UCHINANCHU

THE VOICE OF THE HAWAII UNITED OKINAWA ASSOCIATION

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An Uchina-Experience Of A Lifetime

By Tom Yamamoto

The much-anticipated 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival generated emotions of joy, fascination and nostalgia for the 1,831 from Hawaii who attended this celebration. Excitement had already begun to stir as the Hawaii participants were greeted at the Naha International Airport like Hollywood celebrities, as television and radio crews surrounded and welcomed the passengers of two flights chartered by China Airlines.

The following day, our Hawaii Okinawa community, represented by the HUOA, would once again be featured as they were selected to lead the Festival Eve Parade down Kokusai Street. Both our proud Hawaiian and Okinawan cultures were represented in our unit with *hula* dancers, *ukulele* players, and *uta sanshin* members. A special collaboration of the song *Nani Ko'olau* was presented by *hula* members and *ukulele* players from both Hawaii and Okinawa, including our very own Governor David Ige on the *ukulele* and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige gracefully dancing the *hula*. A warm mahalo goes out to all who participated—especially to members and friends of Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai and Leinani Hula Group from Okinawa.

The Opening Ceremony at Cellular Stadium welcomed *Uchinanchu* from all around the world, who were seated together for a celebration of welcome and introductory messages and entertainment. The impressive stadium stands revealed a sea of green Aloha shirts worn by our proud *Uchinanchu* "Hawaiians."

Throughout the Taikai there was much in store as far as free events and activities organized by the Okinawa Prefectural Government and the local cities, towns and villages, as long as each overseas participant wore their "red taikai badge."

For *kenjinkai* participants from around the world, this was an ideal opportunity

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President's Message

By Tom Yamamoto

いちまでぃん

Itsi Madin – Laulima,
Forever Working Together

Haisai,

Reflecting back to one December morning last year, I recall taking in a few deep breaths and asking myself, "What course do I take to accomplish all that is proposed for 2016?" Certainly it would be an enormous undertaking, especially with a full schedule of events and activities that require much planning and preparation. Nonetheless, knowing our organization, which maintains a legacy of *chimugukuru*, compassion and *yuimaru*, working together, whatever course I had taken, there would be a community to support and guide me along this journey!

As we approach the end of 2016, without question, the contribution of time and energy that I have witnessed from all of you truly illustrates this year's theme, *Itsi Madin Laulima – Forever Working Together*! For that, I humbly extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your dedication to our organization.

To the club members of the HUOA, thank you for your dedication in helping to carry on the traditions and values that your ancestors established for your respective "*kai*" generations ago. It's through your efforts in promoting the values of leadership, contribution to the community and the preservation of culture and traditions to the younger generation, that our member clubs can grow and prosper for many generations. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the multitude of volunteers from various member clubs who helped to set up and break down the Kapiolani Park festival grounds, and at the events following the cancellation of the festival.

"The contribution of time and energy that I have witnessed from all of you truly illustrates this year's theme, Itsi Madin Laulima – Forever Working Together!"

To the HUOA Executive Council, Board of Directors, and various committees associated with our outstanding organization I am humbled and proud to have worked closely with you. I was amazed by the passion and energy you exhibited and the knowledge and insight you shared during our discussions. Thank you for your commitment as leaders to our organization. As president, it was truly a pleasure working side by side with you at our meetings and events.

To the HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku and the entire office staff, I express a heartfelt thanks to you for going above and beyond the normal workday to support our organization and the many events, activities and functions that occur throughout the year. For your hard work in organizing these events, which involves long hours of pre-planning, early morning preparation on the days of the events and staying late to clean-up after these events, I thank you for all that you do for our organization!

In closing I would like to say that it has truly been a privilege and an honor to serve you as president of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, and I will cherish this experience with many fond memories to look back on.

All of these memories share one common theme. Whether it was our performing arts recitals, the Pau Hana Concert, the Okinawa Festival *kokua*, or the recent 6th World Uchinanchu Taikai, just to mention a few, all of these events represented genuine examples of individuals and groups coming together to help one another when help is needed. And that spirit is the embodiment of "*Itsi Madin – Laulima, Forever Working Together.*" Let's continue to move forward in building strength as an *Uchinanchu* community!

Ippee Nifee Deebiru!

UCHINANCHU

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UCHINANCHU

Ippee Nifee Deebiru... Mahalo!

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

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

Uchinanchu Donors September 16 to November 20, 2016.

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2017 Calendar of Events

The year at a glance!

