



# UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

www.huoa.org

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## The Perfect Storm...for Success!

By Courtney Takara, Festival Chair

What happens when you combine clear blue skies, a world-renowned singer from Okinawa, and a two-year wait for everyone's favorite ethnic/cultural festival?...a successful 35th Okinawan Festival!

It all started the Sunday before the festival. A small group of volunteers met at Kapiolani Park to line the field, marking where each tent would be placed. Little did we know how impactful this would be, especially for our t-shirt booth! I'll explain why later.

On Tuesday, volunteers put on their gloves—and back braces for some—ready to do a lot of heavy lifting.

We unloaded two storage containers and immediately began constructing the stage. It was done in record time thanks to the help of a group of young construction workers who volunteered before going off to work at their job site. By the afternoon, we were ahead of schedule but panic set in when it started to pour and a flash flood warning was issued for Oahu.

We returned to Kapiolani Park on Wednesday morning, anticipating the worst and worried that our forklifts would get stuck in the mud. Luckily, the sun was out and most of the ground had dried. We resumed set-up with our electricians and plumbers starting to lay the infrastructure and one-by-one tents had lighting and running water.



By Friday, the transformation of Kapiolani Park into the Okinawan Festival grounds was nearly complete. Vendors came throughout the day delivering supplies, ingredients, and merchandise. Clubs started setting up the interior of their booths and some volunteers stayed late into the night to make sure we were ready for Saturday.

Clear blue skies were a welcomed sign on Saturday morning and, fortunately, the weather held up throughout the weekend. I was emceeing on stage when the program started at 9 a.m. and noticed a long line forming at the t-shirt booth. It was a

pleasant surprise compared to the usual mob fronting the booth. Apparently, the tent was setup in a way that forced customers to form a line, making it much easier and less stressful for the volunteers. This year's designs were very popular with many colors and sizes selling out by Saturday afternoon.

Well before Saturday's lunch rush, lines started forming at each food booth and they never seemed to end. It was definitely an indicator that attendees were anxious to satisfy their craving for Okinawan food, especially since they were unable to last year. I enjoyed my Oki Dog and lost count of



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# President's Message

## By Vince Watabu



*Muteei Sakeei –  
Thriving Prosperity*

### Haisai,

Since the last message, I have been riding an emotional high. In early August we held the second Pau Hana concert featuring Hula Halau Kaulakahi, our own RMD, and headliner Kalani Pe'a. I think Tom Yamamoto's vision of blending the Hawaiian and Okinawan cultures came together beautifully. I was moved as Kalani Pe'a not only sang, but told the moving stories behind each song. It was such a great evening.

Of course this led us into our 35th Okinawan Festival. I want to thank everyone for coming together and putting on a fantastic festival. While the public sees a two-day event, all of us know that it took hours of planning and then going down to the park from Sunday to get ready for the "Best Cultural Festival in Hawaii."

Our visitors from Okinawa, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru and other countries were amazed to see our Okinawan community come together to preserve the culture. The food was great, the various booths were all rocking, and the days were filled with entertainment, including the long-awaited performance of Rimi Natsukawa. Thank you again for all your hard work.



The last Bon Dance of the year is held at our HOC and it is the only indoor Bon Dance in Hawaii. The crowd waited for the doors to open to reserve their space. The air-conditioned environment proved to be a big hit as everyone danced the night away. Maybe I will take up dancing (me and my two left feet).

I attended the United Japanese Society of Hawaii's "Nenchosha Ian Engei Taikai" where 26 individuals who turned 80 years old were honored. Of the 26 honorees, nine had HUOA ties. They were Barbara Akamine, Jean Ige, Irene Ishiyama, Ethel Kawahara, Eleanor Miyasaki, Carl Nakamura, Emmie Otake, Franklin Otake and Daniel

### UCHINANCHU

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

HUOA President ..... Vince Watabu  
Executive Director ..... Jane F. Serikaku  
Editorial/Production Services ..... MBFT Media: Arnold Hiura, Eloise Hiura and Hilma Fujimoto

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Uchinanchu reaches over 9,700 households. For advertising rates and more information, contact us at: Tel: (808) 676-5400 – Email: huoa@huoa.org – www.huoa.org

Zukemura. Congratulations!

Finally, our good friends Consul General Yasushi Misawa and his wife Yoko will be leaving us. In fact, by the time this newsletter is published they will be in Germany. I want to thank them for always being with us at all of our Okinawan events. Consul General was also a member of Afuso Ryu, learning to play and performing at our Okinawan Festival and at the Nenchosha event. Aloha and Good Luck!

