



THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION  
www.huoa.org

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## The 2018 Legacy Awards Banquet

Every year, the HUOA honors people and organizations for their outstanding achievements in their respective fields and for making significant contributions to our local, national and international communities. On October 14, family, friends and supporters gathered at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to celebrate this year's honorees. In a moving tribute, we recognized Thomas Taro Higa; Satoru Izutsu, Ph.D; from the

of the program began with an Okinawan Eisa performance by Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) performing for Patsy Young. This was followed by a hula by Patsy's nieces Whitney Grohowski and Lee-Anne Miyahira. A very touching moment was when Helene and Celia Waihe'e sang for their brother and sister. Other performances were by Dr. Izutsu's nephew Dr. Cedric Akau on the ukulele and joined with Sabrina and Kalei Akau doing the hula.



Nakasone Dance Academy, Lisa Nakasone Nakandakari, Keith Oshiro and Julia Okamura; John and Lynne Waihe'e; and Patsy Young.

The honorees were touched by the video interviews of family and friends produced by the Hawaii Okinawa Today crew. A program booklet for all our guests contained bios and personal photos of our honorees, while a large poster board of the bio page served as a backdrop for picture taking with friends.

A special touch is the entertainment, which the honorees themselves ask to be performed. It was so appropriate that the start of the Honorees section

Students of the Nakasone Dance Academy performed for Lisa, Keith and Julia, and Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyuu Choichi Kai Hawaii played for Thomas Higa.

The emcees were Jill Kuramoto and Jon Itomura. Kimberly Hope provided music during lunch as well as the honoree's favorite songs as they went onstage and back. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event very special for the honorees. To everyone who attended, thank you. To all those who missed the event, be sure to come next year. You're sure to enjoy a very special time.

*More Legacy photos on Page 4.*

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## President's Message

By Courtney Takara



### Haitai and Aloha!

The year has passed in a flash and we are nearing the end of 2018. The last few months have been full of fun and memorable events, especially our HUOA Study Tour.

Former HUOA president Jon Itomura led our tour of 30 members. Thank you to Barbara Maeshiro and Fran Yamamoto of Trans Pacific Tours for coordinating the tour. We arrived in Okinawa just days after a major typhoon (*Trami*). Then, another typhoon (*Kong Rey*) passed through while we were staying in Naha. As a result, we had to reschedule our visit to Kencho, the Okinawa Prefectural Government building, and luckily had a surprise visit with newly elected Governor Denny Tamaki. Thank you to Satoko Kaneshi and our friends at Kencho for helping to coordinate the visit.

We visited many cultural and historical sites, but the best part of the tour was meeting with friends in Okinawa and interacting with locals. The Oshiro family of Toyo Printing and their staff provided a tour of their factory in Itoman and



While touring Kencho, the Okinawa Prefectural Government building, newly elected Governor Denny Tamaki made a surprise appearance and took a photo with our study tour group.

generously hosted a lunch. We visited Nakagusuku Village, one of my ancestral villages, and got to visit Mayor Keisuke Hamada and Lord Gosamaru. We also joined the estimated 250,000 people for the Naha Tsunahiki or giant tug-of-war. Finally, we ended the tour with a huge Aloha Party on our last night in Okinawa. Thank you to Howard Asato and Laverne Higa for donating the awesome entertainment for the evening, including the *eisa* group Requios and dancers from Udui Haru. Banjo Ai also came to perform. The guest list included



Members of the "Hiyamakasa Study Tour Sanshin Band." These six tour members each brought home a new sanshin from Okinawa.

members of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai, Okinawa Prefectural Government, and many other friends and relatives.

After returning from Okinawa, we had the Legacy Awards luncheon. Congratulations to all of our well-deserving honorees. Your many accomplishments and achievements have contributed to our success. We watched Fusako Shida Sensei and the graceful dancers of Choyo Ryu during their benefit concert and we closed out October with our Uchinanchu no Hi celebration.

Congratulations to the Ginoza Sonjin Kai on their 70th Anniversary and *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to Mayor Atsushi Toma and members of Ginoza Village for sharing their outstanding performance with the people of Hawaii. Thank you to the Young Okinawans of Hawaii for hosting their annual Senior Luncheon. I also want to thank all of our awesome volunteers, especially Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club, Hui O Laulima, Hui Makaala, Ishikawa Shijin Kai and Onna Sonjin Kai for their hard work at the Winter Craft Fair, and Itoman Shijin Kai, Kin Chojin Kai and Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai for An Evening in Waipio Craft Fair.

To all of our HUOA members, thank you for your support and hard work throughout 2018. We did a phenomenal job of carrying out this year's theme, *Hiyamakasa – Rallying together for everyone's success*. I sincerely thank you for making 2018 such a memorable year. I look forward to working together with you all as we support Jo Ige for a successful 2019.

*Wishing you and your families Happy Holidays,  
Courtney*



# UCHINANCHU

*Ippee Nifee 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 *ippee nifee deebiru* to the following donors. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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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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## SAVE THE DATE!

### Uchinanchu of the Year and 69<sup>th</sup> Installation Banquet

**Please mark January 19, 2019, on  
your calendars and join us for HUOA's  
Uchinanchu of the Year & 69th  
Installation Banquet.**

**Come and support your club's  
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incoming officers and advisors, and say  
thanks to this year's officers and advisors  
for their hard work! This is always an  
entertaining and memorable event.  
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**SEE YOU THERE!**

## 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 [hua@hua.org](mailto:hua@hua.org). *Uchinanchu* reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

HUOA President ..... Courtney Takara  
Interim Executive Director ..... Ford Chinen  
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*Uchinanchu* reaches over 9,700 households. For advertising rates and more information, contact us at: Tel: (808) 676-5400 – Email: [hua@hua.org](mailto:hua@hua.org) – [www.hua.org](http://www.hua.org)

## Uchinanchu no Hi in Hawaii

HUOA celebrated *Uchinanchu no Hi* on October 29. While the actual World Uchinanchu Day is October 30, we celebrated a day early to be in sync with Okinawa. Friends from Okinawa joined HUOA members in a local style potluck. We also watched the play, "Hiyamikachi Uchinaa," that tells the story of Shinsuke Taira, a colleague of Kyuzo Toyama, and how he helped the Okinawan immigrants. Shinsuke Taira also wrote the lyrics to the popular Okinawan folk song "Hiyamikachi Bushi."



