



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

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GLADYS TOKUNAGA-ASAO INSTALLED AS 2002 PRESIDENT

More than 800 Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart came together in the Teruya Pavilion of the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Jan. 26 to cheer on the 2001 Uchinanchu of the Year and to install 2002 HUOA President Gladys Tokunaga-Asao and her fellow officers.

Tokunaga-Asao is a member of Tamagusuku Club and Hui O Lailima. In 1998 Tamagusuku Club recognized her as its "Uchinanchu of the Year." Tokunaga-Asao served many years as a Hawaii Okinawa Center trustee and chaired the HOC's 10th anniversary celebration during the Okinawan Centennial Celebration. Last year, she co-chaired the Okinawan Festival with then-vice presidents George Tamashiro and Keith Kaneshiro. Tokunaga-Asao is married to Charles Asao and has three children. She works for Bonded Construction.

The installation banquet program featured a mixed bag: some installation pomp and circumstance; cheering on the "Uchinanchu of the Year" (see pgs. 6-11) and HUOA sports champs; traditional Okinawan entertainment by Jolene Nakama during the dinner hour and later, dances by students of the Majikina Honryu Buyo Dojo, of which Tokunaga-Asao is a member; and a cha-cha performance by the HUOA Chiburoos Plus One.

Serving with Tokunaga-Asao are President-elect George Tamashiro (Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai); Vice Presidents Keith Kaneshiro (Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, Kochinda Chojin Kai and Hui Makaala), Rodney Kohagura (Ginowan Shijin Kai and Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii) and Karleen Chinen (Bito Doshi Kai); Executive Secretary Jane Tateyama (Club Motobu); Assistant Executive Secretary Thelma Lam (Yomitan Club and Hui O Lailima); Japanese Language Secretary

Chikako Nago (Young Okinawans of Hawaii); Treasurer Sandra Goya (Nishihara Chojin Kai and Young Okinawans of Hawaii); Assistant Treasurer Jaysin Asato (Nago Club); and Immediate Past President Jimmy Iha (Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai and Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai). Tokunaga-Asao selected Dorothy Shiroma Hoe (Hui O Lailima), Jean Seki (Nago Club), John Tasato (Ginowan Shijin



The 2001 "Uchinanchu of the Year" in all their glory (see pgs. 6-11 for individual profiles).

Kai), Jimmy Toyama (Yonabaru Chojin Kai), Henry Uyeshiro (Onna Sonjin Kai) and Maurice Yamasato (Haneji Club) as her advisors. The new officers were installed by former HUOA president Ryokichi Higashionna, and congratulatory karii were offered by Tamagusuku Club President Takashi Tshako and the new president's father, 92-year-old Takeichi Tokunaga.



Gladys Tokunaga-Asao is installed as the 51st president of the HUOA. (David Shimabukuro photos)

50th anniversary. She also thanked his wife Marian and the rest of the Iha family for sharing Jimmy with HUOA.

Tokunaga-Asao said she was honored to serve as the HUOA's 51st president. "All of us working, playing, honoring and celebrating together as member clubs of the HUOA have played a part in preserving, perpetuating and promoting our Okinawan cultural heritage," she said.

Tokunaga-Asao paid tribute to the late Shoei Moriyama, a fellow Tamagusuku Club member, who passed away last November. Before he became ill, Tokunaga-Asao said she had talked to him about a theme for her administration. Moriyama, a talented Okinawan musician, creative artist and all-around HUOA supporter, suggested the Uchinaaguchi words, "Ichimadin Kanaganatu," meaning "forever embracing." "I would also like

to dedicate this theme in memory of Shoei-san, for he practiced 'Ichimadin Kanaganatu' every day of his too-short life," she said.

As the HUOA begins its second 50 years, Tokunaga-Asao said the organization must rededicate itself to preserving all that it can about the early Okinawan experience. "We need to keep this legacy alive for the future generations. By doing so, we will make their lives richer and more fulfilling. And, we will ensure the perpetuation of the Uchinanchu Spirit."

She said the organization must also analyze what it is doing and how it can better serve HUOA's member clubs, the Uchinanchu community and the larger Hawaii community. "And then we must have the foresight and the courage to make the changes that we need to so

that the HUOA will continue to be relevant and to serve our community long into the future."

"We have much to do. But in the spirit of 'Ichimadin Kanaganatu — Forever Embracing,' I know we will prevail. I humbly ask for your support." 🌸

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Thank you for . . . the honor and privilege . . .

by James Y. Iha (Chatan-Kadena Sonjin Kai, Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai)
2001 President, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen . . . welcome to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association's 52nd Installation Banquet. Thank you for joining us this evening. As we begin the new year, I wish to extend my best wishes for a Happy New Year filled with much good fortune and good health.

When the sounds of the New Year celebration subsided, I realized that my term of office as the president of this great organization ended. In retrospect, it was a challenging and rewarding experience with many interesting, enjoyable and memorable activities. I wish to extend my heartfelt thank you for giving me the honor and privilege to serve as your president.

This past year, as we worked toward the attainment of the purpose of this organization — to promote, perpetuate and preserve our Okinawan culture and values — we conducted many activities with the support, assistance and participation of thousands of Okinawans and Okinawans-at-heart. On behalf of the HUOA, I sincerely thank all of them from our HUOA staff, our officers, Board of Directors, activity chairpersons and committee members, and to those who came to help in an activity or participated in an activity. Thank you very much. Also, on behalf of the HUOA, I extend our highest commendation to the members of

(continued on page 2)

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UCHINANCHU
Ippe nihei 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 the Okinawan cultural heritage.

HUOA received a total of \$2,395.00 in contributions for *Uchinanchu* during the months of

October, November and December 2001, and January 2002. Every dollar donated — along with the valuable income from advertising — helps offset the cost of publishing *Uchinanchu*. HUOA sends a heartfelt ippe nihei deebiru to the following donors, including seven from the Big Island, six from Maui and three from Kaua’i, and one each from Gardena and Torrance in California. Mahalo for keeping *Uchinanchu* alive and thriving.

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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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- Writers Wayne Miyahira, Sharon Shimabukuro, Karleen C. Chinen
- Design & Layout Stephan Doi
- Editorial/Production Services MBFT Media

Outgoing President’s Message *(continued)*

the Installation Banquet Committee and all who supported and contributed to this well-organized and outstanding activity. Special thank you is extended to my two member clubs — Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai and the Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai, who supported and assisted me during my tenure in office.

This evening, I would like to recognize the recipients of the prestigious “Uchinanchu of the Year” Award. To these awardees, with gratitude and appreciation, I extend my sincerest thank you for their contribution not only to their member clubs but also to the HUOA, because we fully realize that the strength of the HUOA is highly dependent on the strength and effectiveness of our member clubs. Looking at the recipients, it almost seems as if we are looking at a list of Okinawan “Who’s Who in Hawai’i.” Congratulations on your selection as the “Uchinanchu of the Year.”

As we begin the second year of the new millennium, a committed and dedicated individual will lead us. I had the good fortune of working with her closely for the past three years. Gladys Tokunaga-Asao is a task-oriented individual who has the network and support of many fellow Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart to undertake any task. I have every confidence that she will lead our association to greater heights in effectiveness and efficiency in accomplishing our vision, purpose and objectives. Let us give Gladys, her fellow officers and her administration our full support.

Finally, in this building dedicated in memory of our Issei, or first generation immigrants from Okinawa, I want to share this evening with two very important Issei in my life. They are my deceased parents. My father, Sonkyu Iha, immigrated to Hawai’i in 1905 from Yara Kadena-Chatan at the age of 19, and my mother, Kame Iha, from Nagahama, Yomitan in 1908 as a picture bride. They persevered and raised a family of 10. They instilled in all of us a love and appreciation for Okinawan music, songs and dances and the cultural values that have been expressed in our HUOA themes, such as “Yui Nu Kuku — Uchinanchu Spirit with Hearts Together,” “Yuimaaru” — working harmoniously together for the common good of all, “Yaaninju” — we are family, and one of my favorites, “Ichariba Chode” — once we meet, we are brothers and sisters. Our theme for this year, “Ichimadin Kanaganatu — Forever Embracing,” has a strong cultural significance.



Outgoing president Jimmy Iha exhibits his joy at receiving a golf putter as his outgoing president’s gift — and vowed to become a professional golfer. (David Shimabukuro photo)

Yes, my parents, like your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents or great-great-grandparents, are all happy and proud of our accomplishments. They are all here with us this evening and will continue to give us the guidance we need. Let us always remember our Issei and all the Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart who have left us with a proud legacy as we face a challenging and promising future in our effort to promote, perpetuate and preserve our Okinawan culture and values.

Thank you very much — Ippe Nihwee Deebiru.

MARCH 18 PROGRAM TO LAUNCH HUOA "OKINAWAN DISCOVERY SERIES"

by Karleen C. Chinen
Bito Doshi Kai

Did you know that the Hawaiian Islands and the islands of Okinawa are home to species of plants and animals that can be found nowhere else in the world? And, did you know that one of the finest collections of rare and ancient Ryukyuan manuscripts, maps, scrolls and prints is housed right here in the Islands, at the University of Hawai'i?

Two UH experts will share their knowledge of the subjects on Monday evening, March 18, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, when the Hawaii United Okinawa Association launches an exciting new educational series for HUOA members and the community at large. The "Okinawan Discovery Series" will be an ongoing program highlighting Okinawa and Okinawan-related topics. HUOA's partner in the program is the University of Hawai'i, which will share some of its experts with the HUOA. Most of the programs will be free of charge and open to the public.

The March 18 program will feature a talk by entomologist Dr. Ken Y. Kaneshiro, who has directed the Center for Conservation Research and Training at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 1993. In 1988, he worked with Okinawan scientists to eradicate fruit flies in Okinawa and has, subsequently, been involved in many conferences on fruit fly eradication. Kaneshiro will introduce some of the "natural living treasures" — extremely rare species of plants, birds and insects — found only in Okinawa. He will also talk about a few of the special plant and animal species found only in the Hawaiian Islands.

Kaneshiro has been invited to speak at many national and international conferences and symposia. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii.



Dr. Ken Kaneshiro

A Sansei whose grandparents immigrated to Hawaii from Itoman and Nishihara, he notes proudly that his father, the late Kenichi Kaneshiro, helped organize the Itoman Nisei Club in the 1950s and '60s.

The second talk, which will focus on one of the university of Hawaii's genuine treasures — the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection — will be delivered by Tokiko Y. Bazzell, who is the Japan Specialist Librarian at UH's Hamilton Library. Hawaii's Uchinanchu community was directly involved in the acquisition of the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection, which includes rare and ancient Ryukyuan manuscripts, maps, scrolls and prints. The collection became available in 1961 following the sudden death of its owner, English journalist Frank Hawley. Remarkably, it had survived the devastation of Okinawa during World War II. Two highly respected Okinawa scholars described the collection as containing "superior" materials, and many researchers and scholars from around the world have used materials in the collection for their research.

The University of Hawai'i acquired the collection in March 1961 following Hawley's death. UH Asian

history professor Dr. Shunzo Sakamaki departed immediately for Okinawa to negotiate the purchase of the collection for the University of Hawai'i from Hawley's Okinawan widow. Five thousand dollars of the total \$20,000 purchase price was raised by Hawaii's Okinawan community within a few months. Bazzell will talk about some of the treasures in the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection.