Until next time,  
*Ippee Niffee Deebiru*  
Vince Watabu



# 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 July 16 to September 15, 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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Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include this form with your donation and send to:

**HUOA Newsletter Fund, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797**

## 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!

- Oct 21 Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai, Nakasone Dance Academy, "Hooge Mankai," NBC Concert Hall
- Oct 23 OPG Geijutsu International Cultural Exchange, HOC
- Oct 30 World Uchinanchu Day Celebration, HOC
- Nov 12 Legacy Awards Luncheon, Hilton Hawaiian Village
- Nov 19 Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Nomura Ryu Dentou Ongaku Assoc. at HOC. 2-4:30 p.m. Aloha Party to follow
- Nov 25-26 Winter Craft Fair, HOC
- Dec 6 An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, HOC
- Jan 20 Uchinanchu of the Year & Installation Banquet, HOC

Check HUOA website – [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org) for more information.

# Yuziri: "Our Proud Legacy" 2017 Legacy Awards Banquet

"Yuziri" means "our proud legacy," and, for the 10th year, HUOA is proud to recognize and honor five distinguished individuals for their outstanding achievements in their fields and significant contributions to our local, national and international communities.

The 2017 honorees include Shinye Gima (Military Intelligence Service veteran and former educator for the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii), Governor David Y. Ige (former State of Hawaii Representative and Senator, and current Governor of the State of Hawaii), Jake Shimabukuro (world renowned ukulele virtuoso), Hidehito Uki (Founder and CEO of Sun Noodle), and Herbert Yanamura (442nd Regional Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service veteran). Their achievements and fascinating stories will be shared at the annual HUOA Legacy Awards Banquet. Please join us in acknowledging the honorees and their contributions.

The Legacy Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2017, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The event will open with a reception and silent auction at 9 a.m. followed by lunch and program.

Reservation forms must be accompanied with payment as no tickets will be issued. Table assignments will be given at registration on the day of the event. Table sponsorships are Platinum level (\$10,000), Gold level (\$5,000), Silver level (\$1,750) and Bronze level (\$1,250) individual tickets cost \$125.

For more information, please contact HUOA at 676-5400 or email [edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com). Deadline: October 25.

# A Fond Aloha to Consul General Yasushi Misawa and Mrs. Yoko Misawa!

Consul General Misawa and his wife Yoko will be missed immensely by all of us in Hawaii. He quickly embraced the diversity of cultures



in Hawaii and reached out to so many communities. It touched us deeply to see him playing the sanshin with Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei and all of his students and singing the Okinawan songs, too. Perhaps he will take his *sanshin* and *ukulele* to Berlin...his next assignment.

**Save the Date!** *Uchinanchu of the Year and 68th Installation Banquet*

Please mark January 20, 2018, on your calendars and join us for HUOA's Uchinanchu of Year & 68th Installation Banquet. Come and support your club's Uchinanchu of the Year, meet your incoming officers and advisors, and say thanks to this year's officers and advisors for their hard work! This is an always entertaining and memorable event. See you there!



**HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION**  
**Legacy Award Banquet**  
Sunday, November 12, 2017  
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

**RESERVATION FORM**

Deadline for Reservations: October 25, 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Reserve (10 seats per table):

\_\_\_ Bronze Ticket(s) at \$125 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Silver Table(s) at \$1,750 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Seating & Centerpiece

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\_\_\_ Platinum Table(s) at \$5,000 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_ Diamond Table(s) at \$10,000= \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Enhanced Platinum Benefits & Valet Parking

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No tickets will be issued. Table assignments will be given at registration on the day of the event.

Please provide the names of guests below or mail or email list to [huoajo@gmail.com](mailto:huoajo@gmail.com) no later than October 25:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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Please attach additional sheets for multiple tables.