## *Uchinanchu no Hi* in Maryland

By Robbie Umeno

While visiting my daughter, Tylar, in Maryland, I had the good fortune of attending one of the World *Uchinanchu no Hi* celebrations hosted by the Okinawa Kai of Washington, D.C. The Okinawa Kai is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving the traditions of Okinawa and increasing the understanding of Okinawan culture.



Robbie and Morris Umeno of Hawaii with their daughter, Tylar Umeno, attend the *Uchinanchu no Hi* celebration with Okinawa Kai of Washington, D.C.

My family attended a buffet luncheon at the Osaka Grill and Buffet in Crofton, MD. After a hearty lunch, we gathered in small groups for a



Sing along leaders (L-R): Fusako McColm, Shizuko Jacobson and Dennis Asato on sanshin.

Yuntaku session. We played several games—Okinawa True or False, Jan Ken Po, and two guessing games. Playing accompaniment on his sanshin was Dennis Asato of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai. Fusako McColm and Shizuko Jacobson led us in a group sing-along of *Tinsagu nu Hana*, *Shin Asadoya Yunta*, and *Densa Bushi*.

By the end of the afternoon, strangers became friends, joined together by our shared *Uchinanchu* pride.

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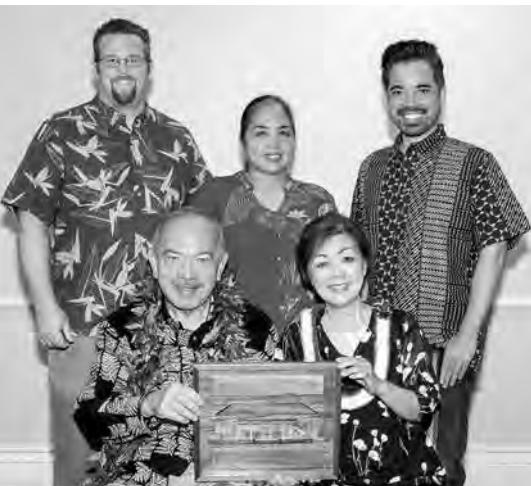
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**2018 Legacy Awards... continued from Page 1**

## JTB JCEC Makes Donation

The HUOA again received a donation from the JTB Japan Cultural Exchange Corporation (JCEC) for its commitment to strengthen positive relations between Japan and the



Vince Watabu and Ford Chinen accept the donation check from Kyoji Koitabashi and Minako Sugiyama.

United States. During the visit by branch manager Kyoji "Kevin" Koitabashi, and account manager Minako Sugiyama, Ford Chinen and Vince Watabu shared details of HUOA's working relations with Okinawa, including our student exchange program. The JCEC is a non-profit corporation for the purpose of fostering greater cultural exchange between the citizens of Japan and the United States. ■

## Passing of the Baton for Okinawan Hawaii Kyokai (OHK)

Members of the Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai (OHK) met on November 11 at Jimmy's Naha to hold a turnover meeting and celebratory dinner. Choko Takayama turned over the OHK Presidency to Akira Yamauchi, effective November 1, 2018.

Takayama-san served as OHK President for over eight years. During Takayama-san's tenure, OHK helped to coordinate appointments for HUOA's annual Aisatsu trip, plan the Irei Sai memorial service in 2017, and of course, support the completion of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

Yamauchi-san's background is in education; he served as Superintendent of Education and was the first principal at Okinawa AMICUS International. HUOA looks forward to working with Yamauchi-san and OHK as we continue to strengthen the bonds between Okinawa and Hawaii.



Laverne Higa presents a letter of appreciation from HUOA to Choko Takayama of OHK for his years of leadership. Photo by Colin Sewake



Laverne Higa presents a congratulatory letter from HUOA to Akira Yamauchi upon becoming the new OHK President. Photo by Colin Sewake

HUOA sent letters to Takayama-san and Yamauchi-san, which were presented at the dinner by former HUOA President Laverne Higa. Both Takayama-san and Yamauchi-san expressed their thanks to HUOA. Takayama-san was also recognized for being selected as an honoree of the 54th Annual Ryukyu Shimpo Awards. This prestigious award was for his leadership and many accomplishments that have made a positive impact on Okinawan education and society. ■

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# Grant "Sandaa" Murata Expresses His Appreciation through Hawaii Theatre Performance

*Uya ni kansha  
Shishou ni kansha  
Umanchu ni kansha*

On November 17, Utanshinsin Master Grant "Sandaa" Murata, showcased his storied journey in the Okinawan performing arts through Hawaii's first *Dokuen Kai*, or Solo Recital, at the historic Hawaii Theatre. The production, entitled "*Hou On Sha Toku*," loosely translates as "A Selfless Resolve with Sincere Honor and Gratitude," focused on the deep appreciation he has for his grandparents, parents, *sensei* and the entire community.

Sandaa Sensei, as he is affectionately called, truly feels like his life's work could not have been possible without the many people who guided, taught and generously shared of themselves. Some things in his life were shaped by fate, others by perseverance and sheer will despite challenges and fear of the unknown.

Sandaa Sensei has been steadfast in enriching the Hawaii Uchinanchu and Japanese communities through his knowledge of history and culture, his role as an ambassador and avid scholar of the Okinawan performing arts, but most of all through teaching *uta-sanshin* as the leader of Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Ongaku Kenkyu Choichi Kai USA. With guidance and encouragement of Grand Master Choichi Terukina, a Living National Treasure of Japan, Sandaa Sensei has guided the first Afuso Ryu style school outside of Japan to flourish throughout the neighbor islands and U.S. mainland.

