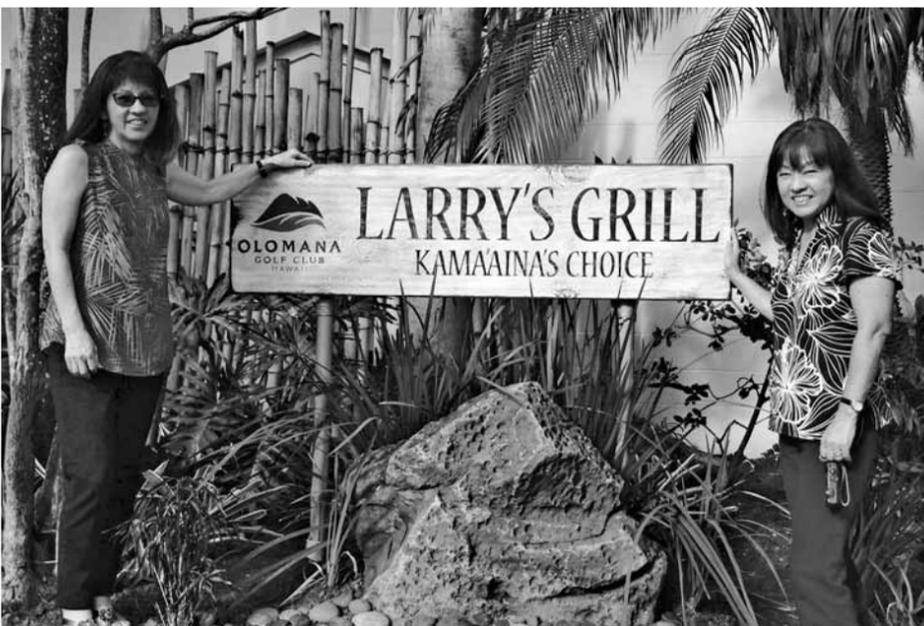
This is *Your* Newsletter  
Please send us your club news items and photos.  
Email us at [info@huoa.org](mailto:info@huoa.org) Mahalo!

### Larry's Grill Honors Father's Legacy

By Eloise Hiura and Hilma Fujimoto

In the interest of full disclosure, Larry Hideo Nakama is our father. Although he passed away some 10 years ago, Dad was the type of person everyone liked and remembered, as demonstrated by Olomana Golf Links' recent decision to rename its restaurant, "Larry's Grill."

Dad was one of the co-founders of the HUOA's annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament, which he avidly supported for some 32 years. In the early days, the tournament was huge, involving some 400 golfers playing two days on both the Pali and Olomana golf courses. Dad won the tournament in 1976 and 1979, as well as the Maui Okinawan Golf Championship in 1980, which was no surprise to most folks because he was one of the top amateur golfers in the Islands at the time. He even won the State Senior Amateur Championship in 1980 and represented



Hawaii at the USGA Senior Amateur Championship in Virginia, where he met the legendary Sam Snead.

Besides HUOA's Okinawan Invitational, Dad happily spent countless hours organizing activities, tournaments and golf outings for his Kin Golf Club and Uchinanchu Seniors Golf Club. Twice a year, he would lead his friends on golf outings to Las Vegas.

Dad's love for the game spawned our family's attachment to golf and association with Olomana. Our brother, Lloyd, captured the Okinawan Invitational title in 1971 before turning pro the following year. Lloyd started working at Olomana in 1972 and later served as head professional and director of golf for 25 years until his retirement in 2007. Our cousin, Casey, learned the game from Dad and Lloyd, and became a successful pro who now heads his own Casey Nakama Golf Development Center

at Olomana. Eloise's son, Joey Itagaki, was mentored by his Grandpa Larry and still helps out with the HUOA's Okinawan Invitational, now in its 43rd year. Joey works for Titleist Acushnet, headed by Neal Takara, who co-chairs the HUOA golf tournament along with Wes Teruya.