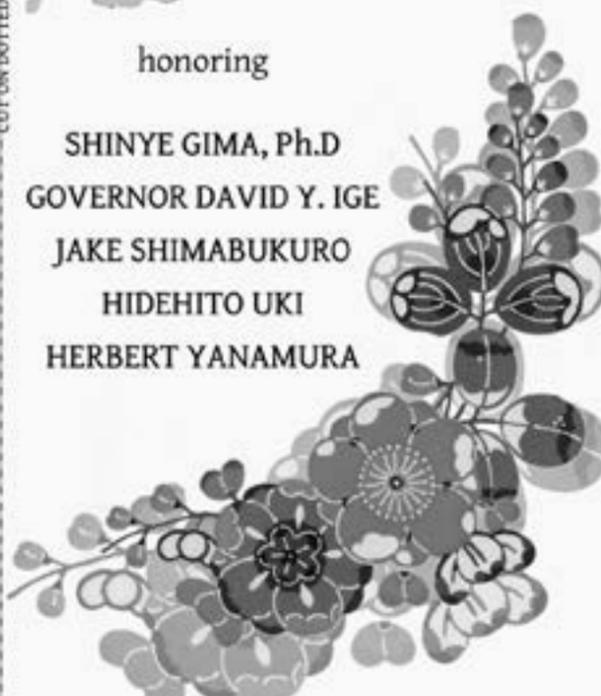
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HUOA - Legacy Banquet  
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Waipahu, HI 96797

**Hawaii United Okinawa Association**  
**2017**  
**Legacy Award Banquet**

Sunday, November 12, 2017  
Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom

honoring

SHINYE GIMA, Ph.D  
GOVERNOR DAVID Y. IGE  
JAKE SHIMABUKURO  
HIDEHITO UKI  
HERBERT YANAMURA



## The Perfect Storm... continued from Page 1

how many *andagi* I ate over the weekend. I hope that everyone was able to enjoy their favorite foods.

We returned to Kapiolani Park on Sunday, ready for Day Two. Even after a late night of bon dancing, our volunteers were energized and smiling. It was another busy day as the crowd grew in anticipation of Rimi Natsukawa's afternoon performance. By 3 p.m., the bandstand was sur-

rounded by thousands of people. From the moment Rimi took the stage, she captivated the audience with her beautiful voice. We closed out the festival with an impromptu collaboration featuring Urizun Minyo Group, Chinagu Eisa Hawaii, and Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts (HOCA). It was heartwarming to see so many young performers on stage and the crowd joining in for *Kachashi*.  
*Continued on Page 15*



# Festival Tent Decoration Contest Winners



Outstanding Decorated Non-food Booth—Heiwa Doori. Vince presents award to Loretta Tokuda, Nago Club, and Lyn Uesato, Chair, Gushichan Sonjin Kai.



Outstanding Decorated Food Booth—Okinawa Soba. HUOA President Vince Watabu presents award to Sandy Kaneshiro, Chair, Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai.

## Mahalo Mr. Uki



HUOA expresses its deep gratitude to Hidehito Uki of Sun Noodle for inviting Rimi Natsukawa to perform at the Okinawan Festival and at the Aloha Party.

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創立 35 周年記念 ALOHA 伝音ハワイ公演  
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琉球古典芸能公演  
Performance of Fascinating Ryukyu Classical dance

# 伝音の響



祝 創立35周年記念 第18回研究発表会

*Please join us for an afternoon of classical Okinawan dance and music featuring performers from Hawaii and Okinawa!*

*When: Sunday, November 19, 2017, 2:00 PM*  
*Where: Hawaii Okinawa Center, Legacy Hall*  
*Admission: \$30 (Pre-Sale), \$35 (At the Door)*  
*Aloha Party to follow (Tickets: \$25 per person)*

*Please support our Hawaii performers and the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza Project!*

# Okinawan Festival Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Okinawan Festival Photo Contest! Thank you to all the talented photographers who participated in this year's contest. To view the photos in color, visit the Okinawan Festival website.

## Grand Prize Winner Photographer: Shinya Morita

Title: The Lovely "Two" Okinawan Keiki Dancers

Description: The two girls of "Azama Honryu Sumi no Kai Hawaii Shibu" on stage



## Ohana Category Prize Winner Photo by: James Shimabukuro

Title: Oyakoko

Description: Two women assisting an elderly woman to watch the Opening Ceremonies



## Culture Category Prize Winner Photographer: Melissa Yamaguchi

Title: Uchinanchu Fun in the Sun

Description: Our local Okinawan Shishimai and Paranku group share a laugh



## Special Recognition Photographer: Lexi Mitsunaga

Title: Rimi Shaka



## Special Recognition Photographer: Christopher Yasuma

Title: Uchinanchu Dog

# Ichariba Chode — Choichi Terukina’s Legacy in Hawaii

by Jodie Chiemi Ching

*“Ichariba chode—Once we meet we are family.”* These are the inspirational lyrics of the song *“Mensore”* written by National Living Treasure, Choichi Terukina Sensei. But for him, it’s not enough just to write these lyrics.