The recent recital showcased *koten* or traditional *uta-sanshin* accompanied by local and visiting *odori* schools, and, in the second part, through a lively *minyo* or folk style performance with close friend and renowned artist from Okinawa, Shuken Maekawa, or Genchan! Guests were treated to wonderful music and performances, local and visiting *sensei* and performers, and a series of surprises such as a historical reflections of Sandaa Sensei's performing arts life through a video, an impromptu talk story with Grand



Master Choichi Terukina, and a vibrant commemorative program booklet.

As we seldom have opportunities to watch Okinawan performances at venues such as the Hawaii Theatre, it was certainly an event to remember. Guests, performers, planners and volunteers were all elated throughout the celebration, and the warm *chimugukuru* of our community was ever-present through the months of planning and culminating with the event. Just as Sandaa Sensei reflected on his journey to share his appreciation, we each can be inspired to share a same sense of gratitude and commitment to pass our beautiful culture to the next generations, each in our own special way.



## Anthology Project to Commemorate 120th Anniversary of Okinawans in Hawaii

The year 2020 marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first Okinawans in Hawaii. Although it is a little more than a year away, a project commemorating this significant milestone has been on the drawing board since early 2018. This project will ultimately take the form of a multimedia collection—a mixed anthology, if you will—of original works about our Okinawan heritage in Hawaii and will be ready sometime in 2020. This project is partially funded by a generous Hui O Laulima Cultural Grant for 2019.

This anthology will contain original materials submitted by people in the community about what it means to be *Uchinanchu* in Hawaii. What makes this collection different from others is that it will not be limited to written literary materials, but will also include other media and forms of expression, as there are various kinds of talent in our community.

This commemorative multimedia collection will be as creative as the works that people choose to submit and the hope is that people will contribute their talents—do what they do best—to leave something for future generations. Some examples are: essays, poems, short stories, oral histories, drawings/paintings, photographs, computer graphics, and other art forms, including music, and dance. Multiple submissions are welcome and every effort will be made to include as many as possible; however, editors reserve the right to select as space permits.

The organizers of this project are Lynette Teruya, Allison Yanagi, and Jodie Ching. All three were recipients of Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarships, studied in Okinawa, and are also involved with Okinawan performing arts.

They came up with this project to commemorate the upcoming 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the hope that it could further strengthen the links and bonds between the past, present, and future generations of our community. They saw it as a means of honoring those who came before us, while inviting community engagement by showcasing people's creativity/talent in telling our stories of being *Uchinanchu* in Hawaii, and leaving something for those who come after us. The organizers feel that everyone has a story to tell and it does not necessarily have to be only in written form; organizers want people to have fun with this.

When people tell their own stories and speak for themselves, they are empowered. This project is an opportunity, especially for those "voices" that have yet to be heard, to create an impression in our memory foam of the Okinawan community. So share your stories of your Okinawan heritage in any form of expression you choose!

### CALL FOR ORIGINAL WORKS

Theme: Our Okinawan Heritage in Hawaii

Submission Period: Accepting submissions of works from now until June 30, 2019

Anything that is Okinawan-themed and tied to our heritage here in Hawaii is acceptable.

The submissions could have historical and/or cultural themes, including artistic expressions.

Please help get the word out about this project so that people hear about it and will consider submitting their works. Thank you!

Any questions? Email [hi.uchinanchui900@gmail.com](mailto:hi.uchinanchui900@gmail.com) or call (808) 295-3828.

Submit works to:  
[hi.uchinanchui900@gmail.com](mailto:hi.uchinanchui900@gmail.com)

# Haebaru Middle Students Visit

By Ann Oshiro Wong

What were 10 students from Haebaru Town in Okinawa doing over nine days on Oahu in October? These select students were participants in the 25<sup>th</sup> Haebaru Town International Exchange Program, which was started by HUOA Haebaru Club Vice President Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro in the 1990s. The 13- to 15-year-old students stayed with host families, attended middle school, experienced Hawaii, and made lasting memories and friendships.

To date, approximately 180 middle school students and their chaperones—totaling 225 people over 25 years—have participated in this valuable program, which is sponsored by Haebaru Town and occurs every other year.

The students stay with a host family for two evenings where they participate in activities such as hiking Diamond Head, going to the beach, shopping, or just “hanging out.”

The students then stay at the Pagoda Hotel and walk to nearby Washington Middle School where they attend classes, enjoy lunch, and have an excursion alongside their new friends.

Some of the sightseeing places visited on the trip include: Hawaii Okinawa Center, Hawaiian Memorial Park, Makapuu Point, Waimanalo Beach, Punchbowl Crater, Iolani Palace, King Kamehameha Statue, The Battleship Missouri, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum, Moanalua Gardens Park, and Hawaii Plantation Village.

Haebaru Town Board of Education members Taiki Oshiro and Hiroko Takara and the Honorable Mayor Masayuki Akamine accompanied the



Haebaru students and chaperones are joined by Mayor Akamine, Ford Chinen, and Yoshinobu Oshiro at the HOC.



Haebaru students enjoy themselves at the Aloha Party

students. Mayor Akamine spoke of the importance of this International Exchange Program, which encourages young people to communicate with others internationally and to have an awareness and exposure to other cultures. He fully supports the program and its continued success and is thankful for the efforts of Haebaru Club members and host families.

At the Aloha Party on the last evening, *lei* were presented and numerous gifts and hugs were exchanged. The Haebaru students gave a presentation about Haebaru Town's economy and life. They also performed two dances: Haebaru Ondo (Bon dance) and Kariyushi Itoman, which celebrated the town industries of *kasuri* (weaving textile material), sugarcane, and *kabocha*.

Toward the end of the event, many tears were shed in anticipation of their return home. Many students exclaimed, “I've had so much fun here, I don't want to go back to

Okinawa!” We hope they return to Hawaii soon as they will surely be welcomed again!

This is truly a *hiyamikasa* (rallying together for everyone's success) event!