Last November, Kaneshiro and Bazzell accompanied University of Hawai'i President Evan Dobbelle on his first trip to Okinawa. Both delivered papers at a University of Hawai'i-University of the Ryukyus symposium that focused on resource-



Tokiko Bazzell

and knowledge-sharing between the sister universities. Hawai'i's 10-member delegation also included University of Hawai'i Senior Vice President and Chancellor for Community Colleges Dr. Joyce Tsunoda, and Mariko Miho, Director of Fund Development for Community Colleges. Miho was

previously executive director of the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a program of Okinawan music and dance and light refreshments. The talks will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free and the program is open to the general public. For more information, call Gary Honda or Karen Kuba-Hori at the HUOA office at 676-5400. ☎

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YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII . . . by Jon Itomura

To many, thoughts of Christmas include Santa, presents and shopping mall madness. To 600 seniors, however, Christmas means time for the Young Okinawans of Hawaii's (YOH) Senior Luncheon! This tradition was established over 10 years ago and attracts hundreds of seniors each year. The 2001 luncheon was no exception. Tour buses, the cost of which was generously covered by Hui O Laulima and YOH, picked up YOH's guests of honor from several different sites in Honolulu.

As the seniors entered the Legacy Ballroom of the Teruya Pavilion, they were greeted by over 60 young and "young-at-heart" volunteers — all of them cognizant of how much the seniors have done in their lifetime without asking for anything in return.

Our guests were provided with a special pupu offering created by Saimin House's very own master, Geno Oshiro. Standing by at each table was a volunteer who made sure that water and tea was available at all times. Lucky number prizes were awarded throughout the luncheon — but all eyes and ears were awaiting the infamous YOH Senior Luncheon program.

YOH 2001 Vice President Jodie (Tomas) Ching had written a short play titled, "Adventures of Beni Da Imo," based loosely on the timeless tale, "The Wizard of Oz."



A scene from Young Okinawans of Hawaii's 2001 Senior Luncheon epic, "Adventures of Beni Da Imo."

The characters were all-too-familiar — just a bit stranger. There was "Nabe-Man" (played by Andrew Gushiken) and "Green Onion Girl" (Jodi Ching), who just wanted to eat Spam musubi without losing their mom's Tupperware; "Mr. Tofu Square Pants" (David Arakaki), who needed new rubbah slip-pahs (slippers); cute Kijimunas (Okinawan menehune played by Valerie Zukeran, Gwen

Zakahi and Jennifer Oshiro); and the "Great Champuru Wizard" (Jon Itomura), who helped "Beni da Imo" (2001 YOH President Val Schmidt) use her shiny murasaki (purple) slippers to get back to her pumpkin patch. The "Good Baba" was played by Bill Akamine, who looked splendid in his pink muumuu, and Robyn Matsumoto was the

"Evil Baba," trying to make champuru out of everyone. The cast also included Zak Lee as "Goya Man" with his missing ear. Segued between Beni da Imo's quest to find the Great Champuru Wizard were entertaining song and dance performances for the seniors.

YOH uses funds generated by fundraising activities throughout the year to give the seniors an opportunity to see that their legacy is alive and prospering among younger Uchinanchus and Uchinanchus-at-heart in Hawaii. Young Okinawans of Hawaii extends its appreciation to all the seniors in the community — and a special "Ippe Nihwee Debiru" to all the special volunteers and performers who contributed their time and efforts to continue this special tradition. We look forward to seeing you again this holiday season.

KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI . . . by Ed Kino

At last November's Winter Craft Fair, Kanegusuku members Henry Nagamine, Ronald Oshiro, Toshi Shimabukuro, Richard Shimabukuro, Lauren Halemano, Masuo Kino and Ed Kino assisted with vendor unloading and booth numbers from 6 to 8:30 a.m.

Also, Kanegusuku members enjoyed the food and fellowship at the club's 76th shinnen enkaï, which was held Feb. 10 at Victoria Inn's 2nd floor banquet room.

OKINAWA CITY-GOEKU SON . . . by Karen Kuba-Hori

Goeku is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Please mail in your shinnen enkaï reservation form and join the festivities on March 9 at the Neal Blaisdell Center beginning at 6 p.m. Call Karen Kuba-Hori at 235-1243 if you have any questions or if you can donate a door prize for the party.

On a much sadder note . . . we extend our condolences to the family of Gary Higa, Sr., who passed away recently. Gary was a former president and an active contributor to the success of our organization. His involvement and love for Goeku will always be remembered.

HUI OKINAWA . . . by Amy Shiroma

Hui Okinawa held its general membership meeting in early November at the Hilo Hongwanji Betsuin Sangha Hall. The luncheon meeting was co-chaired by Thomas Ortogero and Kent Inouye, with the authentic Okinawan lunch prepared by Nori's Saimin and Snacks. On the agenda was the election of Hui Okinawa's officers and Board of Directors and the announcements of the year-end awards.

Carolyn Oki will serve as Hui Okinawa's 2002 president. Serving with her will be: Thomas Ortogero, vice president; Lynn Namihira, secretary; and Alben

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Dr. Kaneshiro will introduce some of the extremely rare
species of plants, birds and insects found only in Okinawa—
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"Treasures of Okinawa:

The Sakamaki/Hawley Collection"

Tokiko Bazzell

Japan Specialist Librarian
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Ms. Bazzell will highlight some of the rare and ancient
Okinawan manuscripts, maps, scrolls and prints in the
Sakamaki/Hawley Collection, acquired by the University
in March 1961.



MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2002

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Namihira, treasurer.

The club also presented its 2001 recognition awards. Past president Milton Yafuso's loyalty, dependability, dedicated service and commitment to Hui Okinawa over the past 20 years earned him recognition as the "Member of the Year." He was also honored as Hui Okinawa's "Uchinanchu of the Year" at the HUOA's installation banquet in January.

The "Distinguished Service Award" was presented to four members for their sustained and superior service to Hui Okinawa: Yukiko Chinen, Violet Miyashiro, Masako Uehara and Shizue Yafuso. Andrew Gushiken, Susan Kaneshiro and Thomas Ortogero were presented the "Chibayaa Award" for the fine example they set through their dedication and diligent service to Hui Okinawa.



The "Distinguished Service Award" honorees: Yukiko Chinen, Violet Miyashiro, Masako Uehara and Shizue Yafuso.

Twenty-two Hui Okinawa members were presented the "Hatarachaa Award" for the extraordinary time and effort they gave to furthering club projects and goals last year. The recipients were:

Annie Aoki, Hazel Bello, Tom Bello, Robert Chibana, Leroy Chow, Samie Goya, Edwin Hara, Jean Higa, Natalie Higa, Tom Higa, Kent Inouye, Toyo Ishikawa, Ruby Maekawa, Raymond Miyashiro, Jan Nakahara, Marvatee Nishihira, Myra Ochi, Paul Ochi, Wilbert Shimabukuro, Miyoko Taira, Kei Tamanaha and Margaret Torigoe.



Hui Okinawa's youthful "Warabincha Award" honorees.

"The Warabincha Award," which recognizes service and participation in club activities by its youth members was presented to 22 up-and-coming leaders of Hui Okinawa: Elizabeth Alonzo, Preston Chibana, Roanne Chow, Royson Chow, Jonathan Hara, Ann Inouye, Steven Inouye, Erin Irie, Kevin Kaneshiro, Gerrie Morishita, Jaime Morishita, Casey Nagamine,

Tyson Ochi, Brandie Saito, Scott Saito, Dana Shimabukuro, Jessie Shiroma, Katie Shiroma, Theone Suzuki, Owen Tomori, Allyson Yafuso and Marlene Yafuso.

HAWAII SASHIKI CHINEN DOSHI KAI . . . by Mel Gushiken

Last November, several Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai student exchange host families were joined by Hawaii descendants of families from Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son on a trip to Okinawa organized for them by Barbara Maeshiro of Trans Pacific Tours. The trip commemorated the 10th anniversary of the student exchange program between Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai and the Sashiki Cho Board of Education, which was started in 1992.

One group began their travels in Hong Kong and Shenzhen; the other group in Okinawa. The two met up in Okinawa, where they toured Naha and northern Okinawa.

Later in the week, they visited Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son, located on the south-eastern side of Okinawa. While in Chinen Son, they had an opportunity to visit Kudaka Island, located offshore from Chinen Son. Everyone enjoyed a performance at Sugar Hall in Sashiki Cho. The performance finale featured nine young ladies from our tour group performing the hula to KZOO Radio announcer Keiko Ura's song, "Okage Sama de," which she wrote for the Okinawan centennial celebration. We also had the privilege of listening to the sanshin music of Choichi Terukina Sensei, who, in the year 2000 was named a "National Living Treasure" of Japan.

During the evening, a reception hosted by Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son was held at the Kosei-nen-kin Kyuka Center. Some of the students who participated in the student exchange program over the years were reunited with their Hawaii host families. The trip also gave Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai members an opportunity to visit with their Okinawa relatives.



Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai members took a souvenir shot at the historic Shurei no Mon.

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 YAMAMOTO • YAMASHIRO • YAMASHITA
 YAMAUCHI • YANAMURA • YOGI • ZUKEMURA



UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR

AWASE DOSHI KAI

LENORE NAKAMA

The Awase Doshi Kai is proud to nominate Lenore Nakama as its Uchinanchu of the Year for 2001. Lenore is a sansei and is the daughter of Harry and Patsy Nakama. Lenore, along with her two sisters, and one brother, come from a family that has been actively involved in the Awase Doshi Kai for over 50 years. In recent years, she has taken a more active role in the planning process for our varied club activities. She has been a tireless worker at our summer picnics helping with set up and prize distribution. At our Christmas parties, Lenore has helped to organize and run the games that have provided so much enjoyment for both the children and adults. She has also been a regular volunteer for Awase at the food booths at the annual Okinawan Festival. It is never an easy task to plan and organize all the various tasks that are required for the different club activities.

Volunteers, such as Lenore, make it possible to carry on the functions that benefit all generations of "Uchinanchus" in our club.

**AZA GUSHIKAWA DOSHI KAI
RUSSELL TOKUDA & WENDY (TOKUDA) HORIKAMI**

"...to pass on the values our parents and grandparents taught us." That is the reason our Uchinanchus of the Year, Russell Tokuda and his sister Wendy Tokuda Horikami, are so active with Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai.

Every year Wendy graciously accepts the call to be our "Mistress of Ceremonies" at our annual picnic. She is the spark plug that gets all the kids (young and old) to come up and participate in games and activities. Wendy has served as a club officer six times in various capacities—secretary, advisor, vice-president and president. She also volunteers for HUOA-sponsored activities.

Russell is currently the assistant treasurer and has served the club twice before, once as treasurer and once as secretary. He is also the club liaison for HUOA volleyball and softball leagues.



Both Russell and Wendy credit their parents, Shizuo (Billy) and Alice Tokuda, and grandparents, Sankichi and Kama Tokuda and Yeimo and Sunaho Kaneshiro, for instilling in them their sense of pride in their Okinawan heritage. They both want to pass on to the next generation the values and principles of being an Uchinanchu.

AZA YOGI DOSHI KAI HENRY MIYASATO

Henry Miyasato, a dedicated and supportive member for many years, is a valuable asset to our club. We really appreciate his willingness to assist with the activities of our club and the HUOA. He is always available whenever help is needed. Some of his activities as a volunteer include helping with our annual shinnen enkai, HOC clean up, HUOA Okinawan Festival's country store, carrying our club's banner during HUOA and other parades, and directing parking at various craft fairs. Also, he chaired and was responsible for parking at the HUOA 2000 Evening Craft Fair last December. He also volunteered for the community by coaching the Kaneohe Little League Baseball and the PAL basketball teams. Being an avid bowler, he participates in the HGEA Bowling League. We are proud to honor Henry as our "Uchinanchu of the Year" for Aza Yogi Doshi Kai.