Jan. 21	Installation Banquet/Recognition of UOY Honorees
Feb. 18 - Mar. 4	Okinawa-Hawaii High School Student Exchange
Mar. 12	Honolulu Festival Parade
May 27, 28	HUOA Invitational Goodwill Golf Tournament
June 11	Pan Pacific Parade

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

HUOA Installation Luncheon Banquet & Uchinanchu of Year Awards January 21, 2017

Mark your calendars and join other HUOA member clubs to meet your incoming officers and advisors and say thank you to this year's officers and advisors for their hard work. Cheer on the very deserving Uchinanchu of the Year honorees.

See you there!

Uchina-Experience - *continued from page 1*

to reconnect with their roots and identity, develop a network with *Uchinanchu* from abroad, reunite with family and friends from Okinawa, and immerse themselves in the rich culture of Okinawa.

It was enjoyable to see the excitement on the faces of all the participants, especially those who traveled to Okinawa for the first time. The wonderment that they expressed reminds me of the first time that I visited Okinawa and was enthralled by the culture.

Kenjinkai representing the participating countries and regions included distinguished contributors and goodwill ambassadors from overseas who were recognized and awarded for their contributions to their communities and to Okinawa.

Okinawa Prefectural Government officials, Okinawa Hawaii Kyokai members, and HUOA greeted Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige as they arrived for the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival.

They also attended and participated in "*Yuntaku Sabira*," which was a roundtable discussion to learn about the efforts that other *kenjinkai* are making to promote the Okinawan culture among their diverse populations, and to discuss the challenges of bringing members together and encouraging the next generation to get involved.

The culmination of events for the Taikai took place at the Closing Ceremony on October 30. Young *Uchinanchu* took the stage with inspiring messages in *Uchinaaguchi* (Okinawan language) expressing their responsibility as the next generation from around the world to become leaders in their communities.

Speaking of young leaders, this was also a special day for two third-generation Okinawans—Andres Higa from Argentina and Tadashi Andres Isa from Peru—who proposed at the "*Yuntaku Sabira*" event to establish October 30 as "World Uchinanchu Day," a day for all *Uchinanchu* from around the world to feel pride in their identity and celebrate. What a proud moment for these two individuals, as it was declared that World Uchinanchu Day would be celebrated on October 30 every year. The speech was as follows...

"Today, We want to tell all the Uchinanchu from around the world.
We Uchinanchu have it all.
We have the power to shape the future.
We have hope for the future.
We have the valor to set off into the world.
We have the generosity to forgive each other.
We have the spirit of mutual aid to help each other.
We have a rich traditional culture.
We have the fortitude to overcome difficulties.
We have gratitude for our ancestors in our hearts.
We have love for our families in our hearts.
We have love for all those we meet in our hearts.
We have love for our ancestral home in our hearts.
We have a love for peace in our hearts.
We Uchinanchu are proud to be Uchinanchu.
And we Uchinanchu are one.

As we do every five years, the *Uchinanchu* of the world have gathered once again, and once again our hearts have become one.

Let us celebrate the fact that we are all *Uchinanchu*.