Haebaru Club members send a heartfelt *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* for the continued support of the HUOA, Haebaru Town officials, and host families who all contribute their part to make this valuable program a success.

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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 \$25,227.07 and a very generous donation from the Okinawa Fundraising Committee of 13,000,000 yen. We are humbled by the support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations. The Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be our testament to the future of Okinawan culture in Hawaii.

We are appreciative to the clubs and their members who have continually supported us. We would like to welcome Aza Yogi Doshi Kai to our 200 for 2M Campaign. Magukuru Kara Ippee Nifee Deebiru – from our hearts, thank you very much.

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JAMES M. TAMASHIRO FAMILY, IN MEM-  
ORY OF MARTHA KAME TAMASHIRO  
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IN MEMORY OF KENNETH K.  
& HAZEL C. UEHARA

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Donations listed below were received October 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018.

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In Memory of Goro Sakima by Ginowan  
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# Preserving Our Legacy

2018 TO 2019 ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM



**T**hank you, to the many members and businesses that have supported our 2017/2018 Annual Giving Campaign and making it such a great success. We are deeply grateful for the confidence you have shown in us by giving us your donation dollars.

As we start our new campaign, we are reminded by our Association's theme, "Hiyamikasa, rallying together for everyone's success." It has been the support of our members that allows our organization to succeed. From the 2018 Installation and Uchinanchu of the Year Banquet, to the Okinawan Festival at the Hawaii Convention Center, and finally to our Evening Craft Fair in December, you have volunteered and contributed towards the success of each event. We are forever grateful.

Please join us in 2019, in helping our culture thrive and grow. It is through your continued contributions we are able to have successful cultural programs and upkeep our home - the Hawaii Okinawa Center. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*

The following list of donors reflects contributions from October 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018.

**GOLD - (\$1,000 TO \$2,499)**

In Memory of Jane F. Serikaku by Nancy, Elise, Jeannine & Derek Miura

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In Memory of Betty Higa Omura by Mary Jeanine & Clifford Provencal

In Memory of Mr. Matusuke Oshiro by Milton & Maddie Oshiro

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**FRIEND - (\$99 AND BELOW)**

Ken M. Takemoto (2)

## Natsumero Karaoke/Fashion Show and Fusako Shida Concert Benefit the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza

**T**he HUOA and the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza (HOP) Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the leaders, organizers, performers, and volunteers who helped to put on two wonderful evenings of entertainment and fashion at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The Natsumero Karaoke/Fashion Show held on September 4 featured beautiful fashion designs by Mitsuko Yamauchi Sensei, one of the best-known Okinawan fashion designers and debuted her Ocho Emaki

from Tokyo, emcee James Tengan of NHK World, Choko Takayama and the members of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai (OHK), and our local performers who collaborated together to put on an amazing performance.

In addition, three very special individuals had the vision and leadership to make these events possible and successful. Ms. Keiko Ura was the driving force who used all of her past experiences and relationships to serve as producer for both events. Mr. Asami Ginoza of OHK served as co-chair for the events and worked continuously to promote them in Okinawa. Dr. Ryokichi Higashionna also served as co-chair for the events taking care of logistics and organizing the many volunteers. *Ippee Nifee Deebiru!*



Mitsuko Yamauchi Sensei debuted her Ocho Emaki fashion designs in Hawaii. The fashion show also featured hula by Halau Hula Keala O Na Pua and karate by Uechi Ryu Ageda Josei Dojo.



Renowned classical Ryukyuan dancer, Fusako Shida Sensei made a presentation to Chris Shimabukuro of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza during her benefit concert, "Mirukuyu nu Kaji."

collection at the event. A special thank you goes out to Yamauchi Sensei as well as Hatsuko Machida Sensei, Kumu Hula Midori Tanaka, and Etsuko



History was made when dancers representing five of the local dance schools in Hawaii performed "Mirukuyu nu Kaji" together. Fusako Shida Sensei composed the song and choreographed the dance in honor of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza.

Ashimine Sensei. For the karaoke portion of the show, a special thank you goes to Myoko Teruya, the leader of the talented group of singers from Japan, and all our Hawaii singers. Their beautiful voices brought joy to the audience as they heard the nostalgic melodies.

The Fusako Shida Concert, titled "Mirukuyu Nu Kaji - On the Wings of Peace and Aloha," was held on October 27. It featured Fusako Shida Sensei, one of the most distinguished performers of classical Ryukyuan dance. She composed the song, "Mirukuyu Nu Kaji," and choreographed a dance as a special dedication to the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza. A special thank you goes out to Shida Sensei, the dancers of Choyo Ryu, the students and musicians who made the trip

Deebiru, Keiko-san, Ginoza-san, and Higashionna-san, for two wonderful and amazing events!

The HUOA and HOP Committee would also like to thank everyone who attended and supported these performances. The net proceeds from both events were donated to the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza project. In turn, the income from the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza will be used to support the programs of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

# 70th Anniversary Celebration of Ginoza Sonjin Kai

**S**imilar to other member clubs that comprise the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, Ginoza Sonjin Kai was formed as the result of informal social groups based on place of origin, language, companionship, mutual aid, security, and so forth to serve the needs of the *Issei*. In 1948, Ginoza Sonjin Kai was officially formed with 21 charter member families.

The *Issei* began immigrating to Hawaii in the early 1900s, when Hawaii was an unknown land that held promises of riches and freedom. Ginoza was part of Kin Village (now Kin Town) until 1946 when Ginoza separated from Kin. In 2016, Ginoza Son (Village) commemorated its 70th anniversary of the establishment of their village government. On November 30, 2018, the Hawaii Ginoza Sonjin Kai celebrated the 70th Anniversary of its inception.

Performers from Ginoza Village presented a commemorative performance at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Thursday, November 29. Then on Friday, November 30, Ginoza Sonjin Kai's members and friends together with 94 *Ginozanchus* to celebrate the anniversary at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Manoa Grand Ballroom.