BITO DOSHI KAI DOROTHY SHIMABUKU

Bito Doshi Kai is pleased to honor longtime member Dorothy (Oshiro) Shimabuku as our "Uchinanchu of the Year." Dorothy and her husband, Choriki, have been active Bito Doshi Kai members since its formation in 1949. Dorothy supports our club activities, our club members in their times of need, and HUOA's many activities: Okinawan Festival, craft fairs, banquets, etc.



Dorothy was born in Hilo. Her father was from Chatan-Kadena, her mother from Shuri. The Shimabukus have three daughters and one son, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They encourage their chil-

dren and grandchildren to participate in Bito and HUOA activities with them. Dorothy retired from Kamehameha Garment Company after many years of service.

Bito Doshi Kai thanks and congratulates Dorothy Shimabuku.

CHATAN-KADENA CHOJIN KAI VICTOR YASUO YAMASHIROYA

It is 4:30 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon and you are listening to KZOO Radio. The voice announcing the activities of the HUOA is a familiar one, for it is that of Victor Yasuo Yamashiroya, chairman of the program committee of the HUOA and a valuable member of the Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai. Victor has been instrumental in various activities in the association. He is the chairperson of the logistics committee for the Okinawan Festival and is instrumental in the entire set up of Kapiolani Park for this affair.

He served as president of the Chatan Sonjin Kai during the years 1996-1998 and presently serves as an advisor. Victor is always willing to take on responsibilities that help to make club functions possible and works tirelessly to make them successful. We can always count on him.

An employee of the City and County of Honolulu for more than 30 years, Victor is a draft person in the Department of Design and Construction. He and his wife, Joyce, are the proud parents of two sons, Dr. Kevin Yamashiroya and Richard Yamashiroya, a student at the University of Hawai'i and past participant of the Geidai Scholarship Program. The members of the Chatan-Kadena Chojin Kai are proud to honor Victor Yamashiroya as their Uchinanchu of the Year 2001.

CLUB KOBASHIGAWA ETHEL HAIDA

What does Ethel Toyoko Haida do with her time since retiring from the Department of Education ten years ago? Well, the list is long and varied. She is a part-time substitute teacher, cooks for her diabetic spouse, office worker-bookkeeper for Church of World Messianity-Johrei Hawaii, and for relaxation, she plays



Thank You for your support and continued patronage. We look forward to serving you in the years ahead.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Prosperous New Year

A
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TO ALL OF OUR
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AND THE HUOA

HAEBARU CLUB

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Albert H. Miyasato, President
Yoshiharu Satoh, Advisor

Happy New Year to HUOA and fellow member clubs!

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ALOHA
TO MEMBERS OF HUOA
WISHING YOU A VERY SPECIAL NEW YEAR!

KEN KIYABU

golf with the Oahu Teachers Golf Club and friends. Ethel also successfully served as president of Club Kobashigawa for two years. Even with all the various activities that Ethel schedules into her daily routine, she is still the first to volunteer when help is needed, ready to lend a helping hand for any task, and always gets the job done from beginning to end. You can say this Waipahu-born lady knows the value of hard work, spirited leadership, and dedicated volunteers.

We are indeed fortunate and very grateful for having such a dedicated member. Congratulations, Ethel Toyoko Haida. Ippe nihe deebiru from Club Kobashigawa.

CLUB MOTOBU

JOHN M. GUSHIKEN



Being a member since Club Motobu's inception, John Masaichi Gushiken has been instrumental in keeping the Okinawan spirit strong for over fifty years. His enthusiasm for bridging the younger and older members together in fellowship was especially apparent during the annual picnics. John put together games that everyone of any ability could participate in and kept it going for over forty years. His generosity extended into years of donating game prizes and helium balloons for added color and enjoyment.

GAZA YONAGUSUKU DOSHI KAI

GERALD SHIROMA

Sponsoring Gerald Shiroma to the HUOA Leadership Tour to Okinawa in September 1999 was a great investment for the Gaza Club. This trip inspired Gerald to be active in our club and HUOA activities. He is a willing and dependable person. As a member of the Gaza Club and the Young Okinawans of Hawaii, Gerald is visible in almost all of our club and the HUOA events. The perpetuation of the Okinawan culture is very important to Gerald. He is an accomplished sanshin player and a student of the art of Okinawan dancing. Congratulations Gerald and keep up your good work! Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai is proud of you!

GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI

CHRISTINE HIGA

Christine Higa is an outstanding member of the Ginowan Shijin Kai and has contributed unselfishly of her time and energy in keeping the club active and progressive. In February 1992, the Ginowan Shijin Kai published an 80th year commemorative booklet and Chris was one of the driving forces in producing an excellent booklet, one which the Ginowan members are proud of. In addition to being the correspondence secretary of the club since 1997, Chris has been a leader and supporter in numerous projects, and served on various committees such as the 2001 Winter Craft Fair and Children's Fair.

Her ideas on positive changes in club activities have encouraged growth and member participation. She initiated the children's cultural table at the shinnen enkaï where the children are given a folder with Okinawan history, culture, and Ginowan background, and it is written in such a way that the children can readily read and understand. Every year she adds more information and the children look forward to the annual shinnen enkaï.

She continues to keep the Uchinanchu spirit alive by attending taiko and hogen classes. Ginowan Shijin Kai is proud to honor Christine Higa as the Uchinanchu of the Year.

GINOZA SONJIN KAI

KIYOKO SHINSATO

Persons born in the year of the Ox are characterized as hardworking and persistent (sometimes called stubborn).

Kiyoko Yara Shinsato was born on August 30, 1913 (the Year of the Ox) in Lahaina, Maui. Kiyoko married the late Yeichi Shinsato in 1933 and settled in Wailuku where they started a poi factory. Seeking better opportunities, the Shinsato family moved to the Damon Tract area of Honolulu in late 1941. A true entrepreneur, Kiyoko operated a grocery store in Palama until 1948. Kiyoko and Yeichi moved their family of two sons and three daughters to Liliha in 1955 where she continues to reside today. Until her retirement in the 1970s, Kiyoko worked as a cook and a seamstress. Kiyoko enjoys traveling and seeing the world as evidenced by her journeys to China, Japan, Okinawa, Canada, Europe, South America, East Coast, and the Greater Western National Parks.

She has persevered as a true hardworking Ox. The Ginoza Sonjin Kai is proud to honor Kiyoko Shinsato as our "Uchinanchu of the Year."

GUSHICHAN SONJIN KAI

HELEN MIJI OH

We are extremely proud to honor Helen Miji Oh as our Uchinanchu of the Year. She is currently an advisor and phone tree leader on our board and served in various capacities for many years, including president in 1991 and 1992. Helen always has so much energy and enthusiasm, and encourages everyone to participate in Gushichan activities. She is also very active with the HUOA and has served as its corresponding secretary in 1994, and HOC volunteer coordinator since 1993. For the last four years, she was chairperson for the pre-and post-festival hospitality committee, feeding all the construction and cleanup workers. Helen also coordinated the dinners for the Okinawan exchange students in 1999 and 2000.



She is also a member of Hui O Lailima. Through her involvement in club and HUOA activities, she has met a lot of people and made a lot of friends. What drives her to be so active in the Okinawan community? Helen says that she wants to continue with what her parents taught her and she enjoys doing what she does. Helen says, "We have a lot of work to do, and lots to contribute."

GUSHIKAWA SHIJIN KAI

CALVIN NAKAMA

Gushikawa Shijin Kai is proud to honor Calvin Nakama as our Uchinanchu of the Year. In January 1991, he began taiko with Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko, a taiko art founded in Okinawa in 1987 by Master Morio Matsuda. He and 15 members of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH) underwent intensive training in Okinawa under Matsuda Sensei. Among this core group was June Uyeunten Nakama to whom he is married. In 1991, they introduced Kobudo Taiko to Hawai'i by performing with members from Okinawa at the Hawaii Okinawan Festival. Today, they now train others under the direction of Director Calvin Nakama. They performed at various functions and special events in Okinawa, Japan, California, and Hawai'i. August 5, 2001 marked the ten-year anniversary recital for Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko at the HOC. This also marked 25 years since his own family moved to Hawai'i from Okinawa.

Calvin has served actively in taiko, sanshin (since June 1991 with Sensei Grant Murata) and various cultural clubs. He traveled on numerous occasions to Okinawa to study taiko as well as to learn how to construct the instrument. In 1993 he went on the leadership tour to Okinawa, representing YOH. He has served as an officer of YOH and Gushikawa Shijin Kai, from 1993 to 1996 serving as vice president and from 1996 to 1999 serving as president of our club.

Nakama Sensei continues to devote his life to an extraordinary job in ensuring that young performing artists can continue to train and perform for our community. His outstanding efforts ensure the perpetuation and preservation of our Okinawan way of life. We are grateful to his dedication to our club and the HUOA.

HAEBARU CLUB

ELSIE GIBO ALMEIDA

Elsie Gibo Almeida has been a long-time member of Haeburu Club. She has supported and participated annually in the shinnen enkaï, picnics, the cleanup at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, the festival at Kapi'olani Park and the many music/dance and cultural activities.

She traveled to Okinawa on three club-sponsored trips to Haeburu and created beautiful leis from ribbons, yarns, and the flip tops of aluminum cans and other per-

continued on page 8

Ii Soogwachi Shimisoochii



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UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR 2001

sonally crafted items to be distributed to Haeburu friends and relatives. More recently in March 2001, she made several dozens of aprons, bibs, and lap blankets for the senior nursing home residents in Haeburu.



She has encouraged two of her brothers, one from Maui and the other from Philadelphia, to join her on these tours to Okinawa.

Kaiser Hospital (Kaiser Krafter) recognized her spirit of volunteering for community activities with a total of 6,055-plus hours as Volunteer of

the Year for the year 2000. Elsie also received the Mayor's Award of Recognition, one of the eight top honors (selected from 162 nominees), for her assistance with patients at the Malama Ohana Skilled Care Facility at Kaiser Hospital.

Elsie's dedication and tireless effort, with enthusiasm and energy, reflects the true Okinawan spirit of caring and sharing to make life better for Haeburu Club, HUOA, and the community.

HAWAII SASHIKI CHINEN DOSHI KAI

SENTEI UEUNTEN

Mr. Sentei Ueunten has been a member of the Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai since its inception,

serving as a senior member of the board of directors for many years. He continually contributes his time and expertise to club projects and is the first to volunteer to help in any community projects.



Sentei has taken an active role in developing Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai's annual student exchange program with the Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son Governments. He and his wife, Grace, have annually hosted two students from Okinawa for the last six years. In August of 2001, Sentei was nominated as an escort to take six Hawai'i students, descendents of Sashiki Cho and Chinen Son's isseis, to Okinawa as part of this program.

Sentei's pride in being an Okinawan and his contributions to perpetuate the Okinawan culture has earned him Hawaii Sashiki Chinen Doshi Kai's nomination to be our Uchinanchu of the Year for 2001.

HAWAII SHURI NAHA CLUB

DORIS ARAKAKI

The Hawaii Shuri Naha Club is blessed with many wonderful members always willing to volunteer when

asked. Doris Arakaki is one of those valued members. However, she goes one step further, she volunteers without our even asking! Wife, mother, grandmother, good friend and volunteer extraordinary! These are all titles she owns, but humbly wears. She would be the last person to tell you about all the things she does.



Our club is recognizing Doris Arakaki as our "Uchinanchu of the Year" for the countless hours she spends helping us to organize our volunteers and activities. She calls our board members to remind them about the various activities of our club and the HUOA. She never hesitates to help or to seek help from our membership.

When we have other projects that require coordination or manpower, we can always rely on Doris to assist. We can't even remember a time when she wasn't ready, willing, and able.

Our club was founded in 1928 and has a proud history. We have grown to more than 300 member families strong. Part of that is due to the fact that we have always had a "Doris" along the way.