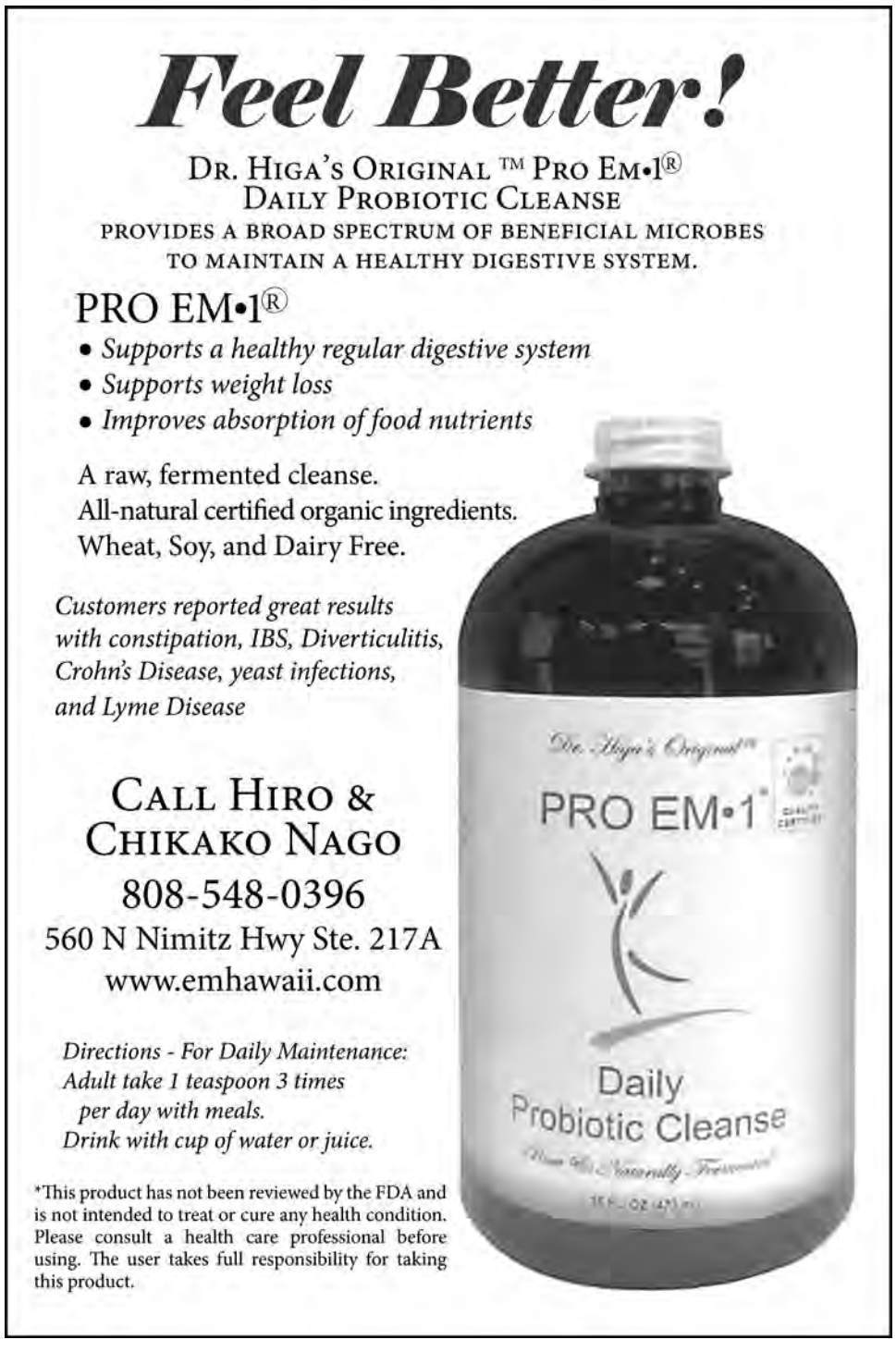
Let us establish today, October 30th, as 'World Uchinanchu Day,' and let us engrave it with pride on our *Uchinanchu* souls.

I am proud to stand before you to declare this day 'World Uchinanchu Day.'

Congratulations to all the *Uchinanchu* from all over the world!"

The Closing Ceremony concluded with entertainment by Okinawan artist Kariyushi 58, Diamantes, and the fabulous trio of Begin.

Memories of the 6th World Uchinanchu Festival have been implanted into the hearts and minds of those who attended. For our 1,831 participants from Hawaii, I hope all returned home with a recharged spirit and pride of being *Uchinanchu* and *Uchinanchu* at Heart. As Governor Onaga mentioned in his speech at the Closing Ceremony, "*...All Uchinanchu, saw their hearts become one, and I very much hope that everyone feels pride in being Uchinanchu!*"



OGSH MINI-TAIKAI PHOTO CONTEST

This being a Taikai year, the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii (OGSH) created a Mini-Taikai concept as its annual Bonenkai theme. Part of the celebration was a photo contest capturing the excitement of the Taikai. The OGSH members who participated in the contest were asked to feel the emotions of people who had come from all over the world to return to their homeland of Okinawa.

The first place winner was "Hawaiian Parade in Naha" by Curtis Shinsato, which expresses the honor of Hawaiian Islanders from the young boy giving the "Shaka" sign to his grandmother waving the American flag in the parade.

The second place winner was the "Brazil Parade" by Thom Lichte (husband of Joyce (Shiroma) Lichte), who caught the Brazilians at the right moment, giving all their energy cheering like at the Rio Olympics.

The third place winner was "Welcome Home!" by Rodney Kohagura who commented that the picture would speak for itself, and it did saying gracios!

A second category of the Mini-Taikai Photo Contest was added later to capture the emotions felt at parks, museums, and other non-people subjects. These winning photos feature views of Okinawa away from Taikai events.

The first place winner was "Goodbye, Okinawa (Sunset at Sunabe, Okinawa)" by Amy Shinsato who visited and always viewed the sunset at Sunabe, where her daughter had lived for five years when she worked there. She was happy yet sad to say goodbye.