The 70th Anniversary Ceremony included opening remarks from Ginoza Village Planning Section Chief Takahiro Shinzato and congratulatory speeches from Vice Mayor Satoshi Yamashiro on behalf of Mayor Touma, Ginoza Village Assembly Chair Mikiya Ishikawa, and HUOA President Courtney Takara.

Gifts were presented by Hawaii Ginoza Sonjin Kai President David Shinsato to Ginoza Village, Ginoza's Sokei District, and Ginoza's Ginoza District in appreciation of their performance and visit. A koa clock was also presented to the Mayor of Ginoza in appreciation of his efforts to strengthen the ties between Ginoza Village and the Hawaii Ginoza Sonjin Kai. Ginoza Village made substantial donations towards both the performance and the

## Ginoza Son Geinou Gouryu Kouen (Yui) Vol. 2

**G**inoza is a small village in the middle of Okinawa island, with a population of approximately 6,000. Primarily an agricultural community, Ginoza had also once been a retreat for aristocrats of the Ryukyu Kingdom who enjoyed the arts of music and dance. These performing arts have been



passed down through the generations and continue to flourish today.

In 1946, Ginoza established itself as an independent village, separating itself from Kin Town. Two years ago, in celebration of the village government's 70th anniversary, Ginoza Son sent a contingent of approximately 80 individuals to Hawaii to present a special performance of the traditional arts—primarily featuring residents from the districts of Matsuda and Kanna. Those who attended that event in February 2016 will surely recall a wonderful evening of spirited performances.

Ginoza Son recently sent another group to Hawaii, this time primarily from the districts of Ginoza, Sokei and Fukuyama, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Hawaii Ginoza Sonjinkai. The Hawaii Ginoza Sonjinkai was founded in 1948 by emigrants from Ginoza Son. Over the years, the ties between Ginoza Son and Hawaii Ginoza Sonjinkai have been strong and continue to grow through a series of visits and cultural exchanges.



celebratory event. After the formal part of the program, dinner entertainment was provided by Nellie and Daniel Baduria, followed by door prizes, games, *eisa* performance by the *Ginozanchus*, a photo booth, and Ginoza Sonmin *Ondo* participation dance. Each guest received mementos of the event: a towel with an embroidered Ginoza logo and a printed program with pictures of the charter members, past presidents, *Uchinanchus* of the Year, past activities, and a brief history of the club.

The highlight of the evening was relatives and friends reconnecting with Hawaii Ginoza Sonjin Kai's members and friends.



Hawaii and Okinawa Ginozanchu end the 70th Anniversary celebration with Kachashi.

relatives or friends in the group and also many of the *Ginozanchus* informed relatives in Hawaii of their impending arrival. Therefore, as much as possible, relatives and friends were seated together. The mood, the atmosphere and energy in the room was exhilarating with people reconnecting, connecting or making new friends. The whirlwind visit was an adrenaline-charged experience for all.

## Ginoza Son Geinou Gouryu Kouen (Yui) Vol. 2

On November 29, a concert of music and dance entitled "Ginoza Son Geinou Gouryu Kouen (Yui) Vol. 2" was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, featuring performers from Okinawa and Hawaii. Joining the Ginoza Son performers were Hawaii Ginoza Sonjinkai members Dazz Toguchi and the Ishikawa Family (Judy Tome, Linda Asato, Emily Tome and Miley Tome).

An audience of approximately 300 enjoyed the dinner and concert. No two performances were alike as they varied in era, tempo, attire, and length. Performers wore everything from simple farm clothing to elaborate ceremonial garb and headwear. In between the dances, emcee Vince Watabu interspersed interesting facts and tidbits about Ginoza Son.

The program opened with Sokei district's "Mijitayaa," a communal dance in which four men and four women dance using their hands and arms. The Sokei district in Ginoza Son is the only place that still performs this number in the entire prefecture. In 1996, it was designated as an *Intangible Piece of Folk or Cultural Heritage* by Ginoza Son (village-designated).

Another highlight was Ginoza district's version of "Chondaraa," which was brought to Ginoza by Toguchi Bukyou in 1900, and has been performed within the village ever since (over 100 years). In 1985, Okinawa Prefecture designated this as an *Intangible Piece of Folk or Cultural History*. This unusual and evocative performance was unlike any previously seen in Hawaii.

Ginoza Son Vice Mayor Satoshi Yamashiro addressed the

audience on behalf of Mayor Atsushi Touma, who was unable to attend. In his greeting, the vice mayor emphasized the connection between Ginoza Son and Hawaii and his desire to strengthen those bonds. Through ongoing interactions and cultural exchanges such as this, we hope to continue with many more fruitful years of cooperation and support.

# YOH Holiday Senior Luncheon 2018

**M**ost people may know and recognize the Young Okinawans of Hawaii for its role in passing down traditional *eisa taiko* and dance at *bon* dances throughout Oahu, Maui and Hawaii Island. While *obon* is traditionally observed over a three-day period in Okinawa, here in Hawaii, the *obon* season spans the entire summer, which keeps the Young Okinawans busy for eight months out of the year. But without a doubt, the highlight of the year is our Holiday Senior Luncheon, which is our biggest chance to

give back to the Okinawan community by honoring the generations that came before us and are such an important source of knowledge for preserving and perpetuating our heritage.

This year's

event was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center and had a record attendance of just over 400 people. More than 60 volunteers participated, including high school groups from Waipahu High School and Punahoa School.

We had an eclectic array of entertainment lined up, including returning performers Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii, the Uriuzun Kidz with Derek Ichiro Shiroma Sensei and Derek Fujio Sensei, and Ukwanshin Kabudan, as well as special performances by Aolani Silva and Yuya Ikariyama.

Aolani is a talented singer who specializes in Japanese *enka* music. In 2014, she was the youngest-ever KZOO Grand Champion Junior Division winner at the age of 10. *Door prizes are handed out to our Senior Luncheon attendees.*

Aolani performed her own rendition of *Hole Hole Bushi* and other popular hits like Disney's Let It Go (in Japanese) and I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.



