



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

April – May 2001

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CLUB SUMMIT, STORYTELLING FESTIVAL LAUNCH HUOA'S 50TH

by Roy Kaneshiro (Chatan Sonjin Kai)
1982–1983 HUOA President
Chair, HUOA 50th Anniversary Committee
and Karleen Chinen

It began 50 years ago this September with the coming together of 14 Okinawan clubs: Ginowan Sonjinkai, Goeku Sonjinkai, Gushichan Sonjinkai, Gushikawa Sonjinkai, Kailua Okinawa Kenjinkai, Kaneohe Okinawa Doshikai, Kita Nakagusuku Sonjinkai, Nago Chojinkai, Naha Shijinkai, Onna Sonjinkai, Osato Doshikai, Shuri Shijinkai, Tamagusuku Sonjinkai and Yomitan Sonjinkai.

Together, they formed the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii. Although two of the clubs no longer exist, over the years, 40 other Okinawan clubs came to realize the benefit of working together as one organization — maintaining their ties to their own ancestral villages back in Okinawa, but speaking as one united voice in Hawai'i.

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association is today made up of 52 member clubs whose commitment to keeping alive the Okinawan culture and Uchinanchu spirit has made HUOA one of Hawai'i's most active and viable ethnic community organizations.

Viability cannot be taken for granted, however. It needs to be worked at. Organizations like HUOA survive — and thrive — because we know our strengths and weaknesses and are able to change with the times while valuing what keeps us

strong.

HUOA is at an important juncture in its existence. Our strength, and that of our clubs, has always been grounded in our common experience as Uchinanchu and in the values we share. But HUOA is only as strong as its member clubs — for our strength comes from you, our member clubs.

With that in mind, the HUOA 50th Anniversary Committee thought it time that we all come together — our members clubs and the leadership of HUOA — to talk about the challenges our clubs and organization face, share ideas, and develop a plan of action to ensure our futures. The forum

Toyama of Yonabaru Chojin Kai and his committee have spent months organizing the Festival, which promises to be a blockbuster event.

The Storytelling Festival is aimed at reaching out to the greater Hawai'i community and building bridges between generations and cultures through the medium of storytelling. It is also a gift of aloha from HUOA to the Hawai'i community for the many blessings it has received over the past century. Invite your relatives, friends and neighbors and come listen to these extremely talented storytellers.

Veteran Island storytellers Karen Yamamoto

Hackler and Woody Fern will open the festival on Wednesday evening (May 9) with multicultural stories centered around the theme, "Mixed Plate." On Thursday evening, Nyla Ching-Fujii and Dann Seki take center-stage with stories that span the generations. The Storytelling Festival will conclude on Friday evening with chickenskin stories from Makia Malo, who spent his teen and adult years amidst the

"BUILDING BRIDGES OF ALOHA"



Karen Yamamoto Hackler



Woody Fern



Nyla Ching-Fujii



Dann Seki



Makia Malo

Wed., May 9: "Mixed Plate" featuring Karen Yamamoto Hackler and Woody Fern

Thurs., May 10: "Generations" featuring Nyla Ching-Fujii and Dann Seki

Fri., May 11: "Obake" featuring Makia Malo, Nyla Ching-Fujii and a special guest storyteller

for that coming together will be an HUOA Summit, themed "Our Clubs, Our Future." The Summit will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. A light breakfast and lunch will be served.

All HUOA club presidents were sent a registration form, requesting that they invite their officers and a few of their younger members to the Summit. Please fill out the registration form and fax it to HUOA at 676-7800, or e-mail their names, titles and phone numbers (or e-mail addresses) to huaa@aloha.com as soon as possible.

Just a few months ago, optimism marked the closing of the Uchinanchu community's centennial celebration marking 100 years since the first Okinawan immigrants arrived in Hawai'i. We were confident that our children and grandchildren would keep alive the Okinawan cultural heritage and share it with all of Hawai'i's people. Ensuring that that dream remains alive rests in all our hands. We need to begin mapping out our future so that our children and grandchildren will grow up with a sense of pride in their Okinawan heritage and in possessing the "Uchinanchu spirit," which today knows no ethnic boundaries. Let's all be part of shaping that future by participating in the HUOA Summit.

The celebration of HUOA's 50th anniversary will continue with a Storytelling Festival, set for Wednesday through Friday evening, May 9–11, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The Festival, themed "Building Bridges of Aloha," will feature "concert class" storytellers. Admission is free. Jimmy

spirits in the Hansen's disease settlement at Kalaupapa on the island of Moloka'i. Nyla Ching-Fujii will return for a second night of storytelling. She and Malo will be joined by a special guest storyteller also sharing obake (ghost) tales.

Parents who are concerned that the obake stories may be a bit too spooky for their young children can walk them over to the Young Okinawans of Hawaii tent where YOH members will put on a program of Okinawan folk tales for the kids.

Each night's program will begin with cultural entertainment fronting the Legacy Ballroom, followed by the summoning of the audience into the hall by the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko – Hawaii Shibu. On the opening night of the Storytelling Festival, the Young Okinawans' shiisa will lead the way into the hall. The storytellers will begin sharing their tales at about 6:30 p.m. Each storyteller will present a story or two and then return for a "tag-team" performance following a short intermission.

Those planning to make an entire evening of the event can enjoy a light "Oodles of Noodles" dinner and a few other menu items prepared by A Catered Experience and sold for a nominal price. An outdoor accommodations tent will be set up so attendees can enjoy their dinner in a picnic-like setting.

The Storytelling Festival is sponsored by HUOA with financial support from the Hawaii Imin Shiryō Hozon Kai and City Bank — and outreach support from a vast network of community organizations.

Other events are being planned for the 50th anniversary celebration — we'll keep you posted on them. 🍻

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UCHINANCHU

Ippe nihei deebiru . . mahalo . .

MAHALO FOR SUPPORTING UCHINANCHU

Uchinanchu is 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 the Okinawan cultural heritage. HUOA received total of \$1,665.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* during the months of February and March. Every dollar donated — along with income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a heartfelt ippe nihei deebiru to the following donors, including three from California, one from Washington State, one from Illinois, six from Maui, and two from the Big Island. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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Enclosed is my donation of \$ Hm. phone:

Please send your donation to
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by James Y. Iha (Chatan Sonjin Kai, Wahiawa Kyoyu Kai)
President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

I would like to start this message by thanking so many of you for turning out for our Installation Banquet and to honor our Year 2000 "Uchinanchu of the Year." We had a full house — we couldn't have stuffed another body into our Legacy Ballroom. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the many beautiful leis you brought me (and my wife Marian) and my fellow HUOA officers — and for your kind words of encouragement and support. I will remember the evening forever.

In the weeks since that January 20 Installation Banquet, Vice Presidents Keith Kaneshiro, George Tamashiro and Karen Shishido and President-elect Gladys Tokunaga-Asao and I have been busy every weekend, attending the shinnen enkaï of our member clubs. All of these parties were well-planned and carried out. No matter how large or small the club, we always felt the spirit of mensoree (welcome) and warm fellowship as new relationships were forged and old friends were reunited.

Several of the shinnen enkaï we attended occurred while the Okinawa administrators and teachers involved in the 11th annual Hawai'i-Okinawa Student Exchange Program were here in Hawai'i. Again, that spirit of "Mensoreel!" reigned as they were graciously invited to attend the parties with us. Our guests from Okinawa were truly impressed with the



HUOA President Jimmy Iha (center) and his officers wave to the Honolulu Festival parade crowd in Waikiki.

"Uchinanchu aloha" they experienced and shared many favorable comments with us. Thank you to our member clubs for giving us the opportunity to come together with your members for fun, fellowship, delicious food and great entertainment!

This year won't be as hectic as last year was due to our memorable Okinawan centennial celebration. It is nevertheless a very important year for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association as we celebrate 50 years since our establishment in 1951. But while we look back with deep gratitude to our founders for clearing the path for the creation of HUOA, we realize also that we need to look to the future of our organization. At this very important juncture in our history, we need to take a serious look at HUOA, to float some dreams, and then to take bold steps to strengthen HUOA so that the Okinawan cultural heritage will remain strong and viable for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren and the generations to come. The leadership of HUOA is committed to working with our member clubs to help them remain strong and productive — for the success of HUOA lies in the strength of you, our member clubs.

"Yuï Nu Kukuru — Uchinanchu Spirit With Hearts Together" is the theme of

continued on page 3

UCHINANCHU ADVERTISING RATES

SIZE — •Half page 10-1/4" x 8" •1/4 page 5" x 8" •1/5 page 5" x 4" •1/6 page 3-1/4" x 3" •1/8 page 3-1/4" x 2"

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Prices reflect camera ready ads. There will be a \$25.00 minimum fee for production work.