The second place winner was entitled "Have a Shisa Seat!" by James Higa who visited the Craft Center in Naha and saw the Shisa as seats with open and closed mouths. Now which one would you sit on?

The third place photo was "Seafood Galore at Itoman Fish market" by Virginia (Kakazu) Tully who enjoyed tasting the Okinawan food as well as absorbing all the sights of Okinawa. Ippee Nifee Deebiru to all the entrants!

Recognizing Yoshinobu Oshiro and Mark Higa

Two of Hawaii United Okinawa awardees were not able to attend the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai to personally receive their awards at Governor Onaga's Award Ceremony. They were:

Recipient of the Distinguished Contributor Award. Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ed.D., was nominated by the Mayor of Haebaru Town for his many years of coordinating the Haebaru-Okinawa/Hawaii Student Exchange program and the more recent Kenshyusei Program.

Recipient of the Future Generation Representative Award. 2015 HUOA President Mark Higa was recognized for his complete dedication to all things Uchinanchu, spearheading major events, continuing to dedicate his time to our community, and enhance our strong bond with Okinawa.

Uchinaa Ambassadors Named

Congratulations to Jon Itomura and Grant "Sandaa" Murata—our two recently appointed "New Uchinaa Ambassadors." Jon and "Sandaa" were recognized at a special Recognition Ceremony held by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. (L-R): Jon Itomura, HUOA President Tom Yamamoto, and Grant "Sandaa" Murata."

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Ippee Nifee Deebiru and Thank you for your support of our "Chura Shigata" performance.
Wishing everyone
Seasons Greetings, and Happy New Years.

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Our First Trip to Okinawa

By Sheri Katayama and Zachary Wong

Our first trip to Okinawa was an amazing, fun, exciting, interesting cultural experience. From the parade to the opening and closing ceremony the energy was unreal, you couldn't help but get excited too. We had never seen people from all over the world come together to exude such a strong sense of pride for their heritage. It was definitely amazing! Watching the people from different countries interact with each other, you could feel immediately that they shared the same excitement and honor to be a part of the Taikai. In our limited Japanese and Spanish, we were able to share in these same feelings and it made us feel special to be a part of it and to be *Uchinanchu*. It was a great cultural experience and I have never been so proud to be *Uchinanchu*.

Sheri and Zach holding the Yomitan flag.

When we first started planning our trip to Okinawa, we assumed that it would be very similar to Japan. We had a couple of free days and decided that we would rent a car to see what other things Okinawa had to offer. First off, right sided driving is no easy task and we quickly learned that it took the attention of both the driver and passenger to navigate through the streets of Okinawa. We decided to head up North to check out Cape Maeda and Cape Manzamo. At Cape Maeda we were finally able to dip our toes into the warm Okinawa waters. We must have been a sight to see as we headed to the beach in just board shorts and a bikini, while the other tourists were in full body wetsuits. The water temperature was perfect and we found a couple tide pools and caves that hid some cool brightly colored fish. After this, we went up to Cape Manzamo to see the elephant shaped rock in the water. It was pretty windy there and the waves were crashing on the rocks, but we were able to get our share of sunshine and beautiful pictures. On the way there we had seen several Curry House restaurants and if you ever have the chance of going to a curry house in a different country, they offer different special menu items. We stopped off at one restaurant and had the chance to try garlic chicken katsu curry and a beef, pork, and chicken cutlet curry with a side of garlic cheesy bread. It was amazing; they need to offer those items here in Hawaii.

Prior to arriving in Okinawa we had been told that Okinawa was just like Hawaii, but up until this point we did not understand what they meant until stopping off in Sunabe. We had been interested in going surfing here and heard that there was a surf shop that would rent out surf boards. While walking along the Sunabe sea wall, we asked a couple of local surfers where the surf shop was and the last guy that we asked offered to take us there in his limited English and our limited Japanese. However when we got there it was closed, but again he offered to speak to the guy for us. We figured that we would not see him again, but he later spotted us and with a translator app on his phone tried to communicate with us again and offered to help us find the other surf shop. This is when we finally realized what they meant by saying that Okinawa and Hawaii are alike. This complete stranger that we had just met was going completely out of his way to help us and took us back and forth along the beach and even asked other fellow surfers for help. He embodied the Aloha spirit and was going above and beyond to help us. Mind you, when we first stopped him he was walking in the opposite direction and walked away from where he was trying to go. We returned to Sunabe sea wall 2 days later and found the other surf shop where we rented our boards. The surfing culture in Okinawa seems to be a tight knit group and everyone seems to know each other. There are some pretty advanced surf spots in Okinawa and the locals were ripping it up on the waves.