## HUOA DONATIONS

October 1 to November 30, 2018

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

Haebaru Town

Jean Nishimura

E. K. Serikaku

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Koa Bowl

### HUOA VIDEO

Hui O Laulima

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In Honor of Patsy K. Young by Ruth Ono

In Memory of Harry Y. Tome by Jo Ann Tome

In Memory of Gladys Aiko Yamashiro by Tsuneo Yamashiro

In Memory of Gladys A. Yamashiro, Edward Yamashiro, James T. Yamashiro by Eleanor H. Husnick

Yuya, currently a student at Hawaii Community College in Hilo, is originally from Amami Oshima and plays a style of *uta-sanshin* that is unique to the Amami Islands. Today, Amami is part of Kagoshima prefecture, although it used to be part of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The Amami *sanshin* looks very similar to the *sanshin* found in Okinawa, but the picking and singing styles are notably different and can even be likened closer to that of a Japanese *shamisen*. This style of *uta-sanshin* is so rarely heard especially in Hawaii—it was really special to have Yuya perform for our guests.



Rich Kiyabu and Brandon Ing set up for the event.



Jane Higa leads the audience with radio taiso (calisthenics) in Uchinaaguchi.

What many people do not realize is that our Senior Luncheon—including food, transportation, and entertainment—is financed entirely through generous donations and fundraisers held throughout the year. This was our 37th Senior Luncheon, and I am always blown away by the amount of support we receive from the community to help make this event a success.

For the second year in a row, I had the honor of being on the event's planning committee as the Donations Coordinator. Although managing donation requests and relationships with businesses can be challenging, each year I am so humbled by the generosity of the organizations and businesses that join us in honoring our *kupuna* by supporting our event. The Young Okinawans is a relatively small organization, yet each year we strive to make our Senior Luncheon bigger and better, which is no easy feat. But at the end of it all, seeing our *kupuna* smile, hearing them laugh and dance *kachaashii* with arms extended, and realizing how touched they are by our event makes it all worthwhile, and we are grateful for the opportunity to honor them.

## Bowlers Wanted for the HUOA 2019 season Sundays at Leeward Bowl

Contact Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara at 284-0148  
Or email at [germaineisara@icloud.com](mailto:germaineisara@icloud.com)

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## Kumejima Mayor Haruo Ota



HUOA welcomes Haruo Ota, Mayor of Kumejima. Pictured with the Mayor are Tom Yamamoto, Mark Higa, Jocelyn Ige and Ford Chinen.

## AMICUS International



HUOA and WUB (Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Network) leaders met with Ms. Chiaki Maehara (back row, standing on left), the director of Okinawa AMICUS International. Yuichiro "Harry" Matsuda (front row, kneeling on right), a former teacher at AMICUS who is now studying at UH Manoa, coordinated the dinner.

## Okinawa Americana



Merry Megumi Gushi and David Ralston of the band Okinawa Americana performed live on air at KZOO radio. The duo blends the sounds of Okinawan minyo with American blues.

## AlohaIsai



The cast of the Okinawa comedy show, "AlohaIsai, Heart to Heart Connection," led by the famous duo Garage Sale (Gori and Kawata) with emcee Jon Itomura.

## Okinawan Culture Class



HUOA hosted an Okinawan Culture Class for the 67th Cherry Blossom Festival contestants. Thank you to Jon Itomura, Eric Nitta and HOCA members for teaching the contestants how to do the shishimai and make andagi.

# more Mensore

welcome!



## University of the Ryukyus



Visitors from the University of the Ryukyus including President Hajime Oshiro.

## Ryugin Research Institute



Executive Director Yutaka Kudaka and General Manager Tomoo Takeda from Ryugin Research Institute.

## Peace Boat



Members of the Peace Boat cruise visited the Hawaii Okinawa Center where they learned about the Uchinanchu community in Hawaii and how to make andagi.

## Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai (OHK)



Dinner with OHK members Choko Takayama, Asami Ginoza, Masaji Matsuda, Kazuo Uechi and Hirokazu Miyagi, who were in town for Shida Sensei's concert.

## OPG Tourism



Members from the Okinawa Prefectural Government Tourism Planning Division: Naoki Ishikawa, Supervisor in charge of Tourism Statistics; Kazuyuki Nakazato, Section Chief; and Masaki Toguchi, Supervisor in charge of Tourism Planning.

# CLUB NEWS

*Our clubs, Our Future*

## Ginowan News

Submitted by Jane Nakamura

After a short respite from the Okinawa Festival *andagi* batter mixing, the Ginowan Club met in the early morning of November 24, 2018 and prepared *andagi* batter for the HUOA Craft Fair. Pat Miyashiro, Ellen Higa, Sandy Nishimoto organized 23 Ginowan club volunteers to prepare the *andagi* and *andadog* batter for the craft fair.



(L-R): Pat Miyashiro, Gayle Wong, Jane Nakamura, Linda Kunihsa, Robin Murayama, Ellen Higa, John Tasato, Steven Kunihsa, Dustin Suekawa, Gail Crosson, Rodney Kohagura, Mark Miyashiro, Laurie Ordóñez, Lauren Suekawa, Sandy Nishimoto, Don Yamashita, Leann Quarto, Sharlene Shimada, Chad Wong, Carl Nakamura, Jensen Tamanaha, Charlene Tamanaha, and Robbie Umeno.

2019 SHINNEN ENKAI. Ginowan Club's New Year celebration will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Members over age 80 do not pay to attend. Informational flyers will be sent in February for your responses. 🍽

## Emperor's Birthday Party



Bertha Arakawa, Karen Kuba-Hori and Geraldine Maeda share information about Okinawa and its rich culture during the Emperor's Birthday Reception hosted by the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu. 🍽

## Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshikai Installs New Officers

Submitted by D. Yamagusiku

The Pearl Country Club was the venue of choice for the biennial installation of the 2019-2021 officers on November 11, 2018. The new Board of Directors is a family affair with new President Jeanene Oshiro and husband Melvin Oshiro serving as Sergeant-at-Arms. Dick Ardona will continue his second term as Vice President along with his wife Kate Ardona as Treasurer. Secretary and Assistant Secretary will be Doreen Yamashiro and her uncle Katsuo Yamashiro. Joining the Board for the first time is Angie Goya as Assistant Treasurer and her husband David as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. (Yes, those board meetings can get rowdy at times!) Past-President Joanie Gushiken will serve as Club Advisor. Completing his two-year term



President-elect Jeanene Oshiro is congratulated by a very happy retiring President Lynn Nakamura.

as our hard-working President, Lynn Nakamura was named "Chicken Booth Chairman for Life."