Terukina Sensei’s lifestyle embodies philanthropy as he continues to “pay it forward” by nurturing Hawaii based Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai Hawaii Shibu so that the quality of their craft is authentic and held at the same high standard as their fellow musicians in Okinawa. He has recorded over 100 songs for the benefit of his students and participated in the Ireisai Memorial Service this past June. Through these contributions and more, Terukina Sensei is doing all that he can to promote peace and perpetuate the Okinawan culture beyond the shores of his homeland. For these accomplishments, he has also been recognized as an HUOA Legacy Award Recipient in 2016.

The first testament of Terukina Sensei’s legacy in Hawaii is the first school of Afuso Ryu established outside of Japan under the leadership of his student Grant Sandaa Murata-Sensei in 1984. Terukina-Sensei has been successful in cultivating other *sensei* in Hawaii and abroad who reflect his wholehearted style of *uta-sanshin*. There are approximately 1,300 Afuso Ryu members worldwide, with about 200 of those members in “Choichi Kai USA” (Afuso Ryu membership in Hawaii and Los Angeles). With the encouragement of Murata-Sensei, many students take advantage of the opportunity to travel to Okinawa to experience the unique teaching style of Afuso Ryu from Terukina-Sensei. Students go back multiple times to engage in rigorous training and to obtain certificates in proficiency.

This past June, Terukina Sensei also stayed in Hawaii for over a month to record



Terukina Choichi Sensei with his wife Eiko, whom Sensei affectionately refers to as “my manager.”

OCT  
30



“Ryumaru ”



Declaration at the 2016 Taikai in Okinawa

over 100 classical songs, immortalizing his teachings for generations to come. One of the cornerstones of Afuso-Ryu teaching is to pass the essence of the master to the students. This is why it is not enough for students to refer to sheet music and written lyrics. We could probably say that Terukina Sensei takes this philosophy beyond *uta-sanshin* through the support and participation in peace-promoting events like the Ireisai Memorial Service held this past June.

The Irei Sai Memorial Service was held for 12 Okinawan prisoners of war who were captured and died while imprisoned in Hawaii during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. “Choichi Terukina, 85, a living national treasure of Japan in Ryūkyūan classical *sanshin*, traveled to Hawaii with the 72-member delegation to perform the memorial song, *Janna Bushi*.’ He played the song on the *sanshin* that Okinawan issei Kamesuke Kakazu had brought to Hawaii as an immigrant in the early 1900s and passed on to his POW cousin, Seisho Kakazu, after seeing the POWs plucking out Okinawan tunes on a *kankara sanshin* fashioned from a discarded metal can, scrap lumber and wire. Kamesuke Kakazu’s *sanshin* was a beautiful one, made from real snakeskin. It consoled the homesick prisoners far away from home. When Seisho was allowed to return home to Okinawa, he took the prized *sanshin* with him. More than 70 years later, after Seisho had passed, his younger brother Susumu felt it was time to return the *sanshin* to their cousins in Hawaii and joined the Hawaii Irei Sai delegation.” (Hawaii Herald, June 16, 2017)

Whether it’s Terukina Sensei’s *uta-sanshin*, smile, or acts of compassion, they all hit us in the same place—the heart. He is relentless in his support of the preservation and perpetuation of Okinawan culture in Hawaii and beyond. We express our heartfelt “*Ippei Nifwe Deebiru*” and “*Aloha*” to Terukina Sensei for the countless ways he inspires us. 🌺

**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE...  
UCHINANCHU NO HI**

**HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER  
6:30 - 9:00 PM**

*“Let us celebrate the fact that we are all Uchinanchu. Let us celebrate and establish today, October 30th, World Uchinanchu Day, and let us engrave it with pride on our Uchinanchu souls.” Taikai 2016*

Join us for “potluck” dinner as we celebrate Uchinanchu around the world. A special video featuring the Hawaii Uchinanchu spirit will be shared this evening.  
RSVP 676-5400 or email [huoa@huoa.org](mailto:huoa@huoa.org)

# 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 \$12,575.00. Included with our donations are member donations from Nago Club.

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow. We currently have 82 committed members. We would like to welcome Gwen and Clayton Fujie to our 2M family. The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations and humbly ask for your continued support.