Please contact Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400 or 676-7811 (fax) for more information.

Uchinanchu

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E-mail articles to Kchinen@lava.net

Uchinanchu reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

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FIRST MAUI OKINAWAN FESTIVAL SET FOR JUNE 9

by Jere Shimomura (Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai)

Mensoree! Come join us for an Okinawan experience on Maui!

The Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai will hold its first Okinawan Festival on Saturday, June 9, at the Rinzai Zen Mission in Paia. "Celebrating Our Okinawan Legacy" is the theme of the Festival, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m. with a giant bon dance on the Rinzai Zen lawn. The festival is being co-chaired by former MOKK presidents Koki Tamashiro and Mike Hondo, with lots of support from our club members and friends.

The entertainment program will feature continuous Okinawan music and dances performed by homegrown talent from Maui and the Neighbor Islands — and even a few guest performers from Okinawa! We're also looking forward to welcoming a special friend from Okinawa: Kin Cho Mayor Katsuhiko Yoshida.

Rounding out the entertainment will be performances of Okinawan koto, samisen and taiko as well as martial arts demonstrations.

Okinawan culture will be highlighted at our festival, with displays of Okinawan artifacts, tattooing and genealogy. We've asked some of our local experts to demonstrate the art of flower arrangement and bonsai.

Of course, no Okinawan festival is complete without lots of ono Okinawan food. The Maui festival will feature delicious pig's feet soup, an Okinawan plate lunch with pork, stir-fried vegetables and rice; a shoyu chicken plate with o-koko and rice; a teri-beef, o-koko and rice plate; a yasai champuru (stir-fry vegetable) plate; chow fun noodles, "anda-dog" (Okinawan Pronto Pups); and everybody's favorite: andagi! We'll also have lots of shave ice, soda, juice and water to keep you cool — and coffee to keep you awake for the drive home.

Our Country Store will feature homemade pickles, jams and jellies, baked goods, pretzels, sushi, barazushi (sushi rice) and other rice dishes, along with several different types of mochi, including nantu and baked mochi. You'll also find plants and flowers, vegetables, handmade items, books and T-shirts — all for sale in the Country Store.

The Maui Okinawan Festival will also be a good opportunity to stock up on food products from Okinawa and mainland Japan, such as *konbu*, *soba*, *shiitake* mushrooms and *fu* (wheat gluten).

There'll be something for everyone at the Maui Okinawan Festival — even a mini craft fair featuring the arts, crafts and jewelry of vendors from Maui and O'ahu. The kids are sure to have a ball with our games, the dunking booth, the Bouncing Castle, a fishing tank, ring toss, putt-putt golf and other activities.

The Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai welcomes all Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart wherever you may be. Make your travel reservations now and plan on spending your entire June 9 at our festival. And then, let's end a fun- and culture-filled day with a festive bon dance under the Maui stars. 🍡

For more information on the first Maui Okinawan Festival, call the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center at (808) 242-1560.

President's Message (continued from page 2)

the HUOA's 50th anniversary celebration. It embodies our proud legacy as people of Okinawan ancestry and is testament to the potential and beauty that unfolds when Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart work together for the common good of all. Let us stand together in unity, forever grateful for what the past has brought us and look forward to a bright and promising future.

The 50th anniversary celebration, which is being chaired by Chatan Sonjin Kai member and former HUOA president Roy Kaneshiro, will consist of three main events — all of which will be held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Please mark these dates on your calendar and let's all come together.

The first event, a "summit," is set for Saturday, April 28. We are asking that the officers of our member clubs participate in this "HUOA Summit," which will be an opportunity for our member clubs to rediscover, reflect and take steps to keep their respective clubs viable and productive.

The second event is a Storytelling festival, set for Wednesday through Friday evenings, May 9, 10 and 11. The Storytelling Festival is aimed at reaching out to the greater Hawai'i community and building bridges between generations and cultures through the medium of storytelling. By sharing stories of the various cultures that make up Hawai'i, I think we'll find that woven through each cultural group is a common thread — an experience shared by all — and the realization that we are all one people in our humanity.

The third main event will be our 50th anniversary banquet, scheduled for Saturday, September 22. This Golden Anniversary banquet will highlight our proud legacy and provide us the incentive and motivation to meet the challenges of the future.

We look forward to a great 50th anniversary year that will be complemented with other activities aimed at preserving, promoting and perpetuating our beautiful Okinawan culture. We ask for your support, assistance and participation in the spirit of "Yui Nu Kukurū — Uchinanchu Spirit With Hearts Together." Ippe Nihwee Deebiru!

MAY 6 KARIYUSHI TICKETS GOING FAST!

Tickets for the 12th annual Kariyushi Show, set for Sunday, May 6, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, are going fast! This year's program will feature an outstanding program with something for everyone: Okinawan dances by our active seniors, a men vs. women Kariyushi karaoke competition, songs from the sensei, young performers, hula, and a special ukulele performance by two Uchinanchu brothers.

The Okinawan seniors dance clubs — the Okinawa Buyo Club, led by Yoshiko Onaga Sensei; Shizuko Akamine Sensei's Kilauea Okinawan Dance Club; Happy Seniors Okinawa Dancing Club, led by Rose Shimabukuro Sensei; and Mitsuko Toguchi Sensei's Ryusei Honryu Yanagi-No-Kai, Hawaii Chapter — will put on an entertaining program of Okinawan dance. Members of the Paranku Club of Hawaii will also be pounding out a lively beat. The audience will be treated to a special hula performance of "Pua Hone" by the Uehara sisters.

The "Through the Generations" segment will feature songs by performers who indeed span the generations, from Nisei to Yonsei. Also scheduled to perform are ukulele brothers Jake and Bruce Shimabukuro.

The Kariyushi Show was started by HUOA advisor Dorothy Shiroma Hoe. Proceeds from the program fund improvements to the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This year, Dorothy Hoe turned over the program's chairmanship to karaoke enthusiast Nelson Yoshioka of Oroku Azajin Club, and has settled into the role of advisor.

Tickets for the May 6 program are \$15, which includes a bento lunch and a drink. The program begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

Bus transportation is available for seniors from the Kilauea Recreation Center and the Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center. Call Pat Doi at 396-6117 to reserve a seat. The buses will leave the senior centers at 8 a.m. They will depart HOC at 2:30 p.m. to return to the two senior centers.

Tickets can be purchased from the participating karaoke schools, or by calling the HUOA office at 676-5400. 🍡

Hooge-kai, Nakasone Dance Academy
is proud to present:

THE BEAUTY OF TRADITION

"DENTOO NO BI"

45th Anniversary Super Recital

at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center Concert Hall
on Saturday, June 16, 2001 from 6:30 p.m.

For ticket information please contact

Jane Sakima at 841-3075, or Yoshiko Nakasone at 536-0276



伝統の美

"DENTOO NO BI — THE BEAUTY OF TRADITION"



Members of the Hooge-kai, Nakasone Dance Academy at their 1996 recital. Inset: Yoshiko Nakasone dancing at age 7.

by Karleen C. Chinen (Bito Doshi Kai)

"Art is very important to our lives. Dance is important — it is transmitted through the body, so your body is the carrier of the tradition," shared Dr. Victor Kobayashi, Dean of the University of Hawai'i's Outreach College, at a kick-off program for the Hooge-kai, Nakasone Dance Academy's 45th anniversary dance recital. The June 16 performance at the Blaisdell Concert Hall also celebrates Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei's 62 years of dedication to the art of Okinawan dance. "You are a great contribution to all of us in Hawai'i," added Kobayashi.

The HUOA is honored to endorse Sensei's recital, said President Jimmy Iha. "Her performances have always been magnificent."

That magnificence is the result of Sensei's deep love for the music and the dances of her homeland.

Yoshiko Nakasone was born in Naha and began studying Okinawan dance at the tender age of 6. For nearly 20 years she studied under the late *Iemoto* (Grand Master) Kin Ryosho, whom the government of Japan honored as an "Intangible Cultural Asset." In 1955, Nakasone Sensei's 16 years of training with Kin Ryosho paid off when she was selected as one of the

10 best dance artists in an all-Okinawa competition sponsored by the *Okinawa Times* newspaper. Six years later, in 1961, the *Iemoto* awarded Sensei her *shihan*, or senior instructor teaching certificate). The following year, she was invited to perform at the Japan National Theatre in Tokyo as part of an international symposium on Okinawan studies co-sponsored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government and Hosei University.

