



UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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Ireisai Memorial Service: 'Pathway to Peace'

Now, a soft breeze flows across the sea and over Sand Island where palm trees can be seen swaying gently and quietly. It is a far cry from what it must have been like more than 72 years ago. In 1945, Okinawa was Japan's stronghold in World War II and Japanese and American forces engaged in a fierce battle. In two months of fighting, more than a quarter of a million people perished and the topography of the island was changed by the relentless air attacks. During this time, it has been reported that more than 3,100 Okinawans were taken as Prisoners of War (POWs) and incarcerated with other mainland Japanese, Korean and Italian POW at various camps in Hawaii.

At the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival (Taikai), 90-year-old Hikoshin Toguchi met with HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku and Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai President Choko Takayama, requesting their assistance in his lifelong mission to locate and return the remains of 12 Okinawan comrades who died while incarcerated in Hawaii. Over the years, Toguchi's attempts to locate the remains were unsuccessful but, in late 2016, a Steering Committee consisting of Toguchi, members of POW families, and members of the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai moved forward with HUOA's help in Toguchi's quest. Toguchi's second request was to hold a Memorial Service for the 12 POWs who died in Hawaii.

Over the next seven months, HUOA under the leadership of Jane Serikaku conducted extensive research through various agencies of the military, resource centers, and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Toguchi's mission touched the hearts of HUOA members and many individuals volunteered their services. The community rallied around the project sharing heartwarming stories, many of which were previously unknown to the individual's families and friends.

A remarkable amount of information has been amassed since this project

began. HUOA's volunteer librarian, Charlene Ige Nekomoto, visited all of the sites connected with the Okinawan POWs, including the Sand Island site where a large number of Okinawan prisoners were detained. She also went to Schofield to examine the previous site of the POW cemetery.

Diana Kawaguchi has spent numerous hours making inquiries about the whereabouts of the remains of the 12 POWs. Ninety-year-old Fumie Oshiro shared photos of Okinawan POWs she had taken with a simple box camera while she was in high school and preciousely kept for more than seven decades. The POWs were assigned to dig a trench in front of her house in Waipahu. She also shared that the *Issei* grandmothers living in a nearby camp prepared *musubi* and homemade *bento* to serve to the POWs.

One story led to another and intrigued those in Okinawa. Some joined Toguchi to visit Hawaii only after hearing these previously unknown facts about the conditions at the time of their relatives and friends.

HUOA received an outpouring of information over these seven months

from the Hawaii community. Unfortunately, the lead did not produce any concrete results as to the whereabouts of the 12 POWs. However, with as much information that was conveyed, Toguchi and the Steering Committee decided to hold a memorial service in Hawaii to honor the 12 POWs.

A delegation of 55 Ireisai participants led by Vice Governor Isho Urasaki arrived in Hawaii with Toguchi and participated in a gathering arranged by HUOA to meet with members like Fumie Oshiro, Chick Takara, Clara Goto and Larry Higa to have a chance to share their stories directly with the former Okinawan POW families and media from Okinawa. HUOA also prepared a photo exhibit for them.

On Sunday, June 4, through arrangements handled by retired Brigadier

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Okinawa group attends the Ireisai Memorial service at Jikoen Hongwanji.

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President's Message

By Vince Watabu



*Muteei Sakeei –
Thriving Prosperity*

Haisai,

"Hawaii Okinawa Plaza-Construction Begins!" This was the headline of our last *Uchinanchu* newsletter. When installed in January, I presented my theme, "*Muteei Sakeei*," which tied in with the HOP and the anticipated income from the Plaza. We held a picture-taking day on April 29 to record the start of construction and we will be taking pictures from time to time to show the progress of one of HUOA's biggest undertakings in its history.

There are so many to thank for their superhuman efforts to get us to this point. We look forward to working with all of you to reach the finish line. *Chibariyo!*

I attended the last of the *Shinnen Enkai* celebrations on May 20 with the combination of Okinawa City-Goeku Son's New Year celebration and their 90th anniversary. With over 200 in attendance and 15 new members, I know they will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in 10 years.

The very next day, I attended "*Kariyushi, Kariyushi*," celebrating Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Hawaii, Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo's 20th Anniversary at the HOC. The performance showcased Frances Nakachi and her students with special performances by Grand Masters Yoshiko Tanita sensei, Mieko Kinjo sensei and Kaishu Miyoshi Higa.

I attended the 47th Annual HUOA Golf Tournament. While attendance was down compared to past tournaments, fellowship and great golf was very evident on the course as well as the Awards Banquet. Everyone was in great spirits as I greeted all of the golfers for this two-day tournament, and except for a brief 15-30 minute shower on the first day, the weather held up for a successful outing. I challenge all the clubs to put a team together for next year's tournament and experience the fellowship.

Until next time,
Ippee Niffee Deebiru



Pictured at the project site are just some of the hands who have participated on the project committee over the years: Top: Paul Komeiji, Alan Chinen (Past HOP Fundraising Chair), Karen Kuba Hori, Ric Higashionna (Past HOP Director and Okinawa Liaison), Jane Serikaku, Courtney Takara, George Tamashiro (HOP Director and Past Land Development Committee Chair), Ford Chinen, Jon Itomura (Secretary and Past Fundraising Chair). Front: David Arakawa, Pat Miyashiro, Mark Higa (HOP Director), Vince Watabu, Chris Shimabukuro (HOP President), Maurice Yamasato (HOP Architect), Bob Shiroma (HOP Director).

UCHINANCHU

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UCHINANCHU

Ippee Niffee Deebiru... Mahalo!

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

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

Uchinanchu Donors April 1 to May 31, 2017.