In the year 2001, we would like to acknowledge and thank Doris Arakaki for her generous gift of time and devotion to our club. Additionally, we would like to thank her family for their added support. You have made a wonderful contribution to the success of our club. We pray to have more, like you, in our future. Ippe nihe deebiru!

HUI ALU, INC.

BERNIE SAKODA

Bernadette "Bernie" Sakoda has been an integral part in the resurgence of Okinawan pride on Kaua'i. She has been active in Hui Alu and was instrumental in



reorganizing the club after Hui Pono and Hui Alu merged in 1995. She has served on the scholarship committee, festival committee, cultural committee, scholarship golf tournament committee, and for four years served as our treasurer. Bernie was

instrumental in making Hui Alu's Year 2000 Centennial Okinawan Dance Festival a successful international event. Through her efforts, our scholarship program has been able to award more than \$13,000 over the past four years. She currently serves on the dance festival committee, as a board member, and as our cultural arts coordinator. Bernie's accomplishments reflect her perseverance and commitment to perpetuating Okinawan culture.

HUI MAKAAALA

HOWARD and GRACE AWAKUNI

We are proud to announce the selection of Grace and Howard Awakuni as Hui Makaala's Uchinanchus of the Year. As charter members, they have served as officers in numerous positions, as well as editor of the newsletter for ten years. They have always been reliably there to help with the fashion show, assisting with the stage construction, and all other events. Grace and Howard are now enjoying their well-earned retirement in their Kaneohe home and are also active in the Kaneohe Senior Citizen clubs, tennis, gardening, and handcrafts. Thank you for your 50-plus years of active participation in Hui Makaala.



HUI O LAULIMA

JUDY TIBAYAN

Attractive, talented, and energetic Judy Tibayan is Hui O Laulima's (HOL) Uchinanchu of the Year. If asked to volunteer for any activity, whether it be for HOL or any other events, her famous byline is "When, Where and What." For many years Judy has worked to organize HOL's andagi booth at the Farm Fair held in the summer for three weeks. The kitchen is well organized and functions efficiently. Some years she has taken her vacation just so that she could manage and work the kitchen. Whatever she does will be completed and accomplished quickly, efficiently, and successfully. To Judy, ippe nihe deebiru!



HUI OKINAWA

MILTON YAFUSO

Milton is a life-long member of Hui Okinawa, as his father, Hiroshi Yafuso, is a 1946 charter member of our club. Milton is honored for his many years of participation, leadership, and dedication to Hui Okinawa. He has served on the club's board of directors for the past ten years and is a past president. Milton has chaired or been a committee head of nearly every activity that Hui Okinawa has conducted over the past 20 years.



ISHIKAWA SHIJIN KAI

RODNEY YAMASHIRO

Mr. Rodney Yamashiro is our honored member for the 2001 HUOA Uchinanchu of the Year. As a former club president, he did a lot to form our club and built it to what it is today. He believes in passing on the knowledge of our Okinawan heritage from generation to generation. His heart and love is always dedicated to helping the Ishikawa Shijin Kai. Thank you, Mr. Yamashiro, for your many years of support and strong dedication to Ishikawa Shijin Kai.



ITOMAN SHIJIN KAI

THOMAS YAMASHIRO

Thomas Yamashiro has served as vice president of the Itoman Shijin Kai Club for the past three years and has actively participated in HUOA activities for several years. Also, he was vice president of the Miwa Sonjin Kai Club which joined with Itoman Shijin Kai. He has been very active and works hard in support of the various club activities. At the Okinawan Festival, you can find him just about everywhere at the children's games activity tents, busily tending to the needs of the many volunteers from early morning to closing. He actively participates in the coordination of the game activities at the club's annual picnic and provides support to the program activities during the shinnen enka party. Thomas retired from the Hawai'i State Government after 28 years of service and is currently working in the commercial sector as an Information Technology Consultant. He and his wife Sue have two children, David and Tori. We are happy to recognize Thomas as our Uchinanchu of the Year.



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UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR 2001

KIN CHOJIN KAI

In times of need, Kin Chojin Kai can always depend on Sam and Jane Ige. Jane has served as our treasurer for many years and was very helpful in our finances. Her friendliness makes being an officer so much more comfortable. For many years, Sam has helped us transport all our supplies to our annual picnics and also help set up. When he could no longer help set up, Sam would lend us his truck and come down and enjoy the picnic. Sam would also help drive visitors and/or elderly members to various functions. Always dependable, Jane and Sam could be called upon to entertain people from Okinawa. Congratulations, Jane and Sam Ige, for being Kin Chojin Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year.



SAM and JANE IGE

today. He has taught samisen at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center on Wednesday nights and yearly gathers together a group to present live samisen music for the Obon at the Paia Rinza Mission. When called upon to perform at MOKK functions, he is always very accommodating.

For more than 23 years, Howard Oshiro has been an active participant in the various programs of our club. When we began construction on our kaikan in 1990, Howard naturally stepped up his volunteer work, putting his practical ability and his carpentry skill to work. Howard worked tirelessly during our Okinawan Festival, assuming any job, any time, anywhere and continues to work hard at our Okinawa Center both in the hall upkeep, as well as grounds maintenance. He seeks no recognition for what he calls his "small help" because he enjoys participating in MOKK goings-on. "It keeps me young."

Through volunteers like Hirotada Toyama and Howard Oshiro, our Okinawan culture thrives in our community. Mahalo, Hirotada and Howard, for your many years of continuous service to the members of Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai.

KITA NAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai is proud to present its Uchinanchu of the Year 2001, Mr. Jhosuke Asato. As we researched and spoke to our senior members and past officers, everyone remembers him affectionately as a "giant" among our midst. "This guy did everything." "A great guy and a big Kita supporter." "This man was a hustler, and hardly missed any Kita meetings back then." He chaired and coordinated Kita's annual picnics at Ala Moana Park, as well as emceed weddings, shinnen enkais, funerals, and many Kita parties and events for many, many years. And today, this humble man quietly supports and attends our annual shinnen enkaï at the Wisteria Restaurant.



JHOSUKE ASATO

MINAMI NAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

Michael is REALIABLE. He is DEPENDABLE. He is always there to lend assistance. He is a valuable resource, looking after the pragmatics in all club activities, maintaining a core of Uchinanchu integrity. As a non-traditional student, Mike is simultaneously fulfilling requirements for a bachelor's and master's degree and a full-time job and caring for his family and looking after the club's finances. For his selfless dedication, we honor Michael Yahiku as Minami Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year.



MICHAEL YAHIKU

Mr. Asato came to O'ahu from Maui in 1947 and immediately joined Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai. His village affiliation is Kishaba. Mr. Asato and his late wife, Hide, have four children, two boys and two girls. An auto mechanic by trade, he also had a passion for the performing arts and acted in some early Okinawan plays.

Mr. Asato served on Kita's board for many, many years, and as president in the early years (1940's, '50's and '60's) when the club had meetings at the Jikoen Temple and at the YMCA. In 1951, he was Kita's first president to represent Kita Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai as a chartered member of the UOA. We proudly present our undisputed and unanimous selection for "Uchinanchu of the Year 2001," Mr. Jhosuke Asato.

NAGO CLUB

In an effort to get our young people involved, Nago Club is fortunate to have had Laverne Higa Nance step forward. Laverne is a sansei, and due to her parents' strong involvement with the club and HUOA, grew up with a full awareness of her Okinawan heritage. Her recent trip to Okinawa in 1998, meeting relatives there for the first time, created a strong bond between them. She is now looking forward to another visit in November. Laverne is a licensed civil engineer with the City and County of Honolulu. She's a project manager for the Department of Design and Construction. She is also a licensed realtor associate and certified as a handwriting analyst. Her hobbies include piano, traveling, and golf. Laverne is currently club secretary and has served for the past three years. She plays an active role in the planning and execution of activities such as picnics and shinnen enkaï. She



LAVERNE HIGA NANCE

KOCHINDA CHOJIN KAI

Outgoing president Alan Isara has been selected as Kochinda Chojin Kai's representative for Uchinanchu of the Year 2001. The most distinguishing fact about Alan's presidency is that he is the only member who served as president of Kochinda Chojin Kai without having served as vice-president. At a time when Kochinda was desperately seeking nominations for officers, Alan fearlessly agreed to take the plunge and assume the leadership position without previous experience on the board. However, Alan had volunteered in many other capacities, including reactivating Kochinda's bowling team in 1999, recording club activities on video, and participating in numerous Kochinda and HUOA activities. In 2000, Alan led Kochinda's bowling team to its first HUOA championship!



ALAN ISARA

Alan's tenure as president has definitely been a family affair. In every function, wife Germaine, who also serves as Kochinda's treasurer, and sons Mark, Mason, Matthew, and Maurice have actively supported Alan and Kochinda. In his usual humble manner, Alan attributes his success in his term of office to his family, including mother, Violet Isara, mother-in-law, brothers and sisters, as well as to the support and advice he received from Kochinda's other board members.

KUBA ROSEI KAI

Mrs. Uto Higa is 94 years young and has been a member of Kuba Rosei Kai for nearly 75 years. She was very active in the formative years of the club when meetings were still held in individual homes and the club was more like a family gathering than a club. She is still active and acts as an advisor to the club and its members and she still attends all club functions.

She is one of the original issei's of the club and we are very proud to honor her as Kuba Rosei Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year.



UTO HIGA

KUNIGAMI KYOYUKAI

Mitsuko Ono is a flower arrangement teacher and also teaches Okinawan folk dances she has created. She goes to various Okinawan-related senior clubs to teach flower arrangement and Okinawan dance, which the seniors enjoy very much. Mitsuko is also the treasurer of our club and manages and leads us all in our club functions. We are proud to honor Mitsuko Ono as our Uchinanchu of the Year.



MITSUKO ONO

MAUI OKINAWA KENJIN KAI

Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai (MOKK) has been blessed with many loyal and dedicated members. Mr. Hirotada Toyama and Mr. Howard Oshiro were selected Uchinanchus of the Year for 2001. Hirotada Toyama was recognized for his devoted work in teaching the minyo style of samisen playing. His teacher was Mr. Jiro Arakaki. When asked how long he has been teaching samisen, he replied, "I don't teach samisen playing, but I play together with the students and learn together." He has been "playing" together with the students from 1970 and continues to do so



HIROTADA TOYAMA and HOWARD OSHIRO

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UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR 2001

volunteers for HUOA activities as well. We are grateful and proud to have Laverne represent Nago Club as Uchinanchu of the Year and look forward to her continued support and dedication.

NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI DEXTER T. HIGA

Dexter's connection to the Nishihara Chojin Kai came by way of his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Oshi Shinsato, who is currently 96 years old and a member of the club. During his years in the Nishihara Chojin Kai, Dexter has served as a director, vice-president, and is currently serving as the president. He has been and is active with the Nishihara Chojin Kai activities involving the annual picnic, shinnen enkaï party, and the volunteer work at the Okinawan Festival.

Dexter and his officers, Dave Arakawa, Ardis Kaneshiro, Irene Nitta, Gail Shon, Sandy Goya, and Steven Iha have worked endlessly to plan and inform their members of club activities, to promote the Okinawan culture and events, and to promote membership and support for the continuation of the Nishihara Chojin Kai.

Based on Dexter's commitment, dedication, and endless support of the Nishihara Chojin Kai, he is our distinguished Uchinanchu of the Year.

OKINAWA CITY-GOEKU SON ROBERT FUKUHARA

Mr. Robert Fukuhara is Okinawa City-Goeku Son's choice for this prestigious award. He served as president in the early 1980's. He currently serves as an advisor, and has been serving in this capacity for many years.