Sensei has received numerous awards for her dedication to the art of Okinawan dance, including a culture award from the Minzoku Isho Bunka Fukyu Kyokai by its honorary president, Japan's Princess Yuriko Mikasanomiya. She also performed several times for members of Japan's Imperial family during their visits to Hawai'i. In 1986, then-Governor Junji Nishime of Okinawa presented Sensei a Certificate of Meritorious Achievement, making her the first individual or organization outside of Okinawa to be so honored.

In 1999 Sensei was awarded an individual artist fellowship by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. Last year, she was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador by the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

Hooge-kai, Nakasone Dance Academy currently has about 100 students who range in age from nearly 80 to children 3 years old. Most, however, are Sansei and

Yonse. The Nakasone Dance Academy has shared their talents at many HUOA events and programs.

The audience for the June 16 recital, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will be treated to the full spectrum of Okinawan dance — from classical court numbers to folk dances, to modern Okinawan dance, many of which were choreographed by Sensei herself.

"Dentoo No Bi — The Beauty of Tradition" is a most appropriate theme for Sensei's anniversary recital — for Sensei has passed on so much of her knowledge of the Okinawan arts not only to her students, but to her daughters, Julia Kawahara and Lisa Nakandakari and their daughters.

Hooge-kai, Nakasone Dance Academy parent-teacher association president Jane Sakima urged the entire Okinawan community to support the school's recital. "We need the support of everyone — the power of unity, of friends and family, together — we call this 'Yui Nu Kukuru.' This cooperative teamwork is a classic example of the Uchinanchu spirit." 

Tickets for "Dentoo No Bi — The Beauty of Tradition" are \$17 and can be obtained by calling Jane Sakima at 841-3075, or the Nakasone Dance Academy at 536-0276.

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CLUB NEWS

KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI . . . by Ed Kino

Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai celebrated its 75th anniversary at Victoria Inn on February 11 with over 160 people in attendance. The program consisted of balloon sculpturing by Kento of Hawaiian Flying Balloons, entertainment by the Hawaii Taiko Kai, and Okinawan music and dances by Grant Murata Sensei's Afusoryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai and the Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo. Capping off the entertainment was kachashi by Kanegusuku's president — me! — and members. Emcee Masuo Kino drew lucky number door prizes for Russel Kino, including a two-head Panasonic VCR, 4-head Panasonic VCR for Sharon Quitan, 20-inch Panasonic stereo TV for Mrs. Sadako Oshiro, and a Sony DVD player for Masaru Oshiro. Seventy-five years young Mrs. Carol Shinozawa received a birthday gift, and members enjoyed the five different birthday cakes commemorating 75 years since our club was established in 1926 — the eighth oldest Okinawan club in Hawai'i!

PRESERVING OUR LEGACY

(Donations received from January 1 through February 28, 2001)
Thank you very much to the following individuals for their generous contributions. Your support for the Hawaii Okinawa Center's "Preserving Our Legacy" campaign is greatly appreciated.

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UCHINANCHU NEWS FORM

Uchinanchu is the voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and its member clubs. We would like to encourage our clubs and committees to submit information about their activities (upcoming and past) for publication in *Uchinanchu* — and are trying to make it as simple as possible by providing you with this form. Just fill in the blanks and mail (94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, HI 96797) or fax (676-7811) it to the Hawaii Okinawa Center — we'll take care of the writing, spelling and editing. The form is also available at the Hawaii Okinawa Center as well as on the HUOA's website, www.huoa.org. Information can also be e-mailed directly to *Uchinanchu* editor Karleen Chinen at kchinen@lava.net. Clubs that do not have their own newsletter are encouraged to use the *Uchinanchu* Club News Form to disseminate information about upcoming activities to their members. Let's hear from you!

Club or Committee name: _____

What is the event? (i.e., club shinnen enkai, club's anniversary, visit by guests from Okinawa, etc.) _____

Date/time/location of event: _____

An annual event? _____ Special occasion? _____

How many people attended, or are expected to attend? _____

Describe event (please provide as much information as possible)

Did you honor or recognize anyone? Who and why?

If you are also submitting a photo, please identify the people in the photo, when/where it was shot and describe what the photo shows.

Submitted by (name/phone/e-mail address)

Club officer? _____ Member? _____



Hawaii United Okinawa Association's

Spring Craft Fair

Sunday

April 29, 2001

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hawaii Okinawa Center

Waipio Gentry

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HAWAI'I, OKINAWA STUDENTS SHARE "UCHINANCHU ALOHA"

by Karleen C. Chinen (Bito Doshi Kai)

"Aloha! We had a wonderful time. We had a chance to see many things. Wherever we went, the people of Hawai'i welcomed us. We made many friends. We are now brothers and sisters in heart. We will see each other again someday."

It was a perfectly delivered speech by Okinawa high school student Yuki Shiroma. But you had to have been at the March 16 Aloha Party at the Hawaii Okinawa Center to have known that Yuki, whom the students had selected to speak on behalf of them, had choked back tears from the moment she began speaking. The next morning, she, along with 26 other high school students, would board a plane that would take them home to Okinawa, ending a journey that had broadened their view of the world in a way that a classroom never could.

Last month for the 11th consecutive year, families from throughout the island of O'ahu opened their homes — and their hearts — to 27 Okinawan high school students in a program co-sponsored by the Hawai'i and Okinawa departments of education in partnership with the Hawaii State Legislature and the HUOA. The Hawai'i students — many of whom hosted Okinawan students — will visit Okinawa for two weeks in June, living with host families with high school-age children.

The exchange program is an opportunity for the students to learn about the world's diverse cultures by experiencing them. It also helps foster global awareness and a sense of internationalism in both the Hawai'i and Okinawa students.

"I would like to offer respect, gratitude and congratulations to all those who invested themselves . . . who made this student exchange rewarding for both sides — and most especially to the families," said State Schools Superintendent Paul LeMahieu. "I can only imagine how rewarding it has been. You have our thanks." LeMahieu also thanked student exchange coordinator and 'Iliahi Elementary School principal Jane Serikaku for HUOA's participation in the program.

"This is a meaningful exchange because Okinawa and Hawai'i have deep historical ties," said Hitoshi "Chip" Miyazato of the Okinawa Prefectural Department of Education. "Promoting international exchange is important to us all," he said, adding that Okinawa hopes to expand the exchange program. Miyazato said he also hopes the students will contribute to society by becoming the leaders of a peaceful world.

In his brief comments, HUOA President Jimmy Iha noted that the Hawaii Okinawa Center was built to honor the Okinawan Issei who began immigrating to Hawai'i in 1900. "If they were here today, they would be so pleased to learn that we have students from Okinawa coming here to learn American culture and education with students who comprise all of the ethnic groups we have in Hawai'i."

As Superintendent LeMahieu observed the students on their last night together, he knew how bittersweet their parting would be the next morning. "The best way to deal with bittersweet moments is to make promises to stay in touch with each other," he told the students. Technology has made contact almost instantaneous, he said. But he underscored the importance and value of in-person meetings and experiences. "It is more important that we meet face-to-face before we meet on the web," he said.

Seventeen-year-old Hana Esekia hosted Hokubu Technical High School student Yuki Shirakura, also 17. Hana loved the experience. "It was great! Awesome!" she said. The Nanakuli High School student, who takes Japanese language in school, said she had wanted to experience hosting a student from another coun-

try. "I wanted to see how their culture and language is different from ours," she said. Although Yuki spoke very little English, she was always willing to join the Esekia family in whatever they did or ate. When asked what she enjoyed eating most in Hawai'i, she quickly replied: "pizza!"

Hana's parents, Alapati and Poly Esekia, knew well the trials and tribulations of settling in a new land, for both were once newcomers to Hawai'i: Alapati, who works at the Navy-Marine Golf Course, is from Western Samoa; his wife Poly, a secretary for a construction company, came to Hawai'i from American Samoa.

So when Hana asked her parents if she could host an Okinawan student in their home, they quickly replied: "Yes!"

"It was a really good experience for Hana," said Poly. "My heart goes out to students from a foreign country." She and her husband were especially pleased at the prospect of hosting a foreign student, whose challenge of adjusting to a new environment is even tougher than for an English-speaking student.

Still, Yuki was treated like one of the family. The home-stay program gave her an opportunity to experience Hawai'i's common practice of extended 'ohana.

After attending classes and afterschool activities with Hana for about a week, Yuki and the other Okinawa students spent a few days on the Big Island, where they were hosted by members of Hilo's Hui Okinawa. Poly Esekia recalled how much

Hana missed her new friend from Okinawa when she was away in Hilo.

The Aloha Party was especially hard for Yuki, who wiped tears from her eyes as the evening came closer to ending. The next morning, she would be saying good-bye to her Hawai'i family.