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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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2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

- July 12 PEACEBOAT from Japan, visit to HOC
- July 13 Yuntaku Social Mixer, Artistry at Kakaako, 6:30pm
- July 30 Hui Makaala Scholarship & Fashion Show, Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Aug 3 Pau Hana Concert, HOC, 6:30pm
- Sept 2-3 Okinawan Festival, Kapiolani Park, 9am-5pm
Bon Dance on Saturday 9/2, 5:30-9:30 pm
- Sept 16 Autumn Okinawa Dance Matsuri, HOC
- Nov 12 Legacy Awards Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Nov 19 Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kai, Okinawa, HOC, 2pm
- Nov 25-26 HUOA Winter Craft Fair at HOC
- Dec 6 An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC

Check HUOA website – www.huaa.org for more information.

Asian Treasures Fair – Mahalo!

Thank you all for making our first Asian Treasure Fair an overwhelming success! During the first week of May, we held a fair to sell Okinawan and Asian items as a fundraiser for HUOA. All proceeds were deposited into HUOA's account to help support our facility, operations, as well as the projects of the organization.

For more than 20 years, we have amassed many donations from the community and the time arrived to send these items to new homes and families to enjoy. Beautiful Okinawan dolls, traditional lacquerware, ceramics, popular *shiisaa*, fine Japanese porcelain, gently used *kimono* and *obi*, popular handmade items from our Monday Craters' group and much, much more.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru to all who responded to our call for donations, the countless numbers of supporters who came to browse and shop.

We could only have had this Fair because of a wonderful team of volunteers who especially helped with sales, including: Sandy Yanagi,

Ethel Kawahara, Gainor Miyashiro, Joan Gushiken, Jo Ige and members of our Monday Crafters group. You all exemplified the fine spirit of *yuumāri*.

You have all helped the HUOA to fulfill its goals to preserve, perpetuate and promote the culture and history of Okinawa!



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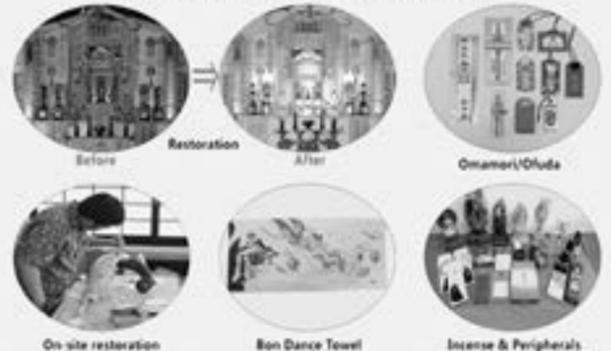


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Ireisai, continued from Page 1

General Paul Chinen, 77 Okinawan guests were able to visit Schofield Cemetery and conduct a modest ceremony at the former POW burial site with *lei* presentations on the markers of the “unknown,” including a rendition of two special songs by Choichi Terukina Sensei.

A drive-through visit of Hickam Air Base brought back memories for Toguchi, who shared his stories about the POW’s work duty on base. We truly appreciate the cooperation and generosity of the men and women at Schofield Barracks and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam who made our visits possible.

On the third stop, the group visited the site of RK Oshiro Doors on Sand Island, the exact spot that the Okinawa POWs were housed 72 years ago. Thanks to the Oshiros, who prepared additional tents and chairs, our visitors could comfortably sit during a special service conducted by The Very Reverend Shindo Nishiyama.

The group then proceeded to Jikoen Hongwanji Mission, where



Service on Sand Island at RK Oshiro Doors, the exact location where the POWs were held 72 years ago.

Nishiyama Sensei conducted the Ireisai Memorial Service in honor of the POW. The group from Okinawa was surprised and appreciated the support and tremendous attendance by our Hawaii community. Mahalo to our fantastic ladies group at Jikoen for providing a wonderful spread of home-made goodies for all of our guests.

The final event for the day was the *Konshinkai* dinner at the Pagoda International Ballroom. Memories and sentiments of appreciation were shared. A very special element to both the service at Jikoen and *Konshinkai* was the touch-

ing performance by Terukina Sensei, national living treasure of Japan. Seventy-two years ago, the Okinawan POW created *kankara sanshin*, a musical instrument fashioned from a large empty can, cast-off lumber, and wire. Hearing of this, an *issei* from our community, Kamesuke Kakazu, presented his personal *sanshin* to his POW relative. The *sanshin*



Choichi Terukina sensei and members of the Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyu Choichi Kai, Hawaii Chapter, sing “Janna Bushi” at the Memorial Service.



Visitation to Schofield Barracks Cemetery where the 12 POWs were buried.



Memorial Service at Jikoen for the 12 POWs who died in Hawaii.

Nobuko Kida Sensei is Honored as ‘Living Treasure’

Nobuko Kida Sensei was recently honored as a 2017 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Living Treasure. She is pictured here receiving her certificate of distinction from Bishop Eric Matsumoto. Sensei Kida was recognized for her excellence and high achievement in the art of Ikenobo Ikebana and her contributions to the Okinawan community through her work with KNDI Radio.



was kept in the family and brought to Hawaii by the POW’s nephew, Susumu Kakazu, to breathe Hawaii’s breeze once again. This is the instrument that Terukina Sensei played for his renditions.

On Monday, courtesy of JCCH, our two POW and their families visited Honouliuli, where the POWs were housed before being sent to Sand Island. Most touching was Brandon Ing on his *sanshin* singing “Hamachidori” while everyone with a handful of flower petals allowed the breeze to scatter the petals where the POWs were initially housed.