Magukuru Kara Ippee Niffee Deebiru – from our hearts, thank you very much.



### 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.)

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Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club	Karen Tooko Nakasone	In Memory of Jane Omori by Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club
Hui Makaala of Hawaii	Anonymous for Oroku Azajin Club	In Memory of Fumiko Shima by Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club
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2016 TO 2017-ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM

# Preserving Our Legacy

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is extremely grateful for the over 761 friends who have generously contributed to our annual giving. Since October 2016, we have raised over \$122,910.00. 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 August 1, 2017 to September 15, 2017.

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| In Memory of Genyei & Masako Miyashiro by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Itoh | Ken M. Takemoto                |

## Hawaii Okinawa Plaza walls are up!



Photo taken on October 1, 2017.

# HUOA DONATIONS

July 16 to September 15, 2017

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

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| Barbara Isa              | In Memory of Amy Takasato by Nago Club                   |
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## Okinawan Officials



A wonderful visit by Okinawa Prefectural Government officials (L-R): Asian Economic Strategy Division - Ms. Shino Ito and Takashi Akamine; International Exchange Division - Satoko Kaneshi and Director Mutsuko Kawakami; Vice Governor Moritake Tomikawa; Director General of Dept. of Culture, Tourism and Sports Takao Kadekaru; Secretary to Vice Governor Shingo Furugen; and Kima Sluchansky, International Exchange Division.

## University Presidents Visit



A visit by Presidents of three universities in Okinawa (L-R): President Yasuharu Higa, Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai); President Hajime Oshiro, University of the Ryukyus (Ryudai); and President Katsunori Yamazato, Meio University. Back row (L-R): Toi Nakayama and Kazuya Sunagawa, Meio University; Teruko Konishi and Kaori Kinjo, Ryudai; and Tomohide Shimoji, Geidai.

## Chondara Welcome for Vice Governor Tomikawa and OPG Officials



Our Uchinanchu chondara Mel Gushiken and Dexter Teruya welcome Okinawa's Vice Governor Moritake Tomikawa and Director General Takao Kadekaru, Dept. of Culture, Tourism & Sports.

## Mahalo Meio University



Mahalo to these wonderful Meio University students! Along with Dr. Ogawa, they spent many hours at our HOC library checking stacks of books written in kanji and translating the title, author and subject so we can properly categorize and file these precious books. We really need of people who could do some translations from Japanese to English for us. If you can help, please call 676-5400.

kuba awamori soju *karii*



Every culture has their own beverage and cheer to celebrate life. Spain has its wine . . . *"Salud!"* America its whiskey . . . *"Cheers!"* In Hawaii we say, *"Okole Maluna!"* Awamori is made in only one place in the world, Okinawa. The toast in Okinawan is, *"KARII!"* which means, *"All that is right, all that is good, and all that is at peace."* The heart of Kuba awamori brings people together! *Share a smile . . . Share a laugh*



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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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# CLUB NEWS

*our clubs, our Future*

## Chatan-Kadena Wok Workers

Every year, members of Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai arrive early on a Sunday morning to scrub all the woks and prep them for cooking the ono *andagi* and anda dog at the Okinawan Festival.



Mahalo to (L-R): Jon Itomura, Gaye Oshiro, Amanda Nitta and Gary Jitchaku. Standing: Darlene Itomura, Eric Nitta, Dwight Ikehara, Todd Inafuku, Joanne Takamiyashiro, Sandy Yanagi, Patti Sakihara, Al Sakihara and President Laura Ajimine. Missing from photo: Donne Soga, Patrice and Jonathan Nagy.

## Ginowan at the Fest

by Sachiko Jane Nakamura

More than 150 Ginowan Shijin Kai members and friends volunteered to cook *andagi*, with many of them working multiple shifts to ensure full production. Project chair Sandy Nishimoto recruited and assigned workers to shifts. Wilma Ogimi, Sandy Nishimoto, and KelliAnne and June Zakimi coordinated three Saturday shifts. Cindy Yamaguchi recruited and



Andagi project chair Sandy Nishimoto cooking andagi with Ginowan family.

coordinated the Wahiawa Kyo Yu kai's Sunday first shift. Sandy Nishimoto coordinated the second shift of Ginowan workers. Patrick Miyashiro led over 60 volunteers in preparing the andagi batter from scratch at 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning at the Jefferson School kitchen.