Besides golf and the HUOA, the other important element to this story is that our father was a great cook. He owned and operated a total of five restaurants (Pier 7, Hawaiian Electric Co. Cafeteria, Makaha (West) Snack Shop, Olomana Inn, and Makaha East 19 Restaurant). However, it was at Olomana that he is best remembered. In its heyday, the restaurant was abuzz with golfers enjoying Dad's tasty local food. Lots of non-golfers came, too, including folks who willingly drove from the other side of the island.

Pacific Links Hawaii, which purchased Olomana in 2012, was intrigued by the stories about our father's tenure there and wanted to know what the secret to Dad's success was. Well, having both worked at Olomana—along with Lloyd's wife, Susan—we know that Dad's philosophy was pretty simple: provide good food and good service. He catered to golfers who wanted their food served quickly before teeing off and their beer ice cold when they finished their round. He made sure that golfers had items that they could grab while making the turn or while using the driving range. People raved over his homestyle Beef Stew, Beef Curry, Hamburger Steak, Teriyaki Steak, Chop Steak, Fried Rice and Fried Noodles, and daily specials like Tripe Stew, Oxtail Stew/Soup, Meat Loaf w/Baked Beans, Shoyu Pork, Roast Pork or Lamb Curry. Pupus such as Vienna Sausage w/Onions in Teriyaki Sauce, or Sardines & Onions, were served with Musubi on the side.

Dad lived by the motto: "Work hard, play hard," starting his days early and almost never taking a day off. By the afternoon, he was ready to pursue his passion for golf. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed interacting with customers in his restaurant.

We are touched that Olomana Golf Links has chosen to honor the legacy of our father, Larry Hideo Nakama, by renaming its restaurant Larry's Grill and instituting a new menu inspired by his cooking, which we hope they know was always served with extra helpings of Aloha.



## Host Students/Families Needed! 24<sup>th</sup> Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program Applications due: December 27, 2013

HUOA is seeking 24 Oahu high school students who would like to host one or two students (10th and 11th graders) from Okinawa from Saturday, February 26, to Saturday, March 8, 2014. The Okinawan students will be visiting the Big Island on Feb. 26-28.

Our Hawaii host students must be prepared to have their Okinawan students go to school with them and experience school life in Hawaii. The Okinawan students are looking forward to homestay and learning about Hawaii's multicultural lifestyle.

For 20 years, the Department of Education has participated in the Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program with the Okinawa Prefectural Government. Effective 2011, since there has been no funding allocated from the Legislature for this Sister-State Project, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) has adopted this annual exchange program.

We anticipate the cost of this project to be approximately \$8,000 to provide all bus transportation, field trip costs to Polynesian Cultural Center and other sites, hosting a Welcome Luncheon and Aloha Dinner. If you know of individuals or businesses that would consider joining us in sponsoring this very worthwhile High School Student Exchange program, please encourage them to contact Jane Serikaku (email: [jserikaku@huoa.org](mailto:jserikaku@huoa.org) or call 676-5400). Mahalo for your help.

Application forms and information about the exchange program are on our website, [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org). Deadline to register to be a host student is December 27, 2013.



Part II of our High School Student Exchange Program will send our Hawaii students to Okinawa June 7-21, 2014, where they will be hosted by the same Okinawan students who travel to Hawaii. Students will be responsible for their own plane fare to Okinawa.

Just as the HUOA does when the Okinawan students are with us in Hawaii, the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education will arrange for host families and cover the expenses for field trips, welcome gathering, *sayonara* party, and so forth in Okinawa. Selection process: priority will be given to Hawaii students who host Okinawan students when they arrive in February 2014.

## Matson Foundation Donates to Hawaii Okinawa Plaza

The Matson Foundation demonstrated their support of Hawaii United Okinawa Association's Hawaii Okinawa Plaza with a very generous donation.



(L-R) Ku'uhaku Park, Vice President, Government & Community Relations; HUOA President George Bartels, Jr.; Vic Angoco, Senior Vice President, Pacific; HUOA President-elect Chris Shimabukuro; Gary Nakamatsu, Vice President, Sales-Hawaii; and Jon Itomura, HUOA Capital Campaign Chair.