But the two teens may be reunited in Okinawa in June. Hana is keeping her fingers crossed that she will be selected for the Hawai'i-to-Okinawa part of the exchange. Having hosted an Okinawan student gives her the edge over other student applicants who did not host a student.

Two weeks earlier, the students had been total strangers — the language barrier that separated them as vast as the Pacific Ocean. But these high schoolers — from Hawai'i and Okinawa — had stepped outside their comfort zones and what had flourished in the short span of 14 days was a beautiful friendship that would always occupy a special place in their hearts.



Yuki Shirakura (in uchikake) and Hana Esekia (wearing lei) with Hana's parents Alapati and Poly Esekia and their family.

HUOA JOINS HONOLULU FESTIVAL PARADE



Starting early: Young Okinawans of Hawaii member Jon Itomura isn't wasting any time immersing his 3-year-old son Dane in HUOA activities. Dad dressed Dane in a tiny tot size uchikake, secured him in his little wagon, and gave him a ride down Kalakaua Avenue.

HUOA members donned the organization's bright blue uchikake and marched down Kalakaua Avenue on March 11 as part of the Honolulu Festival parade. President Jimmy Iha and his fellow officers led the HUOA's lively contingent of drummers from the Paranku Club of Hawaii and club representatives carrying the colorful HUOA club banners. The parade culminated with a fireworks show over Waikiki. Honolulu Festival events were held from March 9-11 at Honolulu Hale, the Hawai'i Convention Center and Ala Moana Center.



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KARII! . . . CONGRATULATIONS!

Melissa Uyeunten departed earlier this month for Okinawa to begin a year of intensive study of Okinawan music and dance at the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai) on a scholarship awarded by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. Uyeunten, who is the daughter of Gary and Cindy Uyeunten, is a 1996 graduate of Aiea High School. She earned her associate's degree in automotive technology from Leeward



Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts (Geidai) scholarship recipient Melissa Uyeunten.

Community College and was employed as an automotive tech when she was selected for the scholarship.

Uyeunten, a yonsei, has studied sanshin with Grant Murata Sensei of the Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai - Hawaii Shibu, and Okinawan dance with the Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo. She previously studied taiko with the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko-Hawaii Shibu.

In addition to her cultural studies, Uyeunten has been active with Club Motobu, of which she is a vice president, and with the Young Okinawans of Hawaii. In her application essay, she wrote: "With the new experiences and skills I will bring home, I will be happy to share what I have learned with my classmates at sanshin and odori. I feel studying in Okinawa will help me be a stronger member in the Young Okinawans and Club Motobu, as I will have many firsthand experiences to share. I will also be able to share what the current culture is in Okinawa. I hope to encourage others to take the chance to study in Okinawa."

Urasoe Shijin Kai member Lynn Miyashiro recently returned to Hawai'i after completing her 2000-2001

Geidai scholarship.

Cheryl Okuma-Sepe has been appointed Director of Human Resources by Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris. Prior to her appointment, she had served as First Deputy Corporation Counsel. In 1994 Okuma-Sepe was appointed deputy director of the Department of Wastewater Management and was reappointed to the post in 1997.



Cheryl Okuma-Sepe

Okuma-Sepe graduated from Radford High School and earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She graduated cum laude from California Western School of Law and was admitted to the California Bar in 1980, and to the Hawai'i Bar the following year.

Okuma-Sepe began her legal career in private practice. She also served as an attorney for the state Senate and as an arbitrator for the First Circuit Court. While living in Germany with her husband Don Sepe, who was in the U.S. Army, Okuma-Sepe worked as a management systems analyst for the Army and as an adjunct professor for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, teaching courses in aviation law.

Okuma-Sepe co-chaired last year's Okinawan Festival with current HUOA President Jimmy Iha. She is also a former HUOA vice president and is current president of Gushikawa Shijin Kai.

Mayor Harris also appointed HUOA vice president George Tamashiro to the position of deputy director of the city's Dept. of Design and Construction. Tamashiro

has been with the city for the past 31 years, the last three as chief of the Design and Engineering group in the Dept. of Design and Construction. As chief, he directed a staff of 42, servicing various city departments and agencies. He also managed the planning, design and construction of approximately 700 projects at any given time.

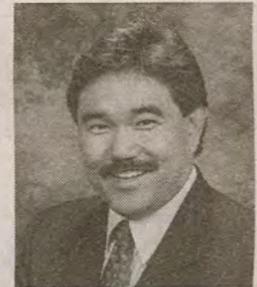


George Tamashiro

Tamashiro served as chief of the Public Building Planning and Construction Division in the Building Department for six years and as assistant chief for 20 years prior to that. He began his career with the city as a civil engineer. Prior to joining the city, he worked as a private sector engineer.

He earned his bachelor of science degree in engineering from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 1962. Tamashiro, who is in his second year as an HUOA vice president, is a past president of Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai. He chaired the food committee for last year's Okinawan Festival.

Mayor Harris also appointed David Z. Arakawa to his second term as Corporation Counsel, the city's top legal officer. Arakawa is a member of Nishihara Chojin Kai and Hui Makaala and is a sansei descendant of Zempan Arakawa, founder of Hawai'i's much-loved — and missed — Arakawas Store in Waipahu.



David Z. Arakawa

CHILDREN'S CULTURAL DAY CAMP SET FOR JUNE 11-15



Applications are now being accepted for the sixth annual HUOA Children's Cultural Day Camp, "Warabi Ashibi — Children at Play," set for June 11-15 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The highly successful program for youngsters 8 to 13 years old was developed in 1995 by HUOA staffer Karen Kuba-Hori. "Warabi Ashibi — Children at Play" introduces young children and teens to the Okinawan cultural heritage in a fun environment.

The week-long program begins at 9 a.m. and wraps up at 2:30 p.m.

Among the planned activities are: Okinawan cooking, Okinawan music and dance, paranku drumming and drum-making, ikebana, raku pottery-making, Okinawan textile-making, old-time plantation games, Okinawa/Japanese arts and crafts, Uchinaaguchi (Okinawan language), and more.

The registration fee is \$50 for one child, \$95 for two, and \$140 for three children. To qualify for the multiple-child discount, children must come from the same household. The registration fee covers supplies, a camp T-shirt, an excursion fee and a supervised overnight sleep-over at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Enrollment is limited to the first 50 children who apply; the leader-to-child ratio is one leader to 10 children.

Adults and high school students are also being sought to serve as volunteer leaders. Training will be provided.

Call Karen Kuba-Hori at 676-5400 to volunteer, or for more information.

SIXTH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CULTURAL DAY CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

Monday - Friday, June 11 - 15, 2001, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center

Child's name _____ Age ____ Sex ____ T-shirt size ____

Child's name _____ Age ____ Sex ____ T-shirt size ____

Child's name _____ Age ____ Sex ____ T-shirt size ____

Address _____

Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Workplace phone _____ Home phone _____

Registration fee includes one T-shirt. Additional shirts can be purchased: \$7 each for youth sizes, \$10 for adult sizes.

Registration fees:

\$50 (one child) \$ _____

\$95 (two children) \$ _____

\$140 (three children) \$ _____

Add \$45 for each additional child \$ _____

\$25 Junior Leader fee (age 14 or older) \$ _____

Additional shirts: How many _____ Size _____ \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to HUOA Cultural Day Camp and mail to HUOA, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, HI 96797

Additional forms and information will be mailed to you upon acceptance.
Ippe nihei deebiru!

THE 'WIND BENEATH OUR WINGS'

One of the highlights of the January 20 Installation Banquet was the honoring of the Year 2000 "Uchinanchu of the Year" — each of whom was selected for the honor by their respective clubs. In this issue of *Uchinanchu*, we conclude the profiles of these special treasures. We would also like to share with you installation program emcee Jon

Itomura's introduction of the "Uchinanchu of the Year."

"You've all seen those VISA credit card commercials that try to put a price on certain things. My commercial would go something like this: sack of andagi — \$1.50; Okinawan soba — \$3.50; HUOA Installation Banquet tickets — \$30 . . . 'Uchinanchu of the Year': priceless . . ."

Ishikawa Shijin Kai

Mr. **Jitsuyoshi Nakandakare** is highly respected member of Ishikawa Shijin Kai. Now a retired businessman, he enjoys his family of six children, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He emphasized to his children the importance of the Okinawan club and wants to maintain the strength of the club. His son, Jay, is our current President. His children and grandchildren work hard in the food booth at the annual Okinawa Festival and annual HOC Sunday clean up. Thank you, Mr. Nakandakare, for your many years of support and strong dedication to Ishikawa Shijin Kai.



Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai

The Kitanakagusuku Sonjin Kai is proud to present our Uchinanchu for the year 2000: **Milton N. Higa**. Milton is and has been our president for the past three years. Our club membership has grown, because of his commitment, dedication and his leadership skills. He writes, edits, prints, collates, and mails all our newsletters to keep the members informed of HUOA and club activities. He handles all the Festival script distribution/collection, and makes all the phone calls to inform/remind everyone about clean-ups; craft fair help, including all of this year's Centennial Celebration events. Milton has been our "Flag-Bearer" for all the numerous HUOA parades and processions for many years and we think he may have worn out a couple of pairs of sneakers by now. (Sorry Milton, no reimbursements!) Besides serving on the Okinawan Centennial Commemorative Booklet Committee, and representing us at all HUOA Board of Directors and Executive Council meetings, he serves on the Hawaii State Board of Examiners in Optometry and on the Hawaii Pacific University Business Advisory Council. As the saying goes: "If you want something done, give it to the busiest guy". This sums up Milton's dedication and getting things done with a positive attitude. Milton is the "Unanimous Choice" as Kita Nakagusuku's "Uchinanchu for the New Millennium."



Maui Okinawan Kenjin Kai

In every organization, a few members always seem to stand out for their leadership qualities and hard-working demeanor. **Frank and Helen Kawahara** are Maui Okinawan Kenjin Kai perennial volunteers. They have participated in most of the projects that our club has undertaken throughout their many years of membership. As the Fujinkai chair, Helen worked hard in organizing its members to help in club programs and activities. For several years, Helen skillfully chaired the Club Bazaar, a major fund-raiser to keep varied programs running throughout the year. She also enjoys the club's sanshin and odori classes. Frank, on the other hand, continually volunteers for many club projects and is also one of our faithful weekend grounds and building maintenance crew. Attending our Bonnen Kai or Shinnen Enkai, you'll see Frank directing traffic or plucking his sanshin during the entertainment or directing the clean up by his hard working example. And, yes, he enjoys his sanshin classes! Also for many years, both husband and wife have served as our "Regis", helping our upcountry members with MOKK business. Sometimes we tend to overlook the volunteers who spend many hours working at our activities because they are the "regulars" who are always there when you need them. Such is the case with Frank and Helen Kawahara, both hard working, devoted, and willing to lead volunteers. But this time it is their turn to shine as Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai recognizes them as our Uchinanchu of the Year, 2000. Ippei Nihei Debiru!



Itoman Shijin Kai

Kazuo and Jane T. Uyehara have been active in the Itoman Shijin Kai and the HUOA for many years, supporting all the activities and often working quietly in



the background, out of the spotlight. They have been staunch supporters of the softball team year after year, usually providing the drinks and other refreshments. At the Okinawa Festival each year, they can be found working hard supervising the ring toss game. At the picnics, they are usually in charge of the "yasai scramble". This year, they were instrumental in hosting visiting groups from Itoman Shi, including an Eisa group, the baseball team, and the Itoman entertainers at the Festival. Kazuo, who is retired from his family's Aloha Tofu Factory, has been active in Judo for fifty years, reaching the level of Rokudan (6th rank). He is an instructor with the Hodokan Judo Club in Mānoa. Jane, a retired elementary school teacher, is a student of the koto with the Teruya Sokyoku Kenyukai. They are the parents of three sons (Kevin, Kurt, and Kean) who are all active in Itoman and HUOA activities.

Kochinda Chojin Kai

Henry Isara served in many capacities in Kochinda Chojin Kai, including past president and advisor; however, even when not an officer, he has never ceased to be actively involved in club activities. He is the only member given the permanent title of Advisor. Henry has also volunteered in numerous HUOA activities and committees for the past 20 years and remains active today as a producer for Hawaii Okinawa Today and chairman of the newly formed committee, Communication and Information. Because of his continual involvement in HUOA activities, he serves as unofficial liaison to HUOA, keeping Kochinda members informed and committed to the purposes of the HUOA, and to Kochinda. It is not an easy job. Kochinda, like most other HUOA clubs, is losing participation of many of its Nisei members. We are charged with the monumental task of recruiting fourth and fifth generation members as active members. Henry has been the one to bridge that gap, to be able to speak with members of all generations, to thank the old members, to encourage the young members, to impart in potential members the importance of keeping ties to our roots. At every club function, he makes it a point to publicize HUOA activities, sell tickets and products, and recruit volunteers. He has inspired many younger members to volunteer as club officers by making them aware of their parents', grandparents', and great-grandparents' roots in the organization. It is largely through Henry's dedication and efforts that Kochinda continues to thrive. Kochinda's policy has been to nominate a different person each year for Uchinanchu of the Year. However, for these reasons, Kochinda has made an exception by choosing to honor Henry for a second time and proudly presents Henry Isara as its millennium representative for Uchinanchu of the Year.



Minami Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai

Yeiki "Lefty" Kobashigawa, Co. B, 100th Battalion, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross during World War II for his actions on June 2, 1944 in Lanuvio, Italy. On June 21, 2000, his Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor, presented by President Clinton at a White House ceremony. "Lefty" is Minami Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year.



Nago Club

Behind every successful organization stands the dedicated and strong supporter — the one who is always there when needed. Such a person is **Ethel Kishimoto**, Nago Club's honoree as Uchinanchu of the Year 2000. Ethel's late husband's family was one of the early organizers of the then Nago Chojin Kai, so she was involved from early on. Even after her husband's passing, she continues her full support. Her friendly disposition and pleasant smile makes her a perfect greeter at our club functions. You can also find her hands into other areas too, that need help. Whatever or wherever the need is, you can count on her being there. Now retired, Ethel willingly offers her services not only to Nago Club but Hui Makaala as well. We are indeed fortunate and very grateful for having such a dedicated member. Congratulations, Ethel, and Ippei Nihei Debiru from Nago Club.



Kincho Jin Kai

As we honor our Uchinanchu pioneers of 100 years, Kincho Jin Kai has been very proud to have an important part in this past year's activities. Our Uchinanchu of the Year, **Francis Smith**, has the characteristics of our early pioneers. "Smithy" is an important member that supports our club and the HUOA. Despite working two jobs and serving in the National Guard, he helps out wholeheartedly at our club activities. He has coached our volleyball teams and helps at our picnic games. Most of you see Smithy working hard driving the golf cart at the Okinawan Festival. This year Smithy helped in the Kin Ship Activities and chaperoned on the voyage back. Francis became Hawaii Kin Club's Ambassador to Kin and showed the people of Okinawa the spirit of Aloha. On behalf of Kin Cho Jinkai and Kin Town, we honor Francis Smith as our Uchinanchu of the Year.



Nishihara Chojin Kai

Irene Nitta has served as the Secretary for the Nishihara Chojin Kai since 1994. In that capacity, she informs members of the various club activities, and she promotes fellowship and an appreciation of the Okinawan culture. During her tenure as our secretary, Ms. Nitta has diligently recruited and coordinated the volunteers to work in the assigned booths at the Okinawan Festival, and planned and ensured maximum participation at the club's annual summer picnic and Shinnenkai party. Beyond her duties, Ms. Nitta has encouraged and recruited friends and family members to join the Nishihara Chojin Kai to ensure the club's continuation in the years ahead. For Ms. Nitta's endless effort, commitment, dedication, and unflinching support of the Nishihara Chojin Kai, she is our distinguished Uchinanchu of the Year.

Okinawa City-Goeku Son

Okinawa City-Goeku Son recognizes Raelene Higa as our choice for this prestigious award. We have been very honored to have her as a member since 1976 and have her serve in the office of President since 1997. Raelene served in other capacities such as, Vice President (1994-1996), and Secretary (1991-1993). Besides these positions, she chaired our annual picnics for many years, served on the Shinnen Enkai committee, and chaired the annual Okinawa Festival booth for our club for several years. In addition to all of these responsibilities, she served as the HUOA Recording Secretary in 1999. Raelene is extremely dedicated to anyone who asks her to help, even though she has a very busy and hectic



schedule. She is a very warm individual, loyal and unselfish. Her enthusiasm and new ideas contributed to our club tremendously. Employee for 32 years at GTE Hawaiian Tel (now known as Verizon Hawaii), she presently holds the title as a Designer-Applications Engineer. Raelene and her husband Gary are the proud parents of 3 children Stephanie Sakagawa, Gary, Jr., and Isis Higa. They are also grandparents to Michele and Avery. We are deeply honored and certainly proud of Raelene's accomplishments for her outstanding service, not only to our club and HUOA, but her service to the community.