Mr. Fukuhara is retired and currently volunteers once a week at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. He has helped and participated in the club's annual picnics and the Okinawan festival for many years. As a young man, he played in the club's softball team.

This humble individual, when told of his selection, did not want to be recognized, but after much persuasion, accepted this honor graciously. He has shown to be an outstanding, committed, and dedicated individual who perpetuates the Okinawan culture.

Robert is married to his lovely wife, Amy, who has also assisted and participated in our club's activities for many years. They are the parents to sons Craig and Ross, and blessed with six wonderful grandchildren.

Thank you, Robert, for your years of service and endless support to Okinawa City-Goeku Son, and the HUOA.

OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII NANCY TOME

Nancy Tome, a charter member of the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii, was fascinated with genealogy and studied Japanese for eight years so that she could read and translate genealogical documents. She was the first chairperson of the archives committee,

and has since organized an archival collection which is developing into a valuable resource. For years, she



worked once a week at the HUOA headquarters maintaining and upgrading the archival files, helping people who inquire about genealogy, and assisting in other ways. She was also instrumental in compiling the information and publishing the guidebook for genealogical research which has become a "bible" for the members of the organization. She volunteers her services to set up genealogical exhibits, as well as man the booths at all of the festivals on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i, as well as the Portuguese Fiesta. She is currently organizing the itinerary for the society's proposed 10th anniversary trip to Okinawa and Japan in 2003, which will include the historical and cultural aspects of Okinawa. In addition, plans appear to indicate that steps will be taken to build a bridge with Okinawa so that the people in Hawai'i can more readily access information from major genealogical resources. Nancy is, indeed, an extremely organized and goal-oriented individual who works tirelessly to accomplish the mission of the organization.

ONNA SONJIN KAI CHIYO and YASUO SADOYAMA

This husband and wife couple has been active with club activities for many years volunteering their time and boundless energy. Chiyo is retired from the State Unemployment Division and Yasuo is a retired "Jack of all trades" with carpentry and plumbing skills. Their willingness to help the club whenever asked surely shows the "Uchinanchu spirit," and Onna Sonjin Kai is very fortunate to have them as members.

OROKU AZA JIN CLUB MARJORIE UYEHARA

Marjorie Uyehara (yago Irimijigwa) has quietly served the Oroku Aza Jin Club for many years in various activities. She has served some 15 years as a senior advisor on the club's annual shinnen enkaï and annual picnic committees. She also served on the HUOA's Okinawan Centennial Celebration Opening Banquet Committee which hosted over 1,600 people at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in January 2000.

Each year Marjorie has assisted the Oroku Aza Jin Club by making leis for college graduate honorees, taking orders for bentos, and serving as the contact person for college graduates.

As a strong supporter of the HUOA activities, Marjorie has actively participated in the annual club's cleanup at the HOC, the annual Okinawan festival, craft fairs, and other HUOA events involving club participation. In 1999, Marjorie and her husband, Arthur, made

a significant donation to the HUOA which provided needed video editing equipment for use by the HUOA Video Committee which greatly enhanced the ability to edit shows for the weekly Hawaii Okinawa Today (HOT) production shown on Olole's community access channels.

Through her involvement in club activities, Marjorie has also assisted and encouraged the younger members of the club to get involved in club activities and positions of leadership. Marjorie has been and continues to be a most valuable member of the Oroku Aza Jin Club.

OROKU DOSHI KAI SHIGERU AKAMINE

Mr. Shigeru Akamine, at age 90 years now, has served in all capacities within this club. He is an outstanding example of being an Okinawan spokesperson.



He is one of the original founders of Oroku Doshi Kai. He shows tremendous desire to perpetuate our Okinawan culture and holds the members together socially instead of by obligation. Example, in the late 1930's and 1940's era, as the club's president, he would travel to individual members homes to make social contact and simultaneously collect current and delinquent dues. He would use his personal vehicle to travel the leeward and windward areas. Shigeru is one of the few niseis representing Oroku Doshi Kai. He is the club philosopher in perpetuating Okinawan culture to the younger members. He exemplifies and encourages team spirit within the club by mingling among families during the annual picnic and shinnen enkaï functions. This club is truly blessed and honored. We wish to express our appreciation to this special individual with high esteems, as one of ours!

TAMAGUSUKU CLUB KOICHI KANESHIRO

Koichi Kaneshiro has made valuable contributions to both the HUOA and to Tamagusuku Club. He chaired an HUOA Installation Banquet and co-chaired a second banquet nearly 30 years ago. He served as a treasurer and as president of Tamagusuku Club for one term each and, thereafter, has served as a perpetual adviser to the club. His extensive knowledge of most of the families of the club has been of immeasurable help to the new officers who followed him. He has volunteered and helped the HUOA and Tamagusuku Club on numerous occasions and his selfless service to both organizations has spanned a period of more than 30 years. Tamagusuku Club gratefully acknowledges his valuable service by naming Koichi our club's Uchinanchu of the Year.

URASOE SHIJIN KAI RANDAL and GLENDA YOZA

Urasoe Shijin Kai's nominee for Uchinanchu of the Year 2001 is Randal and Glenda Yoza. Randal has been the coach and captain and Glenda the team's general

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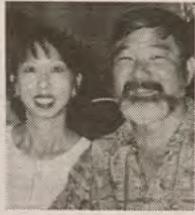
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"Flowers Whisper What Words Cannot Express"

UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR 2001

manager for Urasoe's very successful volleyball team in the HUOA volleyball league since Urasoe joined the league 17 years ago. They have compiled a remarkable won-lost record and won numerous league championships over this time period. Besides volleyball, Randal and Glenda have been participants in many other activities with Urasoe Shijin Kai and the HUOA, such as the annual summer picnic, shinnen enkai, HUOA craft fairs, Okinawan festivals, and most recently the HUOA 50th Anniversary dinner. Randal worked backstage and Glenda provided security at the Higa Building which was used as a dressing room for the musicians and dancers.



They have two daughters, Sherrie (Ray) Marquina and Leslie (Brandon) Fujimura, and one grandchild. We have no doubt that they will continue to be active with Urasoe and the HUOA for many more years.

WAHIAWA OKINAWA KYOYU KAI

GAIL FUSAKO KOHAGURA

Gail Fusako Kohagura has been among the most active participants in the traditional activities of the Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai for many years. With the support of her family, Gail has served as secretary of this organization for the past four years, while maintaining her training and performance schedules with the Yoshiko Nakasone Dance Academy. She also is an accomplished kotoist, having trained seven years and performed regularly with the Miyashiro Sohokai. Following her late father, she has been bowling with the Kyoyu Kai league for ten years. She also joined other members in the HUOA Bowling League for eight seasons.



While serving as the hub of intra-club communications and main point of contact for our district representatives, Gail has continued her 19-year study of Okinawan dance. She has performed annually with the Nakasone Academy dancers at our shinnen enkais. We look for our 2001 Uchinanchu of the Year to continue to show the way in the Uchinanchu spirit for our younger members!

YOMITAN CLUB

JAMES M. MATSUDA

James M. Matsuda is Yomitan Club's Uchinanchu of the Year. James, a retiree from Hawaiian Airlines, is a man devoted to his wife, Edith, his two daughters, and to his grandson. In addition to his busy family life, he is a great supporter of the Yomitan spirit. He is the assistant treasurer of the club (since 1999). He assists with just about every club function from meetings, picnics, shinnen enkais, festivals, craft fairs, HOC clean ups, to Haari Boat races.



James is also the driving force of the club's annual golf tournament. His brother, Jun Matsuda, started the event in 1983 when golfers and non-golfers, mostly spouses, played a round of golf at the Bayview Golf Course. The tournament quickly grew and required shot-gun starts at Pearl Country Club on Saturday afternoons. When his brother passed away in 1990, James and other family members decided to maintain the tournament that Jun had started. The annual event has always been a great success with banquets, band music, and prizes for everyone who attended—so successful, in fact, that the largest tournament in 1993 hosted 210 golfers.

James is a Yomitan Club member who continues to perpetuate the Yomitan spirit and is a great mentor for generations to follow. The Yomitan Club is honored to have James M. Matsuda as the Uchinanchu of the Year.

YONABARU CHOJIN KAI

DARRYL FUKUJI

Yonabaru Chojin Kai is pleased to honor Darryl Fukuji as its Uchinanchu of the Year 2001. Darryl has served as vice president for the past four years. In this capacity, he was instrumental in the planning and successful outcome of club activities. Darryl participated in all of our annual events such as shinnen enkai, summer picnic, and working in the club booth at the Okinawan Festival. Congratulations to Darryl Fukuji, Yonabaru Chojin Kai's Uchinanchu of the Year.



YONASHIRO CHOJIN KAI

HIDEKO MASAKI

Hideko Masaki describes her father, Saburo Toyama, as having "Okinawan character." By example of his actions, this meant "working towards a common cause, openness, and acceptance." His approach to life and people was simple, yet impacted and inspired Hideko to experience for herself this "Okinawan character." For 33 years she was an educator—building character in those fortunate to cross her path. After retiring she devoted much of her time to volunteer work. This included HOC docent, HUOA Children's Day Camp leader, HUOA/HOC clerical volunteer, Yonashiro Chojin Kai member activities and many other projects and events involving the Okinawan community. Hideko, your father would definitely concur that you have "Okinawan character." Ippe nihe deebiru!



YOUNG OKINAWANS OF HAWAII

JON S. ITOMURA

Jon is a very energetic and enthusiastic person especially in the area of enhancing his Uchinanchu self and culture. For the Young Okinawans of Hawaii (YOH), Jon was the sports director in 1997, vice president in 1999, president in 2000, and advisor in 2001. With the centennial celebration in 2000, Jon was an avid participant in HUOA activities. He became famous in the closing ceremony as the co-MC, playing the role of the "old man" telling the story of arriving in Hawai'i from Okinawa.

In the year 2001, Jon spends many of his nights at the HOC. For the HUOA

he is on the executive council, administration committee, festival planning committee, 50th anniversary planning committee, children's festival haunted house planning committee, and facilitated a series of workshops to follow-up on the summit. For the YOH he writes articles and puts together the YOH newsletter, and enhances his culture by being in eisa drummer during obon season, does the shishi mai, and makes andagi for the Farm Fair.



The YOH and the HUOA greatly appreciate all of Jon's hard work and dedication to his Uchinanchu culture. Thank you to Jon and his family for all of the time and energy. It is with great honor that we name him the Uchinanchu of the Year.

2001 SPORTS AWARDS PRESENTED

by Wayne Miyahira

Chair, HUOA Sports Subcommittee

Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai and Nishihara Chojin Kai

It was a near-sweep for Minami Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai when the sports awards were announced at the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Installation Banquet on Jan. 26. Minami took home three trophies: for softball, bowling and golf.

HUOA's volleyball program crowned a new champion this year: Kochinda #2, which beat out Urasoe Shijin Kai for the first time in 14 years. Derek Kobayashi accepted the trophy for Kochinda #2. Kochinda fields two volleyball teams in the HUOA program.

Lester Higa, president of Minami Nakagusuku and a member of its softball team, accepted the trophy for his club. The bowling trophy was presented to former HUOA president and Minami Nakagusuku #2 bowler Jane Serikaku. Minami has two teams in the HUOA bowling program.

The Inamine Cup for the HUOA member club with the best team score was presented to Minami Nakagusuku. Club member Shigeo Asato accepted the trophy on behalf of his club. The Inamine Cup is named for Jimmy Inamine, owner of Jimmy's Bakery in Okinawa, a longtime supporter of HUOA's annual Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament. This year's tournament will be held May 25 and 26 at Pali Golf Course. Application forms will be available soon.