The well-attended installation banquet was a full house of descendants of Issei from the southern Okinawa town of Sashiki and the smaller village of Chinen. Enthusiastic attendees had fun playing games and winning or in some cases "stealing" prizes. Nisei James Serikaku had no qualms about beating his great-grandson in a game of "Buu Saa Shi." It was an especially enjoyable evening to talk story with old friends and get acquainted with new members. 🍽



## CONGRATULATIONS TO KONKURU ARTISTS

The HUOA congratulates the following musicians and dancers from Hawaii for their sterling konkuru achievements at the Ryukyu Shimpo Newspaper Company's competition in Okinawa this summer.

### Uta-sanshin:

- Ryūkyū Koten Ongaku Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai:
- Jodie Ching (Yūshūsho: Grant Murata Sensei)
- Yoko Kaneshiro (Yūshūsho: June Nakama Sensei)
- Naomi Oshiro (Yūshūsho: Grant Murata Sensei)
- Bob Yonaha (Yūshūsho: Kenton Odo Sensei)
- Devin Kawamura (Shinjinsho: Kenton Odo Sensei)
- Cassie Nakagawa (Shinjinsho: Grant Murata Sensei)
- Wesley Waniya (Shinjinsho: Grant Murata Sensei)
- Wren Waniya (Shinjinsho: Grant Murata Sensei)
- Cuyler Yogi (Shinjinsho: Grant Murata Sensei)

### Fwano (Fue):

- Ryūkyū Koten Ongaku Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai:
- June Nakama (Yūshūsho: Tomoki Uho Sensei)

### Ryūkyū Buyō (Dance):

Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai, Frances Nakachi

Ryubu Dojo

- Eric Kobayashi (Saikōsho: Frances Nakachi Sensei)
- Azama Honryu
- Aren Pai (Shinjinsho: Allison Yanagi Sensei)

Congratulations to all of you! The HUOA extends its heartiest best wishes for your continued success as you and your respective sensei pursue higher goals of achievements, as well as continue to preserve, perpetuate and promote our beloved Uchinanchu culture - *Omedeto gozaimasu!* 🍽



# A Seed of an Idea

By Shari Tamashiro

**A**fter the Battle of Okinawa devastated the island, many groves of *kuruchi* (Okinawan ebony) trees were destroyed as well. These slow growing trees, a species native to Okinawa, provide the neck (sao) of the *sanshin*. Okinawan ebony is prized for its strength and sound quality, but the trees can take 100 to 200 years to grow big enough for the ebony core to produce the instrument neck. Without access to *kuruchi*, other wood like oak or rosewood from outside of Okinawa are being used.

The lead singer of THE BOOM, Kazufumi Miyazawa, dreamed of planting groves of *kuruchi* trees so "true" Okinawan *sanshin* could be made again. In 2012, he shared his dream with Daiichi Hirata, who immediately decided to *kokua*. They discovered that the city of Yomitan had started a tree project in 2008. Unfortunately, the *kuruchi* trees had been neglected and were lost amidst a thick growth of weeds.

Kazufumi and Daiichi took over the project, rescuing and maintaining the original trees and planting more trees each year. Working closely with Yomitan government officials and the community, they named the project, *Kuruchi nu Mori*.

I have been following this project for years. When I was visiting Okinawa, I sat in on one of their meetings and went to the *Kuruchi* groves in Yomitan. This project is all about *Yuimaaru* (communities supporting one another) and about investing in the future. It also represents so much heart. Most of the people involved are volunteers, bringing together musicians, craftsmen, and



the community. I always wanted to join their efforts and help out in some way.

It started with a seed of an idea: "Let's support the efforts to re-plant the Okinawan ebony trees in Yomitan." Jayne Hirata painted a tree (with *shisa* guarding it) and we asked people if they would donate \$34 (*san + shin*), with each becoming a "leaf" that would help the Hawaii *kuruchi* tree "grow." With the help of many generous individuals, we were able to grow the tree and send it to Okinawa. The result: \$2,400 in donations to support efforts to maintain and plant the *kuruchi* tree groves in Yomitan! With the help of Barbara Maeshiro, we converted the dollars to yen and Jon Itomura personally delivered over 100 percent of the donations to Okinawa.

We wanted to live the value of *Yuimaaru* and not just talk about it. *Mahalo nui loa* and *Ippee Nifee Deebiru* to all of the people who helped us make this small seed of an idea grow into something really beautiful.

If you would like to donate to the *Kuruchi* Tree Project, please contact Shari Tamashiro via email: [pigsfromthesea@gmail.com](mailto:pigsfromthesea@gmail.com) or leave a message at 734-9562.



## Hawaii Okinawa Center Volunteer Luncheon



Ippee Nifee Deebiru to all of our awesome hardworking volunteers, including the gardeners, Monday Crafters, HOT TV & Video Crew, and those that help in the office/library.