The stories and incidents are endless. Every effort that has been made has further illuminated the path for each of the departed POW so that they will know that each of them was loved and appreciated and in this brightness, we truly pray for their eternal peace.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru – a very sincere *Mahalo* to everyone who helped to make this a memorable visit for our two POWs: Hikoshin Toguchi and Saneyoshi Furugen and their families and friends.

Special note: We recently learned that the POWs were buried at the Schofield Cemetery, later exhumed, and their remains sent to Japan. We are now awaiting information as to where in Japan they were sent. Toguchi will also pursue with the inquiry in Okinawa and Japan.

The Hawaiian Historical Society Honors Howard Takara and Gene Kaneshiro

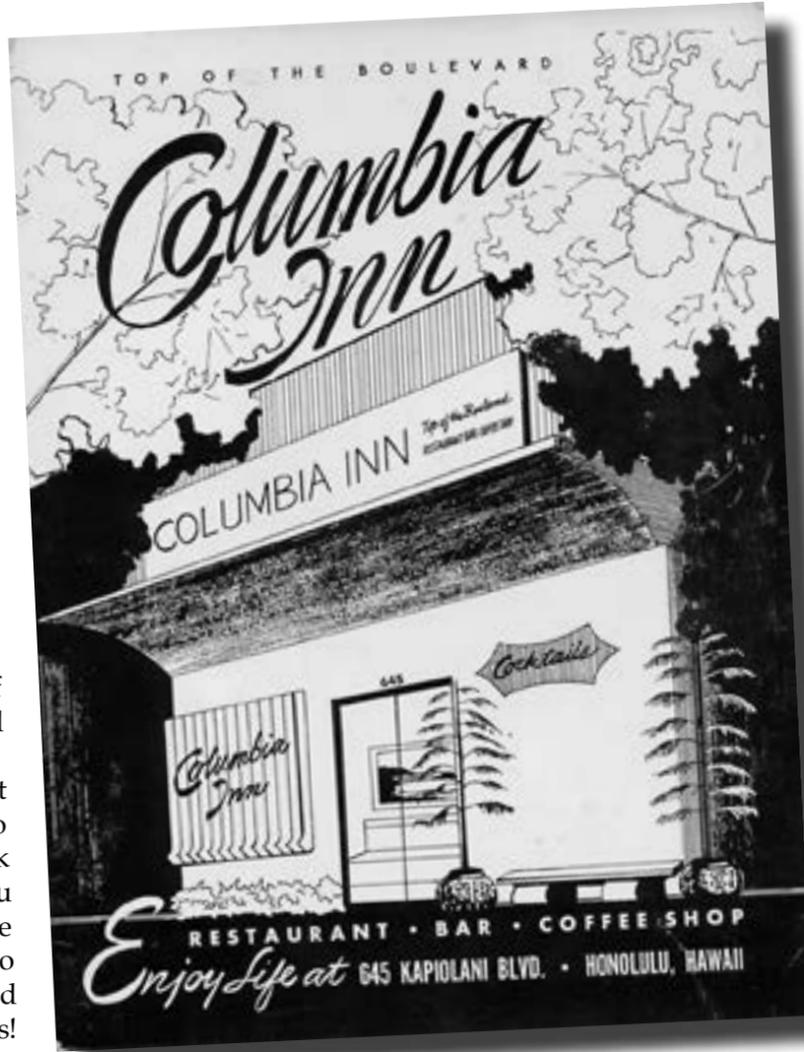
By Shari Tamashiro

As the Hawaiian Historical Society (HHS) celebrates its 125th anniversary, we are honoring individuals who have dedicated themselves to preserving the history of these islands and its peoples. These dedicated and determined “*Kahu 'Ikena*” (Caretakers of Knowledge) have crafted a bridge of knowledge and service to the present. For their work preserving and sharing the remarkable story of Okinawan-owned restaurants in Hawaii, HHS will honor Howard Takara and Gene Kaneshiro with the designation of *Kahu 'Ikena*.

Many people lament the stories we “lose” because no one dedicated the time to document or preserve it. Most people take no action citing lack of time. When Howard and Gene became aware that the story of Okinawan-owned restaurants would be lost if something was not done, they invested a significant amount of their time—mobilizing a host of volunteers to capture community memory, collecting primary source materials, recording oral histories, and creating an exhibit. This type of “community archivism” is inspiring and commendable.

The Hawaii Okinawan Restaurant Project documented the story of Ushi Takara who started American Café in 1923. Takara took dozens of fellow *Uchinanchu* from Oroku under his wing, teaching them the trade from the ground up and helping them to open restaurants of their own. This resulted in a total of 75 Oroku-owned restaurants!

Overall, the project identified more than 250 restaurants in Hawaii that were owned or being run by *Uchinanchu*, iconic restaurants like Columbia Inn, Wisteria, and Flamingos.



SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday, October 21st, there will be a dinner banquet honoring Howard, Gene, and other *Kahu 'Ikena* at Kapi'olani Community College. Our first banquet sold out quickly, so please contact me if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: The Hawaii Okinawa Restaurant Project Exhibit will go on display for three weeks at Honolulu Hale (City Hall) starting the last week of January 2018. I am looking for copies of menus, photographs, and any other memorabilia from Okinawan-owned restaurants of the past. I would like to digitize them and include them in the exhibit. We are also looking to collect more information on the 250 Okinawan-owned restaurants of the past, as well as identifying Okinawan-owned restaurants open today.

If you have menus/information or want tickets to the banquet, please contact me at shari.tamashiro@gmail.com or leave a message at 808.734.9562. Project information will be posted at www.pigsfromthesea.com

Kariyushi Kariyushi



かりゆし、かりゆし
Joy and Gratitude!

Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo extends our fondest *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to the nearly 600 people who attended our *Kariyushi Kariyushi 20th Anniversary Celebration* on May 21, 2017! The hands of many students, parents, volunteers and advisors went into bringing this production to life. A big Mahalo to all of you and to each of our sponsors for your generous support. *Ukazi Deebiru!*

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Visit the Hawaii Okinawa Center to purchase the *Kariyushi Kariyushi* book, our first publication from Senju Kai Hawaii, celebrating and sharing the culture of Okinawan odori in Hawaii! A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.



Uta no Hana Concert Celebrates Nomura Ryu's 50th Anniversary

On June 3, Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyokai Hawaii Shibu held a concert at the Kaimuki High School Auditorium to commemorate its 50th anniversary. The event was titled "Uta nu hana," which translates to "flowers of our songs." Over 600 people were in attendance, with over 130 people performing, including Nomura Ryu Hawaii members from Maui, the Big Island, and Seattle, local flute and koto players, dancers from various local schools, and 46 performers from Okinawa. Those from Okinawa included members of Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyokai head branch, as well as dancers, *koto*, and *taiko* players. Three *sanshin* players also came from Nomura Ryu Hokubei Shibu in Los Angeles to perform.

Current president, Seiichi Yagi Sensei, says that the organization is now going stronger than ever, and he is hopeful because of the efforts that current students are putting in. He credits other *sensei* such as Keith Nakaganeku and Norman Kaneshiro for bringing younger students in and keeping them interested. He also says of the organization, "The original members were *issei* or *nisei*, and I sentimentally imagine that they conversed in *Uchinaaguchi*... Now, most of the members are *sansei* and *yonsei*, and the language spoken is English. But the love for the music and the goal to perpetuate the culture and tradition of Okinawa has remained the same."

In regard to the title of the concert, Norman Kaneshiro Sensei explains,

"The tradition we represent are like flowers—beautiful, vibrant, fragrant and colorful, but also delicate and fragile. Often we do not truly value their beauty until they are gone...sometimes rain doesn't come, seasons change, and the flowers disappear. In those times, we do what we can to keep the garden alive...the beautiful flowers of our songs, live and thrive within each of us who remember where these songs came from and what they meant to



those who gifted them to us. As we become inspired to learn and pass on these songs, we become like flowers in the wind spreading seeds, ensuring that the blossoms can provide beauty to the people around the world from generations to come."

Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyokai Hawaii Shibu would like to extend an *ippee nifee deebiru*, thank you very much, to all the performers, sponsors, and supporters of *Uta nu Hana* who helped make it happen. 🌸

Senior Health & Fitness Fair

More than 100 seniors gathered outside 45 minutes before the doors opened at the Hawaii Okinawa Center's "Senior Health & Fitness Fair" on June 16. They were eager to meet the 48 vendors who covered a

range of goods and services including health care, safety, senior benefits, adult care, and financial assistance. The presenters were deluged by inquisitive seniors and caregivers.



Many participants joined the workshops on "Fraud Prevention," "Aging in Place with Reverse Mortgage," "Music & Memory," and "Decluttering and Adding Value to Your Home." Still others engaged in "Chair Yoga," "Tai Chi," and "Qi Gong" under the huge tent on the lawn.

Mahalo to organizers Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai, President Laura Ajimine, and Club Motubu President Kent Billings and all of their club members and to many other members of HUOA who volunteered in setting up the tents, vendor tables, and other tasks on Thursday. Many then showing up early on Friday morning to ensure the operations went smoothly, and again to break down the tents, tables, and clean up the Legacy Hall. Coordinator Karen Kuba-Hori commended all for a successful educational and wellness event for our seniors, their caregivers and families. 🌸

Pan Pacific Parade



HUOA marchers in the Pan Pacific Parade take time for a photo op moments after being drenched in a sudden downpour! 🌸

1,000 Cranes: Symbols of Peace and Goodwill

Cranes, or *tsuru*, are used as symbols of freedom, good fortune, happiness, success, and longevity in cultures worldwide, including Native American, South East Asian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Okinawan, and more.

Mostly, good tidings are associated with the strong and elegant bird. Cranes are referred to in song and dance in traditional Okinawan music and dance.

One belief is that a crane lives for 1,000 years; hence, the folding of 1,000 cranes equates to one crane per year. According to some, the successful folding of 1,000 cranes by an individual would be the granting of a wish to that person. However, rather than just one wish, it could be many wishes.

As a Marine stationed in Okinawa, SSgt. Ismael Esconde noticed a sign posted on the fence at Kadena Air Force Base. The sign was probably created by someone who truly had negative sentiments. It stated: "No base, no rape, no tears." The words affected SSgt. Esconde very deeply because not all personnel had such feelings and he did not want his young son to be looked upon with such negativity. He wanted to convey his personal message of peace and goodwill, so he began to fold 1,000 origami cranes.

His first endeavor of 1,000 cranes was presented to the patients of Hokubu Hospital in Nago. The second set—created with the participation of other Marines and the help of a Japanese national—was donated to a hospital in Naha City. Both of these hospitals have pediatric wards. The third set of 1,000 cranes was made by SSgt. Esconde and some fellow Marines and sailors; these cranes were donated to residents of a senior nursing home near the gate of Camp Hansen, which is located in Kin-cho.

After being assigned to Hawaii, SSgt. Esconde continued his quest for peace through the folding of the paper cranes and received a suggestion to

make a presentation to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

His presentation is very timely as the HUOA has undertaken two projects that are relevant to SSgt. Esconde's wishes of world peace. The first is Ireisai. More than 70 years ago, 3,000 Okinawans were incarcerated as Prisoners of War in various camps on Oahu and the Big Island. After their stay, all but 12 Okinawans returned to their homeland. The 12 men died during their incarceration in Hawaii and their remains were never recovered.