Batter mixing group coordinated by Patrick Miyashiro.

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# ANNUAL CLUB PICNICS

## Ginowan Picnic 2017

by Sean Tamashiro

The Ginowan Club had its annual picnic on August 5 at Ala Moana Park.

Like most members, we began the picnic by getting to park early in order to get the best parking and picnic spots. It is funny as every family group has their own special spot under their own special tree. The early morning temperature was perfect for setting up our tents, which would provide shade from the day's sun and an occasional shower. Neighbors helped neighbors setup their tents and then helped setup the main tent. The setup for the picnic was well organized and everything appeared to run smoothly.

With the hard work done, we relaxed by drinking coffee, reading the newspaper, and having breakfast. The quiet morning added to the pleasure of our relaxation. A little later, other family members arrived and we caught up with the latest family news until the games began.

The highlight of the Ginowan picnic were the games. Hot Potato was our first game, which got our member's blood moving and got us in the fun state of mind. I remembered some games from the previous years, but some seemed to be new. I always wondered what creative mind came up with the games. As we watched the under 5 years of age kids playing games, you could not help but to laugh at their innocence.



Teamwork and concentration are used at the Gutter Ball Game.

Everyone else kept us entertained and inspired until it was our turn to participate (the games were not as easy as we imagined). Some club members were very skilled, which made me think they must practice between the annual picnics. The club members that had the most fun were the ones who were not afraid to "make A." The practical game prizes were always an added incentive to the fun we all had, but the lucky number prizes were the ones everyone wanted to win.

When not playing games, we ate shaved ice to cool down. The Ginowan Club has the best shaved ice as it is shaved not crushed and there are many flavors to choose from with the option to add condensed milk. You can't go wrong with a rainbow order with condensed milk as it was colorful and tasty.

Enjoying the outdoors with family and friends may not come as often as we would like, but the Ginowan picnic always allows this to occur. It is better than watching TV or staying glued to our computers inside our homes.

We thank all the dedicated volunteers who helped make this picnic another successful one. 🙏



School supplies are quickly scooped up at the Supermarket Pick Up game.

rainbow order with condensed milk as it was colorful and tasty.

## Oroku Azajin Summer Picnic

by Natalie Teruya

This year, the Oroku Azajin club held its annual summer picnic on July 16 at a new Magic Island location. Thank you to the board members and volunteers to setup. A big mahalo also volunteers who ran the games, handed out prizes, made shave ice, and banged the pots and pans in the Oroku Azajin band. Thanks to Chick Takara for donating a half dozen posters/paintings that he created and shared with our members via lucky number give away.



Beverly Taira, Gene Kaneshiro, Shari Tamashiro, Howard Takara, Clarisse Kobashigawa



Kachashi race!

Shari Tamashiro, President of the Hawaiian Historical Society, stopped by to honor Howard Takara (Miofuya) and Gene Kaneshiro (Menokanagushiku) who were

named Kahu 'Ikena, or caretakers of knowledge, for compiling and documenting the history and contributions of Okinawans on the restaurant industry in Hawaii. What an honor!

Another big mahalo to everyone that helped at this year's festival to mix andagi batter and cook it up! They were yummy! 🙏



Congratulations to the art contest winners!



Thank you to the prize volunteers!



# Autumn Dance Matsuri at HOC

More Autumn Matsuri Photos—Pg 15

A huge crowd dances the night away at HOC's Autumn Dance Matsuri

## Hawaii Okinawa Center Holiday Craft Fairs

This holiday season the Hawaii United Okinawa Association will again host two of Hawaii's premier Craft Fairs. On November 25th to November 26th, the Hawaii Okinawa Center will open its doors for the thousands of anxious shoppers trying to find that special holiday gift and don't forget to reserve December 6th for our "An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair."

### 2017 Winter Craft Fair

November 25th - 26th  
Saturday - 9am to 3pm  
Sunday - 9am to 2pm

Hawaii Okinawa Center

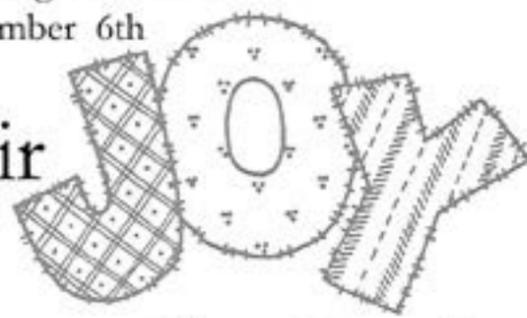
94-587 Ukee St. - Waipio Gentry

Parking available at the Center &

across the street from 76gas Hawaii/Zippys

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

(Donor to receive a coupon for one free andagi, one coupon per person - per day)