The other golf award went to Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club member Neal Takara, who was named grand champion of last year's HUOA Okinawan Invitational Golf Tournament. Accepting the trophy for Takara was Ron Matayoshi. Takara also won the grand champion title in 1998.



CORRECTION

Uchinanchu apologizes for incorrectly identifying the koto school of the students pictured on page 1 of November/December 2001 issue of *Uchinanchu*. The performers are students of the Miyashiro Soho Kai. Our thanks to Bonnie Miyashiro Sensei for pointing out the error.

For the latest information on HUOA, log on to . . .

www.huoa.org

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF UCHINANCHU . . .

SHARING TAIKAI MEMORIES

If you have a favorite story or photo from last November's Third Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival in Okinawa that you'd like to share with Uchinanchu readers, send it to us by March 22. Please limit your submission to 600 words (2 typewritten pages, double-spaced) and make sure you include your name, HUOA club (if you are a member) and a contact phone number.

by mail: Uchinanchu newsletter
HUOA
94-587 Ukee St.
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
Attn: Uchinanchu newsletter

by e-mail: kchinen@lava.net
cc to: huoa@aloha.com

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Saburo Ige
Thomas T. & Mildred Ige
Marian Iha
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Hiroaki Iritani
B. Isa
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Yaeko Iwasaki
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Kazumi Kaneshiro
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Howard M. & Emi O. Tengan
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Kenneth S. Teruya
Ruth H. Teruya
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Frances Toguchi
Kotoku Toguchi
Nancy & Ronald Toguchi
George & Janet Tokuda
Janet Tokuda
E.K. Toma
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Lawrence & Nancy Tome
Sunny Tominaga
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Doris H. Toyama
Kotoku Toyama
Raymond L. & Toyo Trader
Agnes Tsuha
Harue Uechi
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Dick Unten
T. Robert Uyechi
Eddie Uyehara
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Shigeo Uyehara
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Kosei Uyeunten
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Tsuneo Yamashiro
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Mitsue Yoza
In Memory of Roy M. Arakawa
In Memory of Horace H. Awa
In Memory of Sanra & Kama Chinen
In Memory of Kamado & Kama Isa
In Memory of Kenzo Fukuhara
In Memory of Keiji Goya
In Memory of Kwanko Goya
In Memory of Harry H. Hamasaki
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In Memory of Melvin S. Higa
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ushi Higa
In Memory of Katsumi (John) Honda
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kataoka
In Memory of Yuriko Kobashigawa
In Memory of Kasuke & Hana Miyasato
In Memory of Yaye Miyasato
In Memory of Taro & Nabe Miyashiro
In Memory of Tsuruko Miyashiro
from Kosuke Miyashiro
In Memory of Tsuruko Miyashiro from
Wallace & Georgiana Miyashiro Sonoda
In Memory of Violet Miyashiro
In Memory of Takejiro Nakamasu
In Memory of Kana Nakamatsu
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ryoko Nakama
In Memory of Shintaro Namihira
In Memory of Kama & Uto Nishihara
In Memory of Masaichi Oshiro
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Tokuzo Oshiro
In Memory of Usa Oshiro
In Memory of Richard T. China
In Memory of Raymond Sakumoto
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Gentaro Shinsato

In Memory of Sept. 11th
In Remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001
World Trade Center Attack
In Memory of Kamata & Uto Shirota
In Memory of Nobuyoshi Taira
In Memory of Gicho & Tsuru Takaesu
In Memory of Bessie Takahashi
In Memory of Zenkichi
& Kame Tamanaha
In Memory of Lester Tokuda
In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Senki Tsukayama
In Honor of Kame Nakasone
In Honor of Genko Yafuso
50 Years of HUOA's Commitment of
Promoting Okinawan Culture

OTHER

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Anonymous
Florence Amano
Miyoko Arakaki
Elbert & Grace Arakawa
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Lawrence S. & Ellen S. Asato
Nancy H. Asato
Joan Miyashiro Carvalho
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Trae Hashimoto
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Mitsue Ige
Frank I. & Hanae M. Ikehara
Keiichi & Sumi Kaneshiro
Masaichi Kaneshiro
Shoei Kaneshiro
Kimiyo Kiyabu
Walter Kuwasaki
Patricia Lau
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Gensho & Yoshiko Miyashiro
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Mrs. Shizuno Uyehara
In Memory of Yoshiko Uehara
To Celebrate the Occasion of 50th Year

HAWAII-OKINAWA DOE STUDENT EXCHANGE

Interested in sending your high school child to Okinawa this summer on the Hawaii-Okinawa DOE student exchange? The Hawaii students will be in Okinawa from June 7 through 22. Call HUOA at 676-5400 for more information. The deadline to apply is March 15.

KARII! . . . CONGRATULATIONS!!

Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei was among six Island residents recently honored as "Living Treasures of Hawaii" by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Nakasone Sensei was recognized for perpetuating the art of Okinawan dance in Hawaii through her Yoshiko Nakasone Dance Academy and sharing the culture with the community.

The 2002 "class" of "Living Treasures" was introduced Feb. 8 at the Mission's 90th Legislative Assembly, which was held in Hilo this year. The "Living Treasures" program, which the Hongwanji originated in 1976, recognizes Hawaii residents for their contributions to society and humanity through scholarly, cultural and community pursuits. The program was inspired by Japan's Living National Treasures awards.

Also honored as 2002 "Living Treasures" were:

- **Alfred Bloom**, University of Hawai'i professor emeritus of religion, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Buddhist Study Center and the formation of the Hawaii Association for International Buddhists.
- **Takeshi Fujita**, an award-winning Kauai science teacher — now retired — who is actively involved in his community.
- **Takashi Nonaka**, a Big Island teacher of Shin Shin Toitsu Aikido and one of only four people outside of Japan to hold an eighth-degree black belt in the martial art form that emphasizes mind and body coordination.
- **Yoshihiko Sinoto**, senior anthropologist at the Bishop Museum and one of the foremost experts on the origins of Pacific Island civilizations.
- The late **Myron "Pinky" Thompson**, president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, who was honored posthumously for his lifelong contributions to native Hawaiians and the larger community through social work and government service.

The past few months have been busy ones for Yomitan Club member Clayton Fujie. In October, he traveled to Washington, D.C., where Fujie — Hawai'i's 2001 Elementary School Principal of the Year — and his counterparts from throughout the nation were honored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. In November, the veteran educator was appointed interim deputy superintendent of the state Department of Education, filling the vacancy created by the appointment of Patricia Hamamoto as interim superintendent — and subsequently as superintendent. In early January, the Board of Education approved



Clayton Fujie

Fujie's appointment as deputy superintendent.

Hamamoto cited Fujie's "solid reputation for promoting high standards and academic excellence." "He brings a personal touch to state administration, which is evident through his care and sensitivity for students and staff, and his appreciation of community involvement in education," she said.

Fujie, who earned his master's in education from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, began his career in public education in 1969 as a history teacher and coach at Baldwin High. He later taught and coached at Kaiser High. Fujie held administrative posts at Koko Head, Lunalilo, Kuhio and Kahala elementary schools prior to becoming principal at Noelani School in 1986. Under his leadership, Noelani was named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000-01. The school was also one of 10 schools nationwide featured for its exemplary Project-Based Learning Program by PBS.

The BOE also approved Hamamoto's appointment of Tom Yamashiro as assistant superintendent with the Office of Information and Technology Services. Yamashiro is a member of Itoman Club, which selected him its 2001 "Uchinanchu of the Year."

Yamashiro is former administrator of the Information and Communication Services Division of the Department of Accounting and General Services, which oversees computer and telecommunication services for all state agencies. He also served as deputy director of the Department of Budget and Finance from 1987 to 1992. Since 1998, Yamashiro has worked as an information technology consultant.



Tom Yamashiro

Hui Okinawa member Yasuo Kuwaye was honored with a testimonial dinner last August after having been presented the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays by the government of Japan. The event, which was held at the Hawaii Naniloa Hotel, was organized by representatives of a number of Hilo community organizations who came together to honor Kuwaye and his wife Hanako.

Hawaii County Council Chair Jimmy Arakaki presented a congratulatory message from his fellow council members, while Hui Okinawa member and former Hawaii County mayor Herbert Matayoshi extended congratulations from Hui Okinawa. The banzai were led by Hui Okinawa co-founder Isamu Kaneshiro and Russell Kuwaye.

Yasuo Kuwaye was the sixth of nine children born to Matsu and Umito Kuwaye, immigrants from Okinawa who settled in Honokaa on the Big Island. After graduating from Honokaa High School in 1940, he worked with his brothers, operating



a taxi service and gas station and running a bus service between Honokaa and Hilo. Kuwaye also trucked merchandise between Honokaa and Hilo — which led to the start of what is today Kuwaye Trucking, Inc., with a fleet of trucks, tractors, trailers, pickups and tankers.

Yasu Kuwaye is involved in a number of business and community organizations on the Big Island, among them the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii, Hilo Contractors Association, Japanese Community Association of Hawaii and Hui Okinawa. He was instrumental in the establishment of a sister-island relationship with Oshima, Japan, in 1962 and in the cultural relationship with Ikaho, Japan; the Higashi Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and Hawaii Cho, Japan.

The Kuwayes have two grown children, Frances Chow and Wayne Kuwaye, and three grandchildren.

OKINAWAN FESTIVAL

"Mensore!"

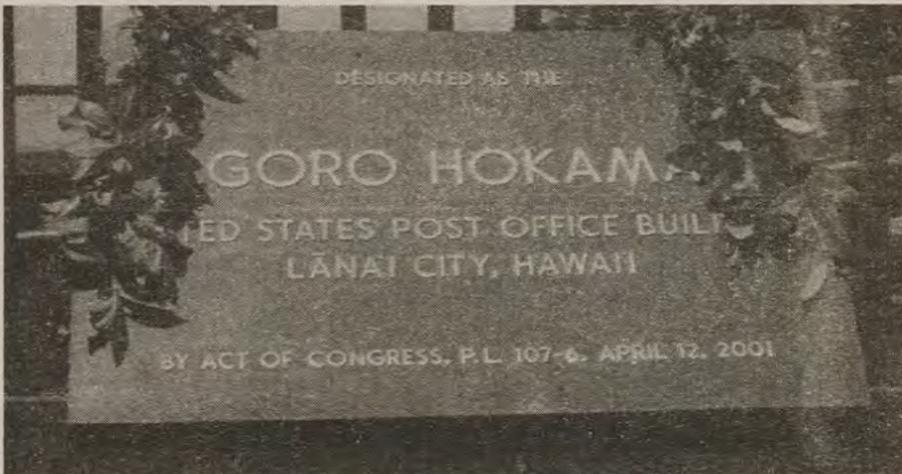
"Welcome" to the Plantation Café's festival of flavorful Okinawan cuisine. Guest chefs Yukihide Shimabukuro and Sekai Higa from ANA Manza Beach Hotel in Okinawa will present two complete menus of authentic Okinawan dishes, including Goya Champuru, Sooki Soba and Sata Andagi. The festival menu is offered for lunch and dinner, and is included in our Friday and Saturday Night Dinner Buffets and our Sunday Brunch Buffet.