She is a very warm individual, loyal and unselfish. Her enthusiasm and new ideas contributed to our club tremendously. Employee for 32 years at GTE Hawaiian Tel (now known as Verizon Hawaii), she presently holds the title as a Designer-Applications Engineer. Raelene and her husband Gary are the proud parents of 3 children Stephanie Sakagawa, Gary, Jr., and Isis Higa. They are also grandparents to Michele and Avery. We are deeply honored and certainly proud of Raelene's accomplishments for her outstanding service, not only to our club and HUOA, but her service to the community.

Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii

Kay Yamada, a Kaua'i native and retired professor of speech and communications at Leeward Community College, came to Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii's June 1994 membership meeting as a guest speaker with her sister Ruth Yoshinaka. They shared their Matayoshi Family genealogy going back thirty-six generations. With roots in Gushikawa City, Okinawa, their father and two brothers had a book written about them. Kay joined the Society at that meeting, and has since shared much to further everyone's research and



interest in Okinawan genealogy. Under two Society presidents, spanning four years, as co-chairperson of our program committee, Kay has invited excellent guest speakers and continued to provide very educational moments at our monthly meetings. Kay has played a

major role in many of our activities including visits to LDS family history centers, planning and manning the genealogy booths at the Kauai Okinawan Festival, Portuguese Festa, and our own HUOA Okinawan Festival. Our Uchinanchu of the Year has written articles for the "Okinawan Centennial Celebration Issei Commemorative Booklet" and "Okinawan Mixed Plate: Generous Servings of Culture, Customs and Cuisine" recently published by Hui O Lailima.

Onna Sonjin Kai

Lynn Yoshitsugu is a third generation member of Onna Sonjin Kai. She and Wallace "Wally" have three children ages 19, 18, and 11. She has worked at Kuakini radiology for the last 25 years. Lynn is captain

of the Onna Bowling Team that is part of the HUOA Bowling League. As captain she does all of the administrative duties for the team and is always encouraging her teammates to do better. Lynn work tirelessly on Club activities and always tries to get her family involved. There is never any hesitation from her to volunteer and help when the Club needs her.



Oroku Azajin Club

Jane A. Takara (Yago, Miofuya) has served the Oroku Azajin Club as its Recording Secretary for the past 7 years. Additionally, she served as the Recording Secretary to the President of the HUOA in 1997 and for the HUOA Centennial Opening Banquet Committee in 1999. During the annual Oroku picnics she has taken care of the bento tickets and helps in selling bentos



and T-shirts and other tasks as needed. Jane also regularly participates and volunteers in the annual Oroku Shinnen Enkais and HUOA Festivals. Also, she serves on the Oroku Service Committee at funerals for its members and carries out special projects like making candy leis for our Okinawan guests. For many years she has supported her husband and daughter who are also officers of the Club. Although she was not born an Okinawan, she is truly an Uchinanchu at Heart.

Oroku Doshi Kai

Alvin Kawazoe successfully served as President of Oroku Doshi Kai from 1997 through 1998 while also holding down a full-time job. He accepted the challenges of this difficult and time-consuming position that his wife, Charlotte, had also previously held. He always carried out his duties as President efficiently and effectively. Alvin is a good-natured, kind and caring individual who still



serves as an advisor to the Oroku Doshi Kai Board of Directors and continues to help out at our functions and activities. All of this may not sound unusual or extraordinary except that Alvin is of non-Okinawan ancestry who is Uchinanchu-at-heart. We

are proud to have him represent Oroku Doshi Kai as its "Uchinanchu of the Year". Ippe nihei debiru and maha-lo, Alvin.

Tamagusuku Club

June Arakawa's accomplishments and contributions relative to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and Tamagusuku Club are too numerous to be listed in this brief resume. However, among the more significant contributions are she: as a charter member, helped organize Hui O Lailima and served as president of the club for two terms; served multiple terms as English, Japanese and Executive Secretaries of the UOA for over a decade; helped raise funds in Okinawa to build the Hawaii Okinawa Center; served as a regular volunteer at HOC since its inception and was instrumental in establishing the library and archives and preparing informational packets; served on the Hawai'i State Commission to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii in 1980; twice was the key person in preparing and submitting the Issei list for recognition to the Okinawan Prefectural Government in 1980 and 1990; served as co-chair to publish the "OKAGESAMADE" commemorative booklet to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawai'i in Year



2000; and is currently compiling information to publish a booklet for Tamagusuku Club. June Arakawa has been recognized by institutions in Okinawa as well and has received the prestigious Okinawa Newspaper Company Award twice, the Okinawa Times Award and the pre-eminent Ryukyu Shinpo Award.

Urasoe Shijin Kai

Mr. & Mrs. James (Evelyn) Miyashiro are Urasoe Shijin Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year. This hard working couple deserves all of the accolades bestowed on them this year. When their daughter Lisa was growing up and involved with soccer, James and Evelyn were right there with her. James as a goalie coach and Evelyn as a team mother made sure that the children were well fed after every game. They were also volunteers for the



Carole Kai Bed Races, Muscular Dystrophy Walkathon, Aloha Fun Run and numerous other activities that needed volunteers. Lisa is now a Director for Student for Programs at Hawaii Pacific University. James and Evelyn channeled their volunteerism to the Urasoe Shijin Kai and the HUOA participating in all club activities with James on the shave ice machine and Evelyn with the prize distribution committee at Urasoe's annual summer picnics at the Ala Moana Park. James and Evelyn are members of the Urasoe's championship volleyball team. James was also a member of Urasoe softball team. They both put in two full days at the annual Okinawan Festival, Saturday at the andagi cooking booth and Sunday selling T-shirts. They gave up their Saturday mornings during the summer to help distribute festival T-shirts to the various clubs. They are also regular volunteers for the HUOA's spring and winter craft fairs. Their cheerful attitude and willingness to work make it a joy to work with them as volunteers.

Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai

Ralph M. Ige has been among the most active participants in Wahiawa Okinawa Kyo Yu Kai's traditional activities for over 30 years. He served as our President for two terms, in the 80's and 90's. A retired State Department of Education school teacher and principal, Ralph has been a very valuable advisor to our younger members who have assumed leadership positions on our Board of Directors. Ralph took the lead to amend



our by-laws to include more Uchinanchus into our dwindling membership. He was one of the original volunteer monitors at Hawaii Okinawa Center. He continues to recruit and work with other volunteers at Hawaii United Okinawa Association and Wahiawa Kyo Yu Kai activities,

including craft fairs, Shinnen Enkais, Bonen Kais, and picnics. He also makes himself available to support member families in times of bereavement. Most recently, Ralph organized and led the group of volunteers who perennially transport Okinawan Festival equipment and supplies between Hawaii Okinawa Center and Kapiolani Park, before and after the event. In short, Ralph M. Ige is another of our very deserving Uchinanchu of the Year!

Yomitan Club

"Perpetuating the Yomitan Spirit" is the motto of the Yomitan Club. Thomas S. Tamashiro has demonstrated this spirit through his dedication and devotion to the Club for many years. He presently serves as a senior member



UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR *(continued)*

of the Board of Directors and has served in various capacities in the past. He is always willing to help in the Club's activities and share his valuable wisdom and knowledge with younger members. Thomas is also a strong proponent of our culture — the spirited dances, the richness of music, the flavorful dishes, and the spirit of Uchinanchu. Thomas is a true Uchinanchu helping to perpetuate the Yomitan spirit.

Yonabaru Chojin Kai

Byron Okino has served the Yonabaru Chojin Kai as club treasurer for the past three years. The normal term is two years however, Byron agreed to continue in this important and demanding club position for a third year. Byron participates in the planning and execution of all club functions including the annual summer picnic, New Year's party and working the booth at the Okinawan Festival.



always asking if she can help. Aside from club activities she is active in paranku and senior citizen activities. Her contributions to our club are many. She has helped many dedicated volunteers wherever help is needed; she has been there to teach because someone wanted to learn; she is caring because someone needed a little TLC. With this spirit and energy — our hope is she is leaving footprints for us and for the generations to follow.



Young Okinawans of Hawaii

Sandra Goya, known affectionately as Sandy to many, is originally from the "valley isle" of Maui. Since moving to Oahu, she has immersed herself into the Okinawan community and has become a familiar face to everyone associated with the Young Okinawans of Hawaii ("YOH") and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association ("HUOA"). Soon after joining YOH, she served as Vice-President of YOH in 1998, President in 1999, and Advisor ("Jack of all trades") this Centennial Celebration year. Sandy is often called upon to organize festival programs or events because of her superior organization skills. In 2000, she accepted a position with the Lieutenant Governor's office as Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono's Chief of Staff. Even with her hectic schedule she has managed to advise the current YOH board members, participate as a member of the HUOA

Administrative Committee, and Co-Chair the Centennial Celebration Closing Banquet. Sandy has spent the last three years volunteering countless hours for the benefit of the YOH and the HUOA. In a very short time, she has learned much about the language and culture of her heritage. She participates in bon odori and no longer drops andagi that look like a Pokemon creature. The one goal she consistently fails to meet is getting enough sleep and rest. The spirit of the strong and determined Uchinanchu woman radiates from her and touches everyone she meets. Sandy Goya embodies the true meaning of being a Young Okinawan in Hawaii and deserves recognition as the Young Okinawans of Hawaii Uchinanchu for the year 2000.