Extensive research was conducted by HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku and her team of volunteers. The effort resulted in the uncovering of previously unknown information, but the remains of the former POWs still remain unclear.

An Ireisai memorial service was created by 90-year-old Hikoshin Toguchi, a former POW who was able to return to Okinawa. His lifelong mission was to locate and take home the remains of his fallen comrades. While the remains of those 12 men are not clear, Toguchi led a group of more than 70 individuals from Okinawa—including descendants of the 12 POWs—to hold a memorial service in their honor in hopes of bringing eternal peace to their souls.

The second event is Irei no Hi, which coincides with the annual memorial services in Okinawa at Mabunigaoka. These events all memorialize the victims connected with the Battle of Okinawa. Messages of world peace without any future wars are

the themes of these two events.

SSgt. Esconde's gift of more than 1,000 folded paper cranes underscores the reason and meaningfulness of Ireisai and Irei no Hi. The HUOA extends its heartfelt *Ippee Nifee Deebiru*—thank you very much to SSgt. Esconde for his thoughtful and timely gift.



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Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuu Madin

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign. Since our last report, we received \$29,110. Included in our donations is a generous \$1,000 donation from Hikoshin Toguchi, who was one of 3,100 Prisoner of War (POW) of Okinawan descent sent to Hawaii after the "Battle of Okinawa."

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow. We currently have 80 committed members. We would like to welcome Nobuko Kida and Florence Sueko, Patrick & Nona Miyashiro to our 2M family. The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations. We humbly ask for your continued support.

Magukuru Kara Ippee Niffee Deebiru – from our hearts, thank you very much. Donations listed below were received from April 1, 2017 to June 4, 2017.

Hawaii Okinawa Plaza - Project Update

This is a very exciting time for the HUOA and our Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project. Construction started on Monday, April 24, and we are off to a running start! For a project that first started over 10 years ago with the purchase of the 1.99 acre property, we are now just 11 short months away from completion.

It has taken the leadership and commitment of many people to help get the project to this stage. A special thank you goes out to George Tamashiro, 2003 HUOA President, who helped to bring this project from just an idea to seeing it through to its completion. We owe George so much for his time, energy, expertise, and leadership on this important project.

In addition to George and many other individuals, over 1,000 donors have already made donations to support the project. Thanks to our HUOA donors in Hawaii and the fundraising efforts of our supporters in Okinawa, we have been able to raise close to \$2 million. It is heartwarming to see so many people believing in HUOA's purpose and mission and how this project can protect this for our future.

The total cost of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project is \$7,168,000, which includes construction design, legal, leasing and financing costs, as well as contingencies and tenant improvement costs. We have done well to raise funds up to this point, but we could still benefit from the support of many others. The more funds we are able to raise ourselves, the less we have to rely on our line of credit with the bank. To date, we have 78 individuals or HUOA Clubs that have made a gift of \$10,000 or more. While that level of support is greatly appreciated, gifts and commitments of all sizes are welcome. We ask each of you to consider making a gift that is meaningful to you. Hawaii Okinawa Plaza gift levels of \$5,000 or \$1,000 with the option to spread it out over a few years will go a long way in supporting the project.

Making a donation in support of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza is making an investment in the future of the HUOA. The goal of the HOP Project is to provide an annual income stream to support the HUOA and the many wonderful programs it puts on. Programs like the student exchange program, sanshin classes, taiko classes, Uchinaaguchi classes, ikebana classes, Children's Cultural Day Camps, music and dance recitals, and community service projects could benefit from the financial support the HOP Project will provide. These programs make the HUOA special, but we also rely heavily on annual contributions from our membership.

Once the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza is completed and generating income for the HUOA, it will help alleviate the annual strain to fund all of its current programs and to support capital improvements for the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Your gift today will pay dividends for our generation as well as for future generations. We thank you for your consideration and support throughout this continuing journey!

Ippee Niffee Deebiru!

Chris Shimabukuro and Mark Higa

HAWAII OKINAWA PLAZA CLUB MEMBERS OF THE 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN

(Listed Members have either donated or pledged \$10,000 or more to our current campaign starting July 1, 2014.)

ALOHA TOFU INC., PAUL UYEHARA	ARTHUR KANESHIRO	THE FAMILY OF SHINICHI &
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MATSUMOTO, WILMA OGIMI	KIN CHOJIN KAI	OROKU AZAJIN CLUB
ARASHIRO OHANA	RODNEY & CAROL KOHAGURA	RUTH OSHIRO
CHARLES & GLADYS TOKUNAGA ASAO	PAUL Y. & KRISTI KOMEIJI	YOSHIMORI OSHIRO
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		& HAZEL C. UEHARA

Preserving Our Legacy

2016 TO 2017-ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM



The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is extremely grateful for the over 742 friends who have generously contributed to our annual giving. Since October 2016, we have raised over \$121,560. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to continue to educate and share our Okinawan culture with the people of Hawaii.

Ippee Niffee Deebiru! Your generosity truly reflects the ideal of "Muteei Sakeei, thriving – prosperity," as we work together our culture will thrive and grow.

The following list of donors reflects contributions from April 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

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In Memory of Zenichi & Chiyoko Chibana

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In Memory of Auntie Dot Shiroma by Susy Gibo

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In Memory of my Mom, Patsy Kishimoto by Eunice & Melvin Hayashi

In Memory of Ryoetsu & Chiyoko Nakama by Jan Nakama

In Memory of Mr. Matsusuke Oshiro by Milton & Madelline Oshiro

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Continued from Page 8



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In Memory of Mrs. Gladys Shiroma by Ginowan Club

In Honor of Richard & Kiyoko Kuba Family by Mae Chong



HUOA DONATIONS



April 1 to May 31, 2017

HUOA sends a sincere *ippee niffee deebiru* to the following donors:

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Proceeds to benefit the Hui Makaaala Scholarship Fund.