OKINAWAN FESTIVAL
March 6 - 24
Tuesday thru Sunday
Lunch: 11 am - 2 pm
Dinner: 6 pm - 9 pm

PLANTATION
CAFÉ

ALA MOANA HOTEL
410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu HI 96814-4722
955-4811, EXT. 4070



The Goro Hokama Post Office Building was officially dedicated last Aug. 13 in Lanai City. HUAO 2001 president Jimmy Iha and then-president-elect Gladys Tokunaga-Asao attended the program, where they presented him a certificate from HUAO. U.S. Congresswoman Patsy Mink introduced the legislation to name Lanai's only post office after Hokama to honor his long history of public service to Lanai, Maui County and the state of Hawai'i. The program was also attended by many dignitaries, including Congresswoman Mink, U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka and Maui County Mayor James "Kimo" Apana. (Photo courtesy of Dexter Teruya)

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

SHARING "UCHINANCHU ALOHA"

HUOA "honorary member" Makoto Arakaki, who is an associate professor of anthropology at Okinawa Christian Junior College in Nishihara, happened to be in Honolulu with a group of researchers from the University of the Ryukyus when the HUOA held its blood drive with the Hawaii Blood Bank on Dec. 15. Makoto climbed on the table, flashed a shaka at the camera, and gave his blood for Hawai'i.



MOCHI FOR THE NEW YEAR

Volunteer gardeners who turn out twice a week to maintain the Hawaii Okinawa Center grounds held a mochi tsuki (pounding) on Dec. 15. They invited HUOA members to come out and get a few good luck pounds in. While the men pounded, the women shaped the mochi behind them. Gardener James Shiroma is pictured here taking his turn pounding mochi.



ALA MOANA HOTEL TO FEATURE OKINAWAN MENU

The Ala Moana Hotel's Plantation Cafe Restaurant will be transformed into a mini Okinawa when the hotel hosts its first Okinawa Festival, March 6-24.

The hotel is flying in two Okinawan chefs who work at the ANA Manza Beach Hotel — Chef Yukihide Shimabukuro, a 20-year veteran of the hotel, and Chef Seikai Higa, who has been with the ANA Manza Beach since 1993. Both chefs cooked for world leaders who attended the G-8 Summit in Okinawa in 2000.

According to Keith Koehler, director of food and beverage for the Ala Moana Hotel, the cultural food festivals were created to give hotel guests and the community an opportunity to experience different world cultures through their food and costumes and colors. "We normally fly in chefs from the country for three weeks to prepare some of the different dishes during the festival," said Koehler. The hotel has tapped Hui O Laulima members to help them give the restaurant an Okinawan flair through textiles and artifacts.

The Plantation Cafe menu will offer two menus planned by chefs Shimabukuro and Higa. One will feature tibichi (pig's feet soup), an entree of either goya champuru (stir-fry bittermelon with pork and tofu) or rafute (glazed pork) served with rice and tsukemono, and sata andagi (Okinawan doughnut — Okinawa style) for dessert, all for \$10.50. The second menu will feature a kubu irichi (kelp cooked with dried turnip) appetizer, sooki soba (Okinawan soba and sparerib soup) for the entree, and sata andagi for dessert, all for \$10. The same menus will be available for dinner, with larger servings and slightly higher prices: \$12.50 for the goya or rafute, and \$12 for the sooki soba. The hotel will also be serving Okinawa's own Orion Beer and awamori.

The Okinawa Festival lunch will be served Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner service will be available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. On Friday and Saturday night, the hotel will incorporate the Okinawa Festival food with its prime rib and seafood buffet from 6 to 9 p.m. The Okinawa Festival food will also be available during the Sunday brunch (11 a.m.-2 p.m.).

HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER

Spring Cleaning Sale !!!

The Hawaii Okinawa Center gift shop is doing some spring cleaning. The following items have been reduced in price and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Entertainment Book: \$26 with this newsletter ad

"Textile Art of Okinawa" by Reiko Brandon: \$8 with ad

"To Our Issei" booklet (produced for the Okinawan Centennial Celebration): \$3 with ad

"Boy from Kahaluu" by Tom Ige: \$12 with ad

"Reflections on the Okinawan Experience" (edited by Ronald Nakasone): hard cover \$28, paperback \$14

"Nuuzi Kakiyabira— Rainbows: Bridges in Time" (video of the Okinawan Centennial Celebration opening program): \$25 with ad

"Chibariyo 1998" 2-CD set: \$15 with ad

"Chibariyo 1988" cassette tape: \$5 with ad

Porcelain 3-pot planter set: \$8 with ad

HOC apron: \$3 with ad

For more information, call HUOA at 676-5400.

Changing jobs or retiring?

Do you know what to do with your pension/profit sharing/401(k) distribution?

Should you take it in a lump sum, establish an IRA rollover or pay taxes with special tax averaging?

These decisions have significant tax and earnings implications, so you'll want to discuss them with people who have professional training and the dedication to help you plan for a secure future.

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KOTO KIDS EXPERIENCE OKINAWA

by Sharon Shimabukuro
Member, Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai

Zippy's chili . . . nantu and sekihan to sell at an HUOA craft fair . . . more Zippy's chili . . . saimin and snack items . . . nantu and sekihan to sell at another HUOA craft fair . . .

The goal of all this fundraising was a trip to Okinawa. Aided by a grant from Hui O Lailima, members of the Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai embarked on a goodwill tour to Okinawa and Japan in June 2001. Joining the group were members of Hilo's Soshin Kai, under the leadership of Shizuko Akamine.

Escorted by Nadine Shimabukuro of N&K Travel Service, Inc., the group visited castles, museums, the new Peace Memorial Museum and other places of historic significance, cultural villages where they were treated to glimpses of Okinawan houses and the life of early Okinawa, music, weaving and dyeing, a habu (snake) exhibit, an eisa performance, and shopping at the Heiwadori. A visit to the Mori no Garasu Ryukyu Glass Factory was a hands-on experience, as everyone had a chance to blow and shape a glass cup to bring home as a souvenir. Some of the group also visited Yaeyama, while others remained in Naha to visit with friends and family or just enjoy a break from the hectic pace of the tour. The highlight of the group's stay in Okinawa was the goodwill exchange with Okinawan koto and odori students.

Due to the excitement and enthusiasm of sensei in Okinawa, the original plan to visit a koto dojo so the Hawai'i students could observe a koto class in Okinawa and interact with the students blossomed into a mini recital of children performing Okinawan music and dance at the Naha Ryotei teahouse. Tanahara Yasuko Sensei, past president and advisor to the Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai, and the current president, Miyagi Masako Sensei, attended and participated in the goodwill exchange. They were instrumental in the success of the exchange. The sensei of the Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai gathered their young students and organized the event on short notice.

Allison Yanagi, who was studying in Okinawa at the time, served as mistress of ceremonies. Under the auspices of the HUOA's "Hawaii Okinawa Today" program, Jay Ogawa and Melissa Uyeunten assisted in videotaping the performance and goodwill exchange, as well as interviews with the sensei.

Shanna Bise, Derek Fujio, Torie Nakata-Nagao, Ashley Shiroma and Heather Shiroma of the Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai, along with Dana Shimabukuro and Elizabeth Alonzo of the Soshin Kai, performed several numbers in a gassho with koto students from Okinawa. Derek Fujio, accompanied by Heather Shiroma, performed "Nakama Bushi" as a dokuso (solo). Dancers from the Tamagusuku Ryu Shosetsu Tomoe no Kai, under the direction of Gushiken Ikuko Sensei, accompanied the koto performers in "Kageyadefu" and "Shiki Kuduchi." Gushiken Sensei honored the group by dancing "Aki no Odori" to the accompaniment of the student koto players.

The Okinawa and Hawai'i students were able, amidst

much trial and error and a lot of laughter, to interact over a delicious box lunch. The Hawai'i students learned about "loose socks" (socks one meter long which drape around the ankle and lower calf) and the students from Okinawa were fascinated by Elizabeth Alonzo, who had no roots in Okinawa, but was learning to play Okinawan koto.

Laden with omiyage, new koto books and other treasures, the tour continued with a one-week sweep through Osaka, Kyoto, Hakone and Tokyo. The group visited temples and shrines, collecting omamori (good luck charms) saw a live ninja show at Toei Uzumasa



Eigamura, rode the shinkansen (bullet train), stopped overnight at an onsen (hot spring spa), and spent a fun-filled day at Tokyo Disneyland.

The Jane Kaneshiro Goodwill Tour was a resounding success. The goodwill tour and goodwill exchange provided an opportunity for the students to expand their knowledge and appreciation of their Okinawan heritage and interact with their counterparts in Okinawa — and has left a lasting impression on the participants.

After returning to Hawaii, Jane Kaneshiro Sensei asked each of the Hawai'i students to write a short essay on their impressions of the trip. Here are a few excerpts.

"In retrospect, the Jane Kaneshiro Goodwill Tour achieved all it intended to, and then some. The interaction and relationships born between the Hawai'i and Okinawa groups may never be set asunder, and the impressions of our ancestors' homeland shall never be forgotten. My fresh perspectives on Okinawa bred new emotions and thoughts within me, reflecting back to my ancestors who once were born and raised in those islands. I see the ideals and upbringings of my ancestors in the ways of those people we met in the goodwill exchange. The Okinawan people represent one possibility of those who came before, a representation of time and growth. We, as the descendants of those original Okinawa immigrants, form a second possibility, and the goodwill exchange allowed the two associations to meet again, a grand reunification down the stream of time.

It is this constant branching of the river of life that allows for the diversity in this world, and there are countless branches which remain to be found. However, the Jane Kaneshiro Goodwill Tour allowed two of those branches to intertwine, and it is my hope that this lifelong bond will only be the first of many fruitful relationships to come." — Derek Tadashi Fujio (age 15)

"Well, anyways, it was fun playing with the Okinawan people because when we played as a whole group it sounded really nice." — Torie Nakata-Nagao (age 12)

"On this trip to Okinawa and Japan, I had a really good time. What I mostly liked was the get-together with the local koto students and their senseis. It was a good experience for me because you couldn't mess up, and there were these really high senseis watching you play. I also liked all the tours we did, and the full day of Disneyland. What I didn't like was the hot weather, it was like down here but no wind. I also didn't like that you had to pay to go swimming (1,000 yen, which is about \$9.50 here)." — Ashley Shiroma (age 13)

"After the long and tiring eight-and-one-half-hour flight from the island of Oahu, we finally landed in Okinawa, Japan. As I walked out of the airport and to the tour bus, a burst of hot air got me thinking, "If it's this hot during the evening, imagine what's it like during the afternoon!" [I]n our stay in Okinawa, we visited Bise village in northern Okinawa called Motobu. Going there was special to me because my family ancestors was from Bise village and finally going to meet some family there for the first time. . . . The students of Jane Kaneshiro Sozan Kai had a mini koto performance with the koto students from Okinawa. It was a great experience for me because it was our first time playing out of Hawaii and with many students from Okinawa together. The more places we visited and learned more about the Okinawan culture, it made me appreciate my culture more and made me want to learn more about Okinawa. . . .

. . . . This trip brought me closer with my family because they also came along and I saw them 24/7 during this goodwill trip. I also got closer to my cousin from California, who also came along in this trip and the other koto student who I've gotten closer to from this trip. I think the most memorable part on this trip was when all the kids sat in the back of the tour bus after the long day's tour, and all the adult slept and we would talk and laugh until our stomachs were sore." — Shanna Bise (age 12)

"The Goodwill trip opened my eyes to [the] broad field in Okinawa culture; the sanshin, koto, taiko drums, eisa dances, and its history. Since I am Okinawan/Japanese, it really meant a lot for me to learn the history. Going to Okinawa helped me not only with the brochures, but actually seeing the historical spots and absorbing its presence and what happened in the past. I thought the most memorable experience was the Himeyuri no To, or "Star Lily Monument." It was dedicated to the young girls who risked their lives becoming nurses, tending the sick and wounded. It really made me think about those young women and young doctors whose lives ended so short for their country. I remember everything! Playing the koto with the students from Okinawa was great. Even the language barrier was alright. We still had fun. Meeting Tanahara Sensei, former president of Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai, was an honor. There was so much fun while absorbing the excellent cultural experience . . . I would do it again!" — Dana Shimabukuro (age 14)

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50TH ANNIVERSARY QUESTIONS

Limited space in last month's HUOA 50th anniversary special edition prevented the publication of these comments by the presidents or representatives of some HUOA member clubs. We hope you enjoy reading them.