(Special thanks to Chatan Sonjin Kai member Ray Uyema for sharing these digital files with Uchinanchu.)

Next Uchinanchu deadline:
May 15
E-mail articles to kchinen@lava.net,
or fax them to HUOA office at
676-7811

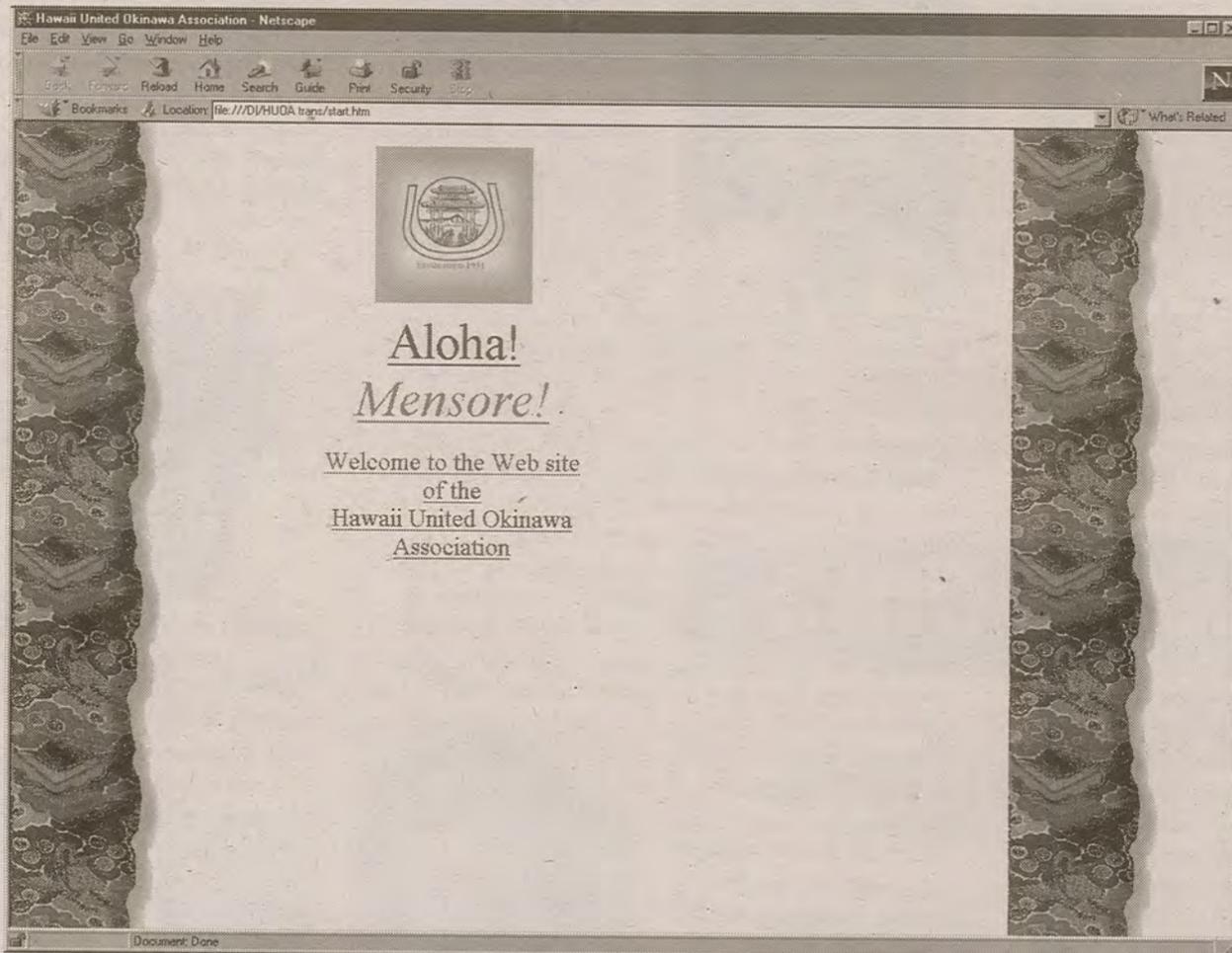
HUOA GOES CYBER: www.huoa.org

by **Ronald Miyashiro**
(Club Kobashigawa)
Chair, HUOA
Computer
Subcommittee

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association's website — www.huoa.org — is up and running, thanks to volunteers on the HUOA's Computer Subcommittee. The website was originally created in 1996, but was dormant for several years. On April 1, www.huoa.org was reactivated after weeks of hard work by the committee. The site makes it possible for the HUOA to communicate with the Okinawan community statewide as well as with Uchinanchu on the Mainland, in Okinawa and wherever in the world there are people interested in things Okinawan in Hawai'i.

Included in the website is information about the HUOA and its activities, last year's Uchinanchu of the Year honorees, and articles from the Uchinanchu newsletter. The schedule for our weekly television show, "Hawaii Okinawa Today," is also posted on the website.

www.huoa.org is on-line thanks to the hard work and creative talents of



Darwin Uesato, Shanti Honda, Donna Isara, Donna Shiroma-Nakasue, Shari Tamashiro, Jon Arakawa, Karen Kuba-Hori, George Miyashiro and Terence Tomori. Henry Isara and Gary Honda of the Communication and Information Committee have played active roles in formulating the website.

In keeping with President Jimmy Iha's theme, "Yui nu Kukuru — Uchinanchu Spirit With Hearts Together," and the belief that the strength of the HUOA comes from its member clubs and their members, we invite the HUOA clubs and the Okinawan cultural schools and associations to share information with us which can be included in the

website. We also invite our HUOA member clubs to use the website to communicate with their members.

The HUOA website will evolve as time progresses: more information will be added. A genealogy section is also in the works. We also plan to add links to other Okinawan-oriented websites.

Anyone interested in working on the website can call the HUOA at 676-5400 or e-mail us at info@huoa.org

HAWAII KARATE SEINENKAI RE-ESTABLISHED

by Charles C. Goodin (*Special to Uchinanchu*)

After a 50-year absence, I recently re-established the Hawaii Karate Seinenkai ("Youth Group"). The Seinenkai was originally established in Hawai'i in 1933 during the visit of Mizuho Mutsu (of Tokyo Imperial University) and Kamesuke Higashionna (of Toyo University). Local instructors Seishin Uehara and Thomas Shigeru Miyashiro, along with Mutsu and Higashionna, were the association's original instructors. The original Hawaii Karate Seinenkai remained in existence until about 1948.

In the course of doing research for a book on the early history of Karate in Hawai'i, I met with the families of Seishin Uehara and Thomas Shigeru Miyashiro, along with many others. With the permission and blessing of Mrs. Uehara and Mrs. Miyashiro, as well as Katsumi Hokama, the original president of the Seinenkai, I decided to re-establish the Seinenkai as a way of honoring the early instructors. The Hawaii Karate Seinenkai is committed to:

- encouraging the practice of Karate by young people;
- fostering peace and health through Karate training and education;
- encouraging research and writing about Karate;
- preserving the legacy of and saluting Hawai'i's Karate pioneers;
- establishing the Hawaii Karate Museum (see details below);
- maintaining Karate's connection to the community; and
- maintaining Karate's place as an important aspect of Okinawan culture.

The Seinenkai has already developed a website — www.Seinenkai.com — which contains many historic photographs and articles.

One of the first projects being undertaken by the Seinenkai is the creation of the Hawaii Karate Museum. In my research, I found that many his-

toric items had been lost over the years due to fire or water damage, or by simply being misplaced or thrown away. That convinced me of the need for a place to preserve Hawai'i's Karate history. Many people have already donated historic Karate materials which are being cataloged, scanned, archived and stored. Karate photographs and books are especially sought, as are any early



Thomas Shigeru Miyashiro, Taro Azama, Kamesuke Higashionna and Seishin Uehara in Honolulu, 1933.

Karate items.

When you donate a photograph to the museum, you will be given a high resolution copy of the photo in return. The copy is often as clear as the original photograph. In this way, the donor can still view the photograph and it will be preserved for future generations. Images can also be

provided on a computer disk or CD.