CLUB NEWS

Our Clubs, Our Future

Okinawa City-Goeku Son Celebrates its 90th Anniversary

Okinawa City-Goeku Son started as an organized club in 1923 as Goeku Doshi Kai. Founded by member Saburo Nakasone (Aza Goya), Goeku was started based on the need for Goeku families to support each other. As more members started to join Goeku, there was an increase in the number of villages represented in its membership. Then in 1927, Goeku Doshi Kai became Goeku Sonjin Doshi Kai (later changed to Goeku Sonjin Kai) with representatives from 14 member families. Early parties and meetings were held at the home of Kamasuke Nakasone in Moiliili, overlooking the area where the University of Hawaii Rainbow Stadium is located. In 1951, Goeku became one of the founding clubs of the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii and later in 1994, Goeku Sonjin Kai became Okinawa City-Goeku Son to



Senior members attending Goeku's 90th Anniversary celebration.

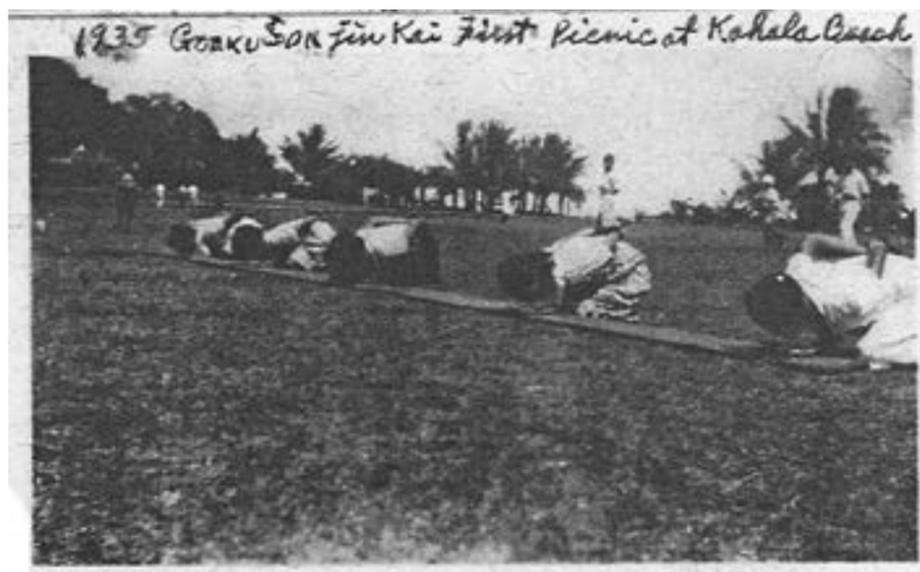


Photo of Goeku's 1st picnic - 1935, Kahala Beach

reflect its current Okinawa location (Okinawa City) and maintain its historic roots.

To celebrate its 90th Anniversary, special gifts were provided to its members at their Natsunoya Teahouse dinner. Over 200 guests packed the banquet hall - and were treated to a sumptuous Japanese buffet with tons of door prizes and excellent performances by members. There were several highlights to this event including dances by member Cheryl Nakasone's dance academy - Jimpu Kai USA Kin Ryosho Ryukyu Geino Kenkyusho and a special tribute song to Goeku members from HUOA's president Vince Watabu.



One-of-kind Commemorative 90th Anniversary tile given to members.

35TH OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 2 & 3, 2017

KAPIOLANI PARK

BON DANCE - SATURDAY NIGHT

RIMI NATSUKAWA - SUNDAY, 3PM

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!!

Set-up: Tuesday, August 29 - Friday, September 1

Breakdown: Monday, September 4

Details to follow in the next Uchinanchu Festival Issue

Mahalo Oroku Azajin Club

Mahalo to the hard-working members of the Oroku Azajin Club who cleaned the Hawaii Okinawa Center on April 2.

Front Row (L-R): President Scott Arakaki, Howard Takara, and Jane Takara. Standing (L-R): Nathan Taira, Beverly Taira, Courtney Takara, Natalie Teruya, Ethel Teruya, Rosemarie Love, Val Teruya, Dexter Teruya, Aliosn Ebesu, Vernon Kajikawa, Clarisse Kobashigawa, Lori Kajikawa, Bruce Yokochi, Betsy Ebesu, Dustin Ebesu.



Haeburu Club Cleans Up

Energetic members of the Haeburu Club gathered early on a Sunday morning to clean the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Front Row (L-R): Ann Wong, Shigeko Oshiro, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Karen Otaguro, Caitlyn Otaguro (being carried), Lynn Otaguro, and Stuart Lee. Back Row (L-R): Kathy Wakai, Morris Oshiro, Paul Oshiro, Thomas Otaguro, Sr., and Thomas Otaguro, Jr.

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So here's a toast to Kuba awamori, which brings handcrafted perfection and old world traditions to your table for your enjoyment. The heart of Kuba Awamori brings people together!

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Ireisai Remembrance

By Brandon Ing

It was definitely very moving to witness firsthand, these POWs from Okinawa who were held at Honouliuli, as they recollected memories of being there over 70 years ago. I can't imagine being forced into a war between two powerful nations—being “caught in the middle” in a way. Then, on top of that, being taken a prisoner of that war and shipped off to a faraway land, not knowing the fate of my home island or the people left behind, including loved ones.