WHY AM I PROUD TO BE UCHINANCHU?

"The Okinawan Festival." — *Masa Shiroma, nisei, Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai*
 "Because we are strong in spirit and have a unique and diverse culture." — *Sean Shimabukuro, sansei, Ginoza Sonjin Kai*
 "Because Uchinanchu are unselfish and sacrificed their lives for the good of others." — *Keith Kaneshiro, sansei, Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, Kochinda Chojin Kai, Hui Makaala*
 "Unity." — *Kenneth Mijo, sansei, Katsuren Chojin Kai*
 "What else can I be." — *Douglas Miyasato, nisei, Aza Yogi Doshi Kai*
 "Tradition and ability to work together." — *Terry T. Taira, sansei, Yonabaru Chojin Kai*
 "I am proud to be Uchinanchu because I am extremely proud of the legacy and achievements that my parents, grandparents and great-grandparents have attained." — *Holly Takara, yonsei, Oroku Azajin Club*
 "I can share my hairiness with others who do not have any and with people who have hair from head to toe." — *John Tasato, nisei, Ginowan Shijin Kai*
 "The HUOA has made me proud to be an Uchinanchu because of the high visibility HUOA has had and the positive image it has generated." — *Takashi Tsuhako, nisei, Tamagusuku Club*
 "Being surrounded by other proud Uchinanchus." — *Gainor Miyashiro, sansei,*



Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai members making andagi.

Yonashiro Chojin Kai

"Uchinanchu are hard workers and dependable." — *Jay Nakandakare, sansei, Ishikawa Shijinkai*
 "I am proud to be a descendant of Okinawans because of their kindness, warmth and generous spirit." — *Carolyn Oki, sansei, Hui Okinawa*
 "We are nice and supportive of family and friends." — *Dorothy Shiroma Hoe, nisei, Nishihara Chojin Kai, Gaza Yonagusuku Doshi Kai, Hui O Lailima*
 "Uchinanchu and Uchinanchu-at-heart always take the time and energy to pull together and get the job done." — *Sandy Kaneshiro, sansei, Tomigusuku Sonjin Kai, Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai*
 "Parents have taught us to be proud of our heritage." — *David Kobashigawa, sansei, Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai*
 "For all the contributions made to humankind." — *Thomas Ikehara, nisei, Bito Doshi Kai*

WHAT UCHINANCHU EVENT STANDS OUT THE MOST IN YOUR MIND?

"The HUOA Festival is awesome and a true demonstration of the Uchinanchu Spirit — everyone working together and enjoying fellowship." — *Jane Serikaku, nisei, Minami Nakagusuku*
 "Fundraiser for Hawaii Okinawa Center." — *Masa Shiroma*
 "The year-long Okinawan Centennial Celebration." — *Sean Shimabukuro*
 "Third Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival held in Okinawa in November 2001."



Goodwill Ambassadors Ken Kiyabu and Mamo Kaneshiro at the Okinawa Convention Center.

Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, April 13, 2002

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Hawaii Okinawa Center

150-plus vendors!

Great food!

Silent auction items!

Shuttle bus to HOC from satellite parking lots!

Non-perishable food items for the Hawaii FoodBank will be collected, and the Hawaii Blood Bank's bloodmobile will be on-site for those who would like to give blood.

Organized by Hawaii Katsuren Chojin Kai, Hawaii Sashiki-Chinen Doshi Kai, Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club and Hawaii Yaeyama Kyoyu Kai

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— Keith Kaneshiro

"An Evening in Waipio" was the first HUOA event I had the honor of co-chairing. I'm appreciative of the energy of the many volunteers that came out, even for a workday evening." — William Akamine, sansei, Haeburu Club

"HOC and its opening!" — Kenneth Mijo

"Okinawan Festival, holding tent, Wayne Miyahira and myself — same time, same place, every year." — Rodney Kohagura, sansei, Ginowan Shijin Kai

"Opening ceremony of the 100th anniversary." — Terry T. Taira

"Shinnen enkais, family get-togethers." — Ron



A scene from the "Rainbows" opening program.

Miyasato, nisei, Aza Yogi Doshi Kai

"Our annual Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park where all Uchinanchus and Uchinanchus-at-heart greet each other with 'Chaganju . . .' and 'Haisai!'" — John Tasato

"100th anniversary program held in January 2000, 'Nuuzi Kakiyabira.'" — Takashi Tshako

"Being part of the HUOA Taikai tour. People of Okinawa embraced and welcomed us as relatives." — Gainor Miyashiro

"When I was a child, my Baban used to take us to their annual Oroku picnic at Ala Moana Park. My Baban was so happy to be with her friends from Okinawa. She was looking forward to be honored someday." — Carolyn Oki

"The 75th anniversary celebration in 1975. I participated with Nakasone Yoshiko Sensei's dance troupe at Farrington High School. It made me proud to have had the opportunity to dance when not too many people were interested in the Okinawan culture at that time." — Sandy Kaneshiro



WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE ISSEI?

"Hard work, perseverance, time to party." — Jane Serikaku

"Work, work, work." — Masa Shiroma

"Their strength and sense of perseverance, which made it possible for succeeding generations to enjoy the lives we have today." — Sean Shimabukuro

"They were hard workers who dedicated their lives to make life easier for the next generation." — Keith Kaneshiro

"Everything." — Kenneth Mijo

"Hard work — no complaints; endurance, survivors." — Rodney Kohagura

"Hard workers." — Douglas Miyasato

"The sacrifices they made to make a better life for the coming generation." — Terry T. Taira

"Hard-working and sacrificing." — Jay Nakandakare

"They had guts, were highly motivated, worked very

hard and of high principles." — Ken Kiyabu, sansei, Yagaji Doshi Kai

"An Uchinanchu smile that says, 'Mensore Uchigumi Sore.'" — John Tasato

"Although they didn't speak much English, we still were able to talk to them, and we all got together regularly with the whole family." — June Uyeunten Nakama, yonsei, Club Motobu

"The hard life they had working on the plantations." — Takashi Tshako

"Vision to keep Uchinanchus united and strong." — Gainor Miyashiro

"My mother's last days which I spent before her passing. One of her last wishes was for me to get more involved with the clubs and maintain our roots to Okinawa." — Jay Nakandakare

"They were so brave to immigrate and become pioneers in a strange land; to better themselves for a better future for the next generation." — Carolyn Oki

"They toiled the very soil we walk on." — Dorothy Shiroma Hoe



The fifth generation of the Yonashiro Chojin Kai. Eunice Hirata (left) and Gainor Miyashiro (right) with sisters Sarah, Shayne, Sydney and Summer Tsukenjo.

"My grandparents worked extremely hard and yet raised all of their children to become great people with good hearts." — Sandy Kaneshiro

"How much they suffered and sacrificed for their children." — Thomas Ikehara

"The issei had the courage to start a new life in Hawai'i. Through their effort we have learned about our homeland and love who we are." — Linda Takushi, sansei, Yomitan Club

"My grandmother's hands. She was always trying to hide her hands." — Karen Kuba-Hori, sansei, Okinawa City-Goeku Sonjin Kai

WHAT MAKES AN UCHINANCHU?

"Big heart." — Masa Shiroma

"Uchinanchu spirit, Uchinanchu heart and Uchinanchu values." — Sean Shimabukuro

"That special feeling you get when you meet a

stranger and they say, 'Oh, you're Uchinanchu, too?'"

— Lyn Uesato, sansei, Gushichan Sonjin Kai

"Dedication, hard work, perseverance, loyalty and pride — commitment to excellence." — Keith Kaneshiro

"Color purple." — Kenneth Mijo

"Warm-hearted and loving." — Douglas Miyasato

"Andagi and hair." — Terry T. Taira

"A giving heart, willing to help generously." — Ron Miyasato

"An Uchinanchu who doesn't know how to say 'no.'" — John Tasato

"Heart." — Gainor Miyashiro

"For me, it is a person who will go out of his/her way to help others without regards for their own benefit." — Jay Nakandakare

"Their kindness, warmth and generous spirit." — Carolyn Oki

"Pride in our heritage." — Dorothy Shiroma Hoe

"Open-hearted and good-spirited people who enjoy reaching a common goal." — Sandy Kaneshiro

"Hair, good looks and fabulous character. One who helps others." — David Kobashigawa

"It's what is in this heart." — Thomas Ikehara

"The feeling of Chimugukuru." — Karen Kuba-Hori



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- March 2: Okinawa students in Hawaii-Okinawa DOE Student Exchange Program arrive. 7 a.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- March 4: HUOA Program Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- March 10: JTB Honolulu Festival parade. 5 p.m. from Saratoga Road to Kapiolani Park.
- March 11: Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- March 13: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- March 15: Aloha Party for Okinawa students in Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program and their Hawaii host families. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- March 16: Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii meeting. 9 a.m.-12 noon @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion mezzanine).
- March 18: "Okinawan Discovery Series" presentations — "Natural Living Treasures of Hawaii and Okinawa" and "Treasures of Okinawa: The Sakamaki/Hawley Collection." 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion). Free and open to the public. Call 676-5400.
- March 25: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- March 26: HOC closed for Kuhio Day holiday.
- March 26: Communication & Information Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- March 26: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- March 29: HOC closed for Good Friday holiday.
- March 30: Hui Makaala Scholarship application deadline. Applications and information available from www.huoa.org. Mail completed application to Hui Makaala, P.O. Box 2604, Hon., HI 96803.
- April 1: HUOA Program Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- April 8: Executive Council meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- April 10: Flower arrangement class. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- April 13: HUOA Spring Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. @ HOC.
- April 15: Board of Directors meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- April 20: Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii meeting. 9 a.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion mezzanine).
- April 22: Administration Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- April 30: Communication & Information Committee meeting. 7 p.m. @ HOC (Higa Building).
- April 30: Karaoke Club. 6:30 p.m. @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion).
- May 5: Kariyushi Variety Show — a benefit for the Hawaii Okinawa Center. 8:45 a.m. (doors open at 8) @ HOC (Teruya Pavilion). Tickets: \$15 (includes bento and drink). Call 676-5400.

"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" (HOT) SCHEDULE

The following is the tentative program schedule for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" through April. "Hawaii Okinawa Today" is a production of the HUOA video subcommittee. 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 for "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs is available on 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 subcommittee or "Hawaii Okinawa Today" programs, call Henry Isara at 595-2773, or e-mail him at henryisara@hotmail.com, or e-mail the video team at hot@huoa.org.

- March 6: Repeat showing of "Nuuzi Kakiyabira—Rainbows: Bridges in Time," the opening performance for the Okinawan Centennial Celebration, held Jan. 8, 2000, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.
- March 13: Repeat showing of Part 1 of the "Maigokoro" dance performance.
- March 20: Premiere showing of Part 5 of the Sept. 2 & 3, 2000 Okinawan Festival at Kapiolani Park.
- March 27: Repeat showing of Part 2 of the "Maigokoro" dance performance.
- April 3: Repeat showing of the Hui Makaala-Hawaii United Okinawa Association Fashion Show, held Oct. 22, 2000, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.
- April 10: Repeat showing of Part 1 of Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei's July 29, 2000, dance performance at Orvis Auditorium on the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa campus.
- April 17: Premiere showing of the first Maui Okinawan Festival, held June 9, 2001, at the Rinzai Zen Temple in Pā'ia.
- April 24: Repeat showing of Part 2 of Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei's July 29, 2000, dance performance at Orvis Auditorium on the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa campus.

* ALL PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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