Can you help preserve Hawai'i's Okinawan Karate history? I am now seeking photographs, books and artifacts for the Hawaii Karate Museum. I know that it will take some time before a permanent facility is established. Until then, there's a lot of work to be done to prepare the collection. I also plan to create exhibits that can be displayed at cultural centers, cultural events and schools.

The Hawaii Karate Seinenkai and the Hawaii Karate Museum are divisions of the Hikari Institute, a Hawai'i nonprofit corporation and a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations to the Institute are tax deductible. The Institute's website is: www.tanega.com/hikari/.

Editor's note:

Karate historian and instructor Charles C. Goodin teaches the Matsubayashi-Ryu form of traditional Okinawan Karate at the Hikari Dojo. Classes are held at Halawa District Park on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Goodin's article, The Roots of Okinawan Karate in Hawai'i, appeared in "Okinawan Mixed Plate: Generous Servings of Culture, Customs and Cuisine," which was published last year by Hui O Lailima. He has also written numerous articles about Karate that have been published in Hawai'i newspapers as well as local and national martial arts journals.

Charles Goodin can be contacted at:

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Fax: (808) 488-5778
E-mail: goodin@lava.net
Website: www.tanega.com/hikari/
Divisions: Hikari Dojo (HikariDojo.com)
Hawaii Karate Seinenkai (Seinenkai.com)

DEADLINE NEARING FOR LEADERSHIP STUDY TOUR

April 30 is the deadline to apply for HUOA's Leadership Study Tour to Okinawa, scheduled for Oct. 2-13. The tour is designed to inspire and develop club and HUOA leaders by giving them an opportunity to take part in an intensive educational and experiential study tour of Okinawa.

Thirty-seven people participated in the first leadership tour in 1980. It was initiated and sponsored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. The tour was revived in 1993 with HUOA, the participants and their sponsoring clubs sharing the cost. Subsequent tours were held in 1995 and 1999.

"The Leadership Study Tours have made a tremendous impact," said tour chair and 1993-94 HUOA president Jane Serikaku. "Many of the participants have made significant contributions to their clubs and HUOA."

Each club is responsible for selecting its own participant, age 25 to 45, and for submitting the application to the Leadership Committee. The \$2,100 tour cost (airfare, ground transportation, hotel accommodations) will be split three ways: one-third paid by HUOA, and the remaining two-thirds by the participant and the sponsoring club. The HUOA subsidy will be awarded to the first 16 applicants who meet the basic criteria. The individual selected need not be an active or current officer. However, consideration should be given to his or her demonstrated potential to lead.

Participants are required to attend pre-tour workshops on Okinawan history, culture, protocol and etiquette as well as on HUOA and its clubs. They must also attend a post-tour evaluation. While in Okinawa, they will attend lectures, take part in discussions, tours, cultural recitals and interact with other young adults.

The participants are required to spend two nights in a homestay situation, ideally with their Okinawan relatives, or a family from their ancestors' hometown. The homestay is an opportunity to live the language, culture and lifestyle of Okinawa. It has been one of the most successful components of the Leadership Study Tour. Participants must submit the name,

address and phone number of their homestay family when they apply. Application forms are available from your club president, or by calling the HUOA office at 676-5400.

"It is HUOA's hope that the participants will return from the Leadership Study Tour inspired and committed to serve and provide leadership in their clubs and the HUOA," said Serikaku. 🌸



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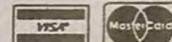


Tom Nago
President

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Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

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MARK THESE DATES!

- April 23: HUOA Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 April 24: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC.
 April 28: HUOA Summit. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. @ HOC.
 April 28: "Okinawa Minyo Kohaku"—Okinawa's version of the popular Red and White song fest. 7:30 - 10 p.m. on KIKU-TV (Oceanic Cable Channel 9).
 April 29: HUOA Spring Craft Fair. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. @ HOC.
 April 30: HUOA Leadership Tour application deadline.
 May 1: HUOA Program Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 6: Kariyushi Program. 9 a.m. @ HOC (Legacy Ballroom).
 May 8: HUOA Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
 May 9: HUOA 50th anniversary Storytelling Festival: "Mixed Plate Night" with storytellers Karen Yamamoto Hackler and Woody Fern. 6:30 - 9 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 9: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 10: HUOA 50th anniversary Storytelling Festival: "Generations Night" with storytellers Nyla Ching-Fujii and Dann Seki. 6:30 - 9 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 11: HUOA 50th anniversary Storytelling Festival: "Obake Night" with storytellers Makia Malo, Nyla Ching-Fujii and a special guest storyteller. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 11: Entry deadline for May 26-27 HUOA golf tournament.
 May 15: Okinawan Festival meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 16: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 20: HUOA Communication & Information Committee meeting. 2 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 22: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC.
 May 26-27: HUOA golf tournament @ Pali Golf Course. (Awards banquet: May 27, 5:30 p.m. @ Jikoen Hongwanji Okinawa Memorial Hall).
 May 28: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Memorial Day holiday.
 May 29: HUOA Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 June 5: HUOA Program Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 June 9: Maui Okinawan Festival, sponsored by Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai. 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. @ the Rinzai Zen Mission in Paia.
 June 10: Kintetsu "Matsuri in Hawai'i" Festival. 5 p.m. Ewa end of Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki.
 June 11: Hawaii Okinawa Center closed for Kamehameha Day.
 June 11-15: HUOA Children's Day Camp. 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. @ HOC.
 June 16: "Dentoo No Bi — The Beauty of Tradition." 45th anniversary recital of the Hooge Kai Nakasone Yoshiko Dance Academy. 6:30 p.m. @ Blaisdell Concert Hall.
 June 18: HUOA Board of Directors meeting. 7:30 p.m. @ HOC (Legacy Ballroom).
 June 19: Okinawan Festival meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 June 20: Uchinaaguchi class. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 June 25: HUOA Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC.
 June 26: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC.

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" (HOT) SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative program schedule for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" through July. "Hawaii Okinawa Today" is a production of the HUOA video team. Programs air Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. on 'Olelo: The Corporation for Community Television (Oceanic Cable channel 52).

The latest schedule information on "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs is available on the HUOA's website — www.huoa.org — or by tuning in to Keiko Ura's radio program on KZOO on Sundays from 4:30 to 5 p.m. For more information on the HUOA video team or "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs, call Henry Isara at 595-2773, or e-mail him at henryisara@hawaii.rr.com

- April 25: HUOA Board of Directors meeting at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Interviews with President James Iha and others (held Feb. 26, 2001). Also, other events.
 May 2: Part 1 of "Chuhisa Na — Fulfilling Dreams, One Step at a Time" — Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo's first recital (held May 13, 2000 at the Hawaii Theatre).
 May 9: Part 3 of the Hawaii Okinawa Center 10th anniversary celebration (held June 10, 2000 at the HOC).
 May 16: "Leilani's Hibiscus" — Hawai'i premiere of Uchinanchu playwright Jon Shirota's bittersweet love story (staged July 14, 2000 at Kumu Kahua Theatre); also to be shown: congratulations dinner for Choichi Terukina Sensei of the Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai of Okinawa on being named a National Living Treasure of Japan (held June 7, 2000 at Natsunoya Teahouse).
 May 23: Repeat showing of HUOA Installation Banquet (held Jan. 20 at the HOC).
 May 30: "Ukaji Deebiru" — Hui Makaala-HUOA Fashion Show (held Oct. 22, 2000 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel).
 June 6: Repeat showing of Hui Okinawa's Hilo Haari Boat races (held August 19, 2000 in Hilo), and Namie Amuro concert (held May 12, 2000 at the Waikiki Shell).
 June 13: Part 1 of the Hawaii Okinawa Center 10th anniversary celebration (held June 10, 2000 at the HOC).
 June 20: Part 2 of "Chuhisa Na — Fulfilling Dreams, One Step at a Time" — Tamagusuku Ryu Senju Kai Frances Nakachi Ryubu Dojo's first recital (held May 13, 2000 at the Hawaii Theatre).
 June 27: Part 2 of the Hawaii Okinawa Center 10th anniversary celebration (held June 10, 2000 at the HOC).
 July 4: Part 2 of the Okinawa-to-Hawai'i sail of the Kin Town "Voyage of Rediscovery" (held July 1-15, 2000).
 July 11: Repeat showing of Kauai Okinawan Dance Festival (held April 18 & 19, 2000 on Kaua'i).
 July 18: Mini Tsunahiki (held July 16, 2000 at Ala Moana Park).
 July 25: Repeat showing of Part 3 of the Hawaii Okinawa Center 10th anniversary celebration (held June 10, 2000 at the HOC).

ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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