Grandma had shown me pictures of the POWs years ago, and I kept asking her, “These are POWs from Okinawa?” It was just such a strange concept to me. First of all, that POWs were brought here from Okinawa, and, secondly, that my grandma was able to interact with them and even take pictures.

I was planning to just go on the Honouliuli tour as a spectator, but just a few days before the actual visit, I was asked to bring my *sanshin*. My grandparents, Seishun and Fumie Oshiro, are *Niseis* whose parents immigrated to Hawaii from Kitanakagusuku, Okinawa. They were always connected to Okinawan music and dance. My grandma practiced Okinawan dance, and ever since I was very young, every time we visited their house, when we walked in, my grandpa would be sitting on the floor practicing his *sanshin*. It's been about 10 years since I first started learning to play the *sanshin*, and for me it is one of the things that keeps me connected to my Okinawan grandparents, to our ancestors, and to the culture they taught me to be so fond of.

I brought my *sanshin* (which is actually the same *sanshin* my grandpa played) that day of the visit to Honouliuli, and was asked to play the first verse of *Hamachidori*, a song that talks about being far away from home, but never forgetting where you came from.

I have played this song many times, and, knowing its meaning always stirs up a little emotion in me. I think about the times that I, myself have ventured away from home for long periods of time, and also about our *Issei*, the first generation of immigrants who came to Hawaii or other parts of the world from Okinawa, to try and make a better life. They must have dearly missed their homeland, and many of them probably never got to see Okinawa again.

At Honouliuli, before the part of the tour that they wanted me to play, one of the former POWs stopped the discussion to explain about how important Okinawan music was for them when they were being held in the Honouliuli internment camp. He told us that the Okinawan POWs made their own instruments using scrap wood, empty cans, and electric wire. I remember him saying that Okinawan music is one of the things that helped them “keep going.” It made me realize that the music is not only essential to the culture of Okinawans, but in times of difficulty, it is also essential to their survival.

Cue the music. As I sang, the three gentlemen (Toguchi-san, Furugen-san and Takayama Kaicho) sang with me. I watched their faces, at first only to make sure we were singing together. We repeated the first verse,

Meeting Gov. David Ige

Okinawa's Ireisai delegation led by their Vice Governor and POW Toguchi were extremely pleased to meet with Governor of Hawaii.



Front Row (L-R): Masaji Matsuda, Tomoko Nakazato (OPG), Choko Takayama, Vice Governor Isho Urasaki, Governor David Ige, and POW Hikoshin Toguchi.
Back Row (L-R): Masakazu Kina (OPG), and Colin Sewake.

and the one in the middle (I believe it was Furugen-san), brought his handkerchief to wipe away tears. At that point it was very difficult for me to keep singing, because tears began to well-up in my eyes, also. When we finished the song, and he shook my hand to thank me for playing, and he told me that the music made him cry. I told him that I knew, and that I also shed tears along with him.



An emotional moment: Brandon (far right) sings “Hamachidori” at the Honouliuli internment site as Choko Takayama and two POWs—Saneyoshi Furugen and Hikoshin Toguchi—listen appreciatively.

From what I understand, the delegation from Okinawa did not find exactly what they were looking for, but I assume that by coming back to Hawaii, having a Buddhist memorial service, and visiting these sites brought them at least a little bit of closure.

It was a bit comforting to learn that the POWs from Okinawa, in some ways, didn't have it so bad, because of the local Okinawan community reaching out to them, including people like my grandma and her family. I also found out that the photos that my grandma took of the Okinawan POWs and the local Okinawans who talked with the POWs, brought them *bento*, cigarettes and sweets made news back in Okinawa. Following those broad-

casts, some people came forward after recognizing the men in the photos as their family members. I'm sure grandma never imagined that her pictures would bring so much attention, even news coverage, but I know that she knows she did the right thing by taking the pictures, saving the pictures for over 70 years, and sharing them with others.

Andagi Aloha

Our “*Andagi Man*” Patrick Miyashiro, his wife Nona, and Audrey Gibo arrived at 7 a.m. to cook over 300 *andagi* for the large Ireisai Memorial Group that traveled directly from the airport to the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Thanks to these kind and hard-working volunteers, the visitors were greeted with the warm scent of *andagi* cooking as they stepped off the bus.



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Official Ireisei Delegation at HOC



Ireisai Memorial group including Vice Governor Isho Urasaki, former POWS Hikoshin Toguchi and Saneyoshi Furugen, Co-Chair Choko Takayama, Masaji Matsuda, and families of deceased POWS.

Mahalo OHK



Our friends at the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai (OHK) are busy assisting with so many events. Here in Hawaii coordinating Irei Sai with HUOA are OHK members Choko Takayama, Masaji Matsuda, and Colin Sewake. The hard-working group found time to break bread (or in this case, Okinawan Sweet Potato) with HUOA Officers and Past Presidents as they met to discuss upcoming fundraising efforts for the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. 🍠

Flavorful Guests Visit HOC



Exciting visitors: Hisashi Uehara, President of AGU, the famous ramen bistro with Ms. Ryoko Zukeran, owner and chef of Okinawan Music & Art, "CAN COLOR Café" (Kankara Café), in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

Aloha OTS



Twenty-five Okinawa Tourist Service (OTS) visitors from Okinawa loved the cool breezes as they walked to the Issei Garden to pay tribute to Toyama Kyuzo at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. They had left the downpour of rain and humid weather in Okinawa and were so happy to be in Hawaii.