## Uchinaa-guchi

(Okinawan language)

### Word of the Month

#### November

**niibu•i, n.** Sleepiness. -*sun*, *vi.* To be sleepy; be drowsy; slumberous

#### December

**uku•i•mun, n.** [okurimono] A present; a gift.

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

## 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The year at a glance!



Jan 19

Uchinanchu of the Year Honorees & Installation Banquet

Feb 4

Okinawa Geijutsu Student Performance

Feb 17-Mar 2

Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange, Phase I

Mar 10

Honolulu Festival Parade

May 25-26

HUOA Goodwill Golf Tournament

June 4-7

Children's Cultural Day Camp

June 9

Pan Pacific Festival Parade

June 14

Senior Health & Wellness Fair



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

# HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## Mark Your Calendar!

### January 2019

- 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR - HOC Office Closed
- 16 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 19 UOY Recognition & Installation Banquet, 10:30am, HOC
- 30 Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC

### February 2019

- 4 Okinawa Geijutsu Student Performance, HOC
- 13 Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
- 17 Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program
- 18 PRESIDENTS DAY - HOC Office Closed

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

HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm\* (first class in 2019: 1/3/19)  
 Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm\* (first class in 2019: 1/15/19)  
 Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm\* (first class in 2019: 1/9/19)  
 Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm\* (first session in 2019: 1/22/19)  
 Kobudo Taiko: every Monday, 7pm, contact Calvin Nakama 224-7374  
 Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am\* (first session in 2019: 1/7/19)  
 Okinawan Genealogical Society mtg: 3rd Saturday, 9am\* (first session in 2019: 1/26/19)  
 Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm\*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm\* (first Tuesday class: 1/8/19, first Thursday class 1/24/19)

\*for more information, please call 676-5400

\*\*Subject to Change\*\* (entries as of 11/30/18)

# HOT

## "HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

For 2019, 'Olelo has granted us the same time slot as in 2018. Our new episodes premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 pm and repeat the following Thursday at 5 pm on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV (53). No HOT show is aired on the fifth Thursday of a month.

All our shows are submitted in high definition format. 'Olelo currently offers HD programming 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.

Dec 15, Sat, 7 pm, Dec 20 & 27, 2018 & Jan 3, 2019 Thurs, 5 pm: 2017 Okinawan Festival (Show Ten). Featuring favorite Okinawan singing sensation Rimi Natsukawa.

Jan 5, Sat, 7 pm, Jan 10 & 17, Thurs, 5 pm: Highlights of the 90th Anniversary Celebration of the Hawaii Shuri Naha Club, 1928- 2018. The banquet was held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on September 29, 2018.

Jan 19, Sat, 7 pm, Jan 24, Thurs, 5 pm: Final episode of the 2017 Okinawan Festival (Show Eleven) held on Labor Day weekend (September) at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki, featuring an Okinawan whistling demonstration, Okinawa Minyo Kyokai Hawaii and Urizun Minyo Group, and the closing kachashi. (Note: No HOT show on the fifth Thurs of the month, Jan 31.)

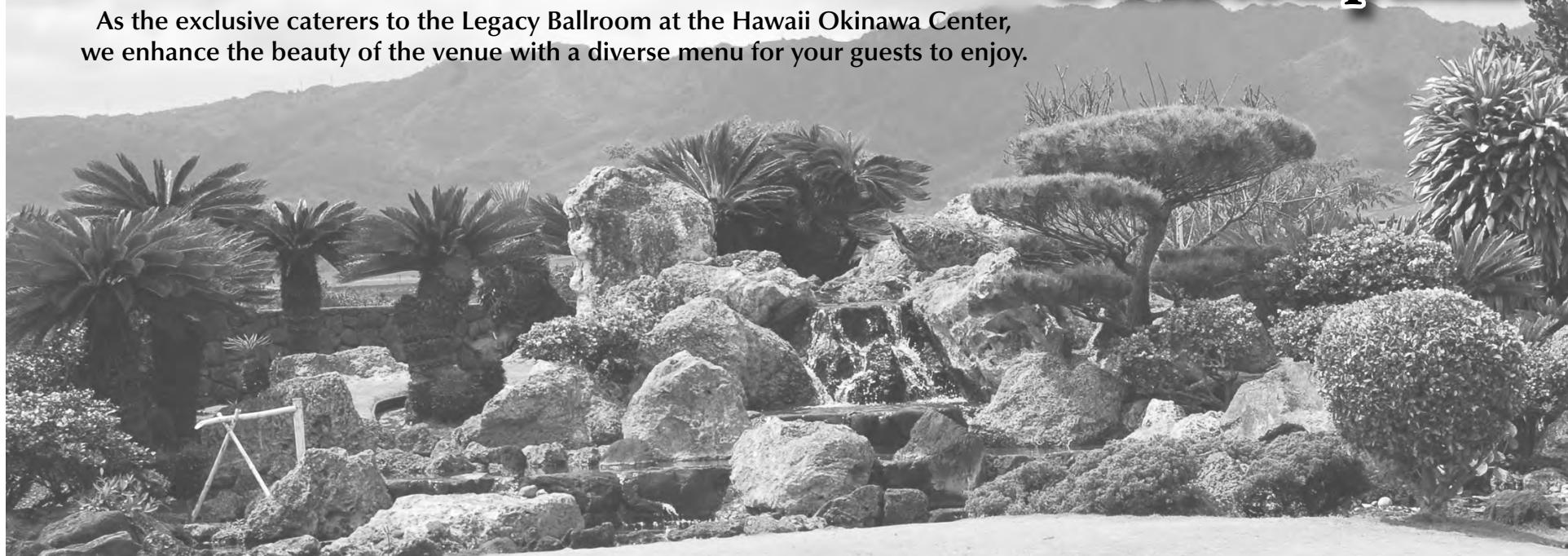
Feb 2, Sat, 7 pm, Feb 7 & 14, Thurs, 5 pm: Show One of Hui Makaala's 49th Annual Scholarship Fund Luncheon & Fashion Show, held on July 22, 2018 at the Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. Featured designers at the event were Ari South, Chanterelle Couture, and 'Iolani. Cultural entertainment included Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii with Hidekatsu from Okinawa, Misako Yagi, Dazzman Toguchi, and Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts.

Feb 16, Sat, 7 pm, Feb 21 & 28, Thurs, 5 pm: 2018 Okinawan Festival (Show One), held in September for the first time at the Hawaii Convention Center in Waikiki. Featured in this episode are Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Shibu, Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kyokai Hawaii Shibu, and Hawaii Taiko Kai.



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