## JTB Donates to HUOA

Mahalo to our friends at JTB Hawaii who visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center and presented a donation from the JTB-Japan Cultural Exchange Corporation to assist us in promoting and perpetuating our rich Uchinanchu culture.



Left to right: Keven Koitabashi, General Manager of JTB-USA; Tsukasa Harufuku, Vice President of JTB Hawaii; HUOA President George Bartels, Jr.; and David Asanuma, JTB Director of Community Relations.

## Okinawan Proverb

Submitted by HUOA Uchinaaguchi Class

Sensei - Dr. Kiyoko Hijirida

*'Nkashi n chu nu kutubaa amai fusukoo neen.*

んかしんちゅぬくとうばあまいふすこーねん。

昔の人の言葉は 余り 不足は ない。

English equivalent: Ancient proverbs still hold true today.

(Listen to the wise advice of our ancestors.)

The proverb conveys the value of remarks made by our ancestors, whose wisdom holds true even to today, still applicable and useful. Pay attention to their golden sayings (*kugani kutuba*), which you can share as a communication tool.

## Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

November

**mata-ichuku**, *n.* [mata-itoko] A second cousin; persons whose parents are cousins.

December

**miku-mun**, *vt.* [mikomu] 1 To expect; anticipate; reply upon; figure on. 2 To estimate; allow (for loss); take (something) into account. 3 To put trust in; place confidence in.

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

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# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

## January

- 14 Administration Com meeting; HOC, 7pm  
Executive Council meeting; HOC, 8pm
- 18 HUOA Installation Ceremony & Luncheon and Uchinanchu of the Year & Sports Awards; HOC 9:30am
- 28 Board of Directors meeting; HOC, 7pm

## February

- 11 Administration Com meeting; HOC, 7pm  
Executive Council meeting; HOC, 8pm
- 22 Okinawa Students arrive for Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program; HOC  
2/22 - 3/8 Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program

### Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\* (first session on 1/9/14)  
Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 8pm\* (first session on 1/7/14)  
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 (except January), 9am\*  
Uchinaaguchi: every 4th Thursday, 7pm\*

\*for more information, please call 676-5400

\*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 12/9/13)

NOTICE: For the year 2014, Olelo has changed the air days for our television show "Hawaii Okinawa Today." The premiere showings will now be on the first and third SATURDAYS of the month at 7 p.m. on Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. The shows will repeat the following THURSDAYS at 5 p.m., except on any fifth Thursday of the month. All Olelo shows are also streamed live on the Internet at [www.olelo.org](http://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.

### JANUARY 2, THURSDAY, 5 PM -

Show 12 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. (This episode premiered on December 16, 2013.)

### JANUARY 4, SATURDAY, 7 PM/JANUARY 9 & 16, THURSDAY, 5 PM -

Part Three of "Uta Gukuru," Nabiraki Recital of the Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii Wakugawa Dojo, Derek Ichiro Shiroma Kenkyusho, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on October 28, 2012.

### JANUARY 18, SATURDAY, 7 PM/JANUARY 23, THURSDAY, 5 PM -

Show One of the Third Eisa Drum Festival held on May 11, 2013 on the Great Lawn of the Kapiolani Community College campus.

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

### FEBRUARY 1, SATURDAY, 7 PM/FEBRUARY 6 & 13, THURSDAY, 5 PM -

Show One of the 31st Okinawan Festival held at Kapiolani Park on August 31 and September 1, 2013. This episode features the Okinawan koto stylings of the Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Shibu, the sanshin mastery of the Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyo Kai Hawaii Shibu, and the Okinawan taiko drumming of the Hawaii Taiko Kai group.

### FEBRUARY 15, SATURDAY, 7 PM/FEBRUARY 20 & 27, THURSDAY, 5 PM -

Show Two of the Third Eisa Drum Festival held on May 11, 2013, on the Great Lawn of the Kapiolani Community College campus.

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