Ponytail Palm Blossoms

What a pleasant surprise to see the Ponytail plant flowering for the first time ever at Hawaii Okinawa Center! It is said that the plant usually flowers when it is 20-30 years old. Once the plant blooms, however, it will flower every summer. It's been a long wait to see this spectacular sight, but well worth it. Come visit us at HOC and enjoy the beautiful ponytail flower atop our very tall palm tree. 🌴



47th Annual HUOA Invitational Golf Tournament Awards

- Grand Champion and recipient of the Governor's Trophy: Calvin Shiroma, Gushikawa Shijin Kai
- Senior Flight Champion-David B. Tamashiro Memorial: Randy Teruya, Haneji Club, Oroku Azajin Club
- Women's Flight Champion: Katrina Higa, Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai

Missing: • Mayor's Over-All Low Net Champion – Chris Igami, Nishihara Chojin Kai.



Ricky Tamashiro congratulates Senior Flight Champion-David B. Tamashiro Memorial Trophy to Randy Teruya, Haneji Club, Oroku Azajin Club.



Grand Champion Calvin Shiroma, Gushikawa receives his Trophy and Governor's Bowl from HUOA President, Vince Watabu.



Katrina Higa, Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai receives the Women's Flight Championship Trophy from Nelson Tamashiro.



Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai members surround the three top scoring golfers (in bold) to win the Inamine Cup (L-R): Courtney Takara, Nelson Tamashiro, Jane Serikaku, **Ricky Tamashiro**, **Katrina Higa**, **Kent Tamashiro**, Kaaren Takara, Les Tamashiro and Gary Higa.

A big mahalo to our annual "Closest to the Hole" sponsor Bob Tanaka (person in the middle of the group, not holding any prize). Bob donates golf bags and golf balls for the "Closest to the Hole" winners and golf towels for every golfer. 🏌️‍♂️



THEY HAVE ARRIVED!



Hawaii students pose in the “whale’s mouth” at Okinawa’s Churaumi, the second largest aquarium in the world.



Hawaii High School Exchange students are greeted warmly by the Okinawa Board of Education at Naha Airport.



Hawaii students with chaperone Tom Yamamoto at Churaumi aquarium.

Okinawan Proverb of the Month

(Chosen by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members)

Iiyoo nu aree, chichi yoo n an.

いよいよぬ あれー、ちちようん あん。

Meaning: If there is a way to say, there is a way to listen.
(If you consider the way you speak, your words lead to effective listening.)

Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

Word of the Month

May

umu•i², *n.* [omoi] Songs and poems that are sung on ritual and festive occasions. See also omoro, Omoro Sooshi, umuru, Umuru Usooshi.

June

naka-noo•i, *n.* [nakanaori] Reconciliation; peacemaking. **-sun**, *v.* [nakanaorisuru] To reconcile (with); make peace (with); be friends again (with).

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

A Wonderful Opportunity to Study for One Year in Okinawa!

The Okinawa Prefectural Government (OPG) Foundation is pleased to announce that Scholarship (kenpi) applications for the 2018 Okinawa Prefecture International Student Program are being accepted to study in Okinawa.

Criteria set by the OPG Foundation. Recommendation of Hawaii candidates will be made by the HUOA. Please check out the website: www.huoa.org for more information.

If you have any questions, or to have application e-mailed to you, please contact the HUOA (phone: 676-5400; M-F, 8:30 am - 5 pm) or e-mail bonnie-huoa@hawaii.rr.com.

Deadline to complete documents and email application to HUOA is October 10, 2017.

HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar!

HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

July 2017

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY – HOC Office Closed
- 10 Okinawan Festival Food Committee meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 12 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 13 "Yuntaku," 6-9:30pm, Artistry
- 17 General Festival Committee meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 26 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC

August

- 3 Pau Hana Concert, 6:30 pm, HOC
- 7 Combined General and Festival Food Committee meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 9 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 15-23 Students from Yaese Town
- 27 WOK cleaning at HOC by Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai members, 7am

September

- 2 & 3 2017 Okinawan Festival, Kapiolani Park

Classes • Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm*
 - Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm*
 - Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm*
 - Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm*
 - Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7pm, (classes on hold; please call HOC in July for update)
 - Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am*
 - Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9am*
 - Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm*
- *for more information, please call 676-5400
Subject to Change (entries as of 5/17/17)

Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 pm and repeats the following Thursday at 5 pm on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. No HOC shows are aired on the fifth Thursday of a month.

All our shows will be submitted in high definition format. 'Olelo currently offers HD channels on Hawaiian Telcom's 1049 and 1053.

All 'Olelo shows are streamed on the Internet at www.olelo.org. Our latest shows are available on-demand on the same 'Olelo website at: What's on; OleloNet Video On demand; then search for keyword "Okinawa". The HUOA website www.huoa.org has links to the site.

This TV schedule is also available on the HUOA website, which will be updated should any changes occur.

Jul 1, Sat, 7 pm, Jul 6 & 13, Thurs, 5 pm Show One of the HUOA Aloha Party for Our Friends from Okinawa, who came to support our 2016 Festival which was canceled due to an impending storm. The party was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Monday, September 5, 2016.

Jul 15, Sat, 7 pm, Jul 20 & 27, Aug 3, Thurs, 5 pm Show One of 2016 Legacy Awards Banquet held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on December 4, 2016. Featured in this episode are two of the five honorees, Yoshinobu Oshiro and Seikichi "Chick" Takara.

Aug 5, Sat, 7 pm, Aug 10 & 17, Thurs, 5 pm Show Two of the HUOA Aloha Party for Our Friends from Okinawa, who came to support our 2016 Festival which was canceled due to an impending storm. The party was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Monday, September 5, 2016.

Aug 19, Sat, 7 pm, Aug 24, Thurs, 5 pm Show Two of 2016 Legacy Awards Banquet held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom on December 4, 2016. Featured in this episode are three of the five honorees, the late Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi, Choichi Terukina Sensei, and Roy Tokujo.

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