### "An Evening in Waipio"

December 6th - Wednesday

5:30pm to 9:00pm

Great Shopping  
Delicious Food - Andagi  
Santa - Silent Auction

A special mahalo to organizing clubs Gaza Yonagusuku Dosbi Kai, Ginowan Shijin Kai, Ginoza Sonjin Kai, Gusbichan Sonjin Kai for the Winter Craft Fair and Haeburu Club, Haneji Club & Bito Dosbi Kai for the Evening Craft Fair.

# Taiko Aloha in Fukushima!

By Melissa Ching, RMD Hawaii, Central Oahu Leader

This past July, members of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii were fortunate to travel to Fukushima, Japan, to participate in the Fukushima Hawaii Bon Dance Festival in honor of Fukushima City's 110th Anniversary.

One of the best parts about being a member of RMD is getting to meet fellow club members from around the world and this trip was no exception! Members from chapters throughout Japan traveled to Fukushima to join us for the performance. We really enjoyed the opportunity to talk story (even if we had to resort to pantomime at times!) and get to know the members from our sister chapters. Amazingly though, as soon as we turned the music on, all communication challenges disappeared and we were totally in sync!

For RMD Hawaii member Christine Kim, being able to perform with members from other chapters felt amazing and it was her favorite part of the whole trip. Everyone was filled with so much energy and enthusiasm despite the super humid weather. It was an awesome experience she will never forget!

While I loved the chance to meet and perform with our fellow RMD members in Fukushima City, my best memory of the trip is of our visit to Iwaki City. Before we left for Japan, club members, friends and family folded 1,000 origami cranes to represent our good wishes, hopes and encouragement for the people who were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. When we first approached the beach, it seemed like any other,



Akemi Martin Sensei and members of RMD Hawaii presented 1,000 origami cranes to symbolize their good wishes and encouragement to those who were affected by the tsunami.



Members of RMD Hawaii are joined by members of RMD Fukushima, Miyagi, Saitama and Tochigi.

until Mr. Suzuki of the Iwaki Hawaii Koryu Kyokai pointed out the controversial seawall that is being built there and explained that six years ago, the now-empty beach had been full of homes, all of which had been destroyed by the tsunami.

At first, it felt a bit eerie to reflect on the vast emptiness, but as we presented the *Senbazuru* (1,000 origami cranes) and performed *taiko* in the shadow of the Shioyazaki lighthouse, with fellow RMD members from RMD Fukushima and RMD Miyagi, we began to feel a deep sense of unity and hope.

When I first began playing *taiko* with RMD Hawaii, I had no idea that what started out as just a fun hobby would lead to so many incredible experiences and such deep and lasting relationships. Our members are already looking forward to returning to Japan to reconnect with our new friends!

## UJSH Celebrates 43rd Annual Senior Citizen Festival

The United Japanese Society of Hawaii (UJSH) held its 43rd Annual Senior Citizen Festival: "Nenchosha Ian Engei Taikai." This year, 26 individuals who were 80 years old were honored, including a number of HUOA members.



HUOA President Vince Watabu (far left) congratulates HUOA honorees (L-R): Barbara Akamine, Carl Nakamura, Ethel Kawahara, Irene Ishiyama, Eleanor Miyasaki, Danie Zukemura, Jean Ige, and Franklin and Emmie Otake.

## Rimi and Friends



Rimi Natsukawa with Sean Sadaoka, Kenton Odo, June Nakama, Kentaro Oshiro, Radio Okinawa's Miuta Taisho Grand Prix winner Airi Ishimine, Mami Tafuku, and Hideyuki Maekawa (Director, Radio Okinawa). Missing: Radio Okinawa's Tomio Hirata

## Opportunity To Host A High School Student From Okinawa

Twenty-five high school students from Okinawa will be arriving on Saturday, February 17, 2018.

Homestay families must have a high school student willing to host and escort their guest to their own high school for five school days during the two-week period. This will provide a tremendous opportunity to learn about Okinawa and to share our Hawaiian lifestyle.

Homestay period: Feb. 17 - March 3, 2018.

Hawaii students who are willing to host will have the opportunity to spend two weeks in Okinawa, usually hosted by the student that you will have "adopted" into your family while they are here with you. The Okinawa portion of the exchange program will be June 8-23, 2018.

Application forms will be posted on our website: [www.huoa.org](http://www.huoa.org). If you have questions, please email: [edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:edhuoa@hawaii.rr.com).

### *The Perfect Storm... continued from page 4.*

And while the festival was over, our job was not. On Monday, volunteers came out to help with breakdown and cleanup. Things were strategically packed away into the storage containers, tents came down, trash removed, and slowly but surely, we cleared out the park grounds. That evening, we



celebrated alongside our out-of-town visitors at the Aloha Party and were treated to a surprise performance by Rimi; she even took photos with each table! It was the perfect close to a wonderful festival.

So, I leave you with this – *Ukaji deebiru* (because of you). It is because of you the 35th Okinawan Festival was a HUGE success! To the attendees – thank you for your support and for your patience as you braved the long lines; to the City and County of Honolulu, Sun Noodles and many other vendors – thank you for your generous contributions, whether monetary or in-kind; to our entertainers – thank you for sharing your talents with us; and last but not least, to our volunteers – thank you for the countless hours of dedication and hard work. We truly hope you enjoyed this year's Okinawan Festival! *Ippe Niffee Deebiru.*

### *Autumn Matsuri photos continued from page 13.*



*Waipahu High Class of '83... a mini reunion with Terry Goya at the Autumn Dance Matsuri.*



*Patrick Miyashiro dancing and enjoying the evening!*

## Okinawan Proverb of the Month

(Chosen by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members)

Isujuru naaka du yoonnaa

いすじゆる なーか どう よーんなー。

### English:

When in a rush, you also have to be calm. Be aware, and slow down.

### Japanese:

いそいでいるときこそ、気をつけて。

(いそがば まわれ)

## Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

#### September

**nana-nan-ka, n.** The Buddhist memorial service on the forty-ninth day after death. Same as shijuukunichi. See also nanka.

#### October

**yii-maaru•u, n.** [yuimawari] A system of cooperative exchange of labor; chipping in on a labor project common to the village such a harvesting rice or building a house. Also yuimaaru.

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

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendar!*

# HOT

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

## November

- 5 HOC Clean-up by Nago Club
- 8 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 12 2017 Legacy Award Banquet, Hilton Hawaiian
- 13 Peace Boat members to visit HOC
- 19 Nomura Ryu Dento Ongaku Kai Concert, 2-4:30 pm, HOC  
Aloha Party to follow
- 22 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY-HOC Office Closed
- 24 Winter Craft Fair Set-up
- 25-26 Winter Craft Fair; Sat 9am-3pm & Sun 9am-2pm, HOC

## December

- 5 Evening in Waipio Craft Set-up
- 6 Evening in Waipio Craft Fair, 5:30-9pm, HOC
- 13 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 25 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY-HOC Office Closed

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

- HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\*
- Ichi Go Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm\*
- Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm\*
- Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm\*
- Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7pm, contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374
- Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\*
- Okinawan Genealogical Society meeting: next meeting on 1/27/18
- Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm\*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm\*
- \*for more information, please call 676-5400
- \*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 9/22/17)

Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 p.m. and repeat the following Thursday at 5 p.m. on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. However, 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 high definition shows on Hawaiian Telcom's channels 1049 and 1053.

All 'Olelo shows are streamed on the Internet at [www.olelo.org](http://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](http://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.

Nov 4, Sat, 7 pm, Nov 9 & 16, Thurs, 5 pm "Highlights of Irei Sai - Honoring 12 Okinawan POWs Who Died in Hawaii." Journey of group from Okinawa to Hawaii in June 2017. The group included two former POWs and descendants of the deceased POWs whose remains have not yet been returned to their families in Okinawa.

Nov 18, Sat, 7 pm, Nov 23, Thurs, 5 pm Thanksgiving Special featuring the Goats Brigade to Okinawa in 1949.

Dec 2, Sat, 7 pm, Dec 7 & 14, Thurs, 5 pm Show One of Highlights of the 2016 Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa, featuring the opening parade down Kokusai Dori, and the Opening Ceremony in the Okinawa Cellular Stadium.

Dec 16, Sat, 7 pm, Dec 21 & 28 (and possibly Jan 4, 2018), Thurs, 5 pm Holiday Show featuring the 2017 Oahu Children's Cultural Day Camp.

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