Our first trip to Okinawa will definitely not be our last. The people there are very warm and hospitable making you feel so welcomed and at home. Okinawa has so many great things to offer and other great cultural experiences that we would like to see. So Okinawa, we shall return!

An Okinawan Homecoming

By Kelsey Takara

My first time to Okinawa was a very pleasant experience. It was weird and unusual because I was traveling outside of the country for the first time, I felt like I was in a very familiar place. One of the first things I remember was hearing, "welcome home!" I have never been here, how can this be home? In a matter of 10 days I was able to feel that and figure it all out.

Between the eating and sightseeing I learned more and more about the place that my ancestors came from and more of who I am as a person. It was always a battle growing up Okinawan because I always knew there was a difference but it was always hard to explain it and have other people understand that as well. I believe I finally have it figured out.

At the staging for the parade, it really opened my eyes because I realized that although Okinawa might be a small island, the impact was very much worldwide. Seeing all the different country's delegations that came to Okinawa to participate in Taikai was amazing, I think every continent except for Antarctica was present. It gave me a sense of identity and pride.

I think the most emotional part of the trip aside from leaving, was going to the welcome party in Nakagusuku. We were able to tour the Nakagusuku Castle ruins, and learn about the history of Gosamaru and Nakagusuku. After we went to the library where they also have a sort of archive of the people who came from the area, this is where it hit me that I was walking on the same grounds as those who came before me.

When the time came to leave, I wished that we didn't have to. I had such a pleasant experience in Okinawa, but I knew that I'd have to go back to my life here in Hawaii. I can't wait to go back to Okinawa and I also hope that every *Uchinanchu* gets the chance to go back "home" at least once in their lifetime, it truly was a life changing experience.

Uchinanchu 2016 is Coming!

Each year, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) and its member clubs embark on a totally new and unpredictable journey, fueled by the irrepressible energy we call the Uchinanchu Spirit.

For the past three years, the HUOA has published a beautiful, year-in-review memory book that captures the beauty and spirit of our club activities, festivals and recitals. Filled with full-color photos, this year's Uchinanchu 2016 will provide a lasting record of our collective efforts to honor our culture.

Advertisers: Be a part of this keepsake publication while supporting the HUOA.

Clubs–Preorder: Ask about discounts by ordering Uchinanchu 2016 for your club members. All proceeds benefit the HUOA.

Cost is $10 an issue. Clubs should inquire about discounts for orders of 25 or more.

For information on advertising or book orders, email: edhuoa@huoa.org

A Staple In Our Hawaii and Hawaii Okinawa Communities

Zippy's Celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

Ask any local (especially those who have ventured abroad) what restaurant is synonymous with nourishing "ono local grindz," and Zippy's is sure to appear at the top of the list! Zippy's is one of those places that we've all grown up with—Zip Min after UH football games, Zip Mobiles and Keiki Menus for the kids.... and who doesn't buy at least five Zippy's Benefit Chili Tickets at a time—three for the freezer and two for dinner tonight? How about a few Zip Pacs for the trip to the beach? What will you get at your "Next Stop?"

Yes, Zippy's is 50 this year! That means you might be 25. *Omedetou* to all of us! But did you know about Zippy's *Uchinanchu* roots?

Zippy's is the brainchild of entrepreneurs Francis and Charlie Higa. Their parents, Yeiko and Kameko Higa of Nago immigrated to Hawaii like many of our *Issei* in search of better living conditions and opportunities than what Okinawa could afford their families. It was around the 1920s, and they carried with them the importance of hard work from Okinawa and those formative early years in Hawaii..

By the 1940s Yeiko had his children learning everything about running a business, after taking over the original Aala Meat Market (today Higa Meat & Poultry). But the family knew that the meat market might not be able to provide for all six of their children and their families. Younger brothers Charlie and Francis looked for a new venture that might be able to grow with the changing Hawaii landscape.

The two forward thinking young men actually thought of location first before they even settled on what they wanted to do! Finding a prime location on King Street in the quickly growing McCully community, they thought of the many popular businesses and modern conveniences that were spreading across the nation and in Hawaii. The brothers narrowed it to two choices: a car wash or a drive-in restaurant. In 1966, the first Zippy's opened as a 24-hour diner at its current location on King Street, just after the Kalakaua intersection!

Original Zippy's McCully Location

Zippy's CEO Jason Higa with Charlie Higa and wife, Helen.

But why Zippy's? Introduced just a few years earlier, the U.S. Zip Code was all the buzz with its promise to provide efficiency and speed to the mail system. Zippy's looked at providing the same with great food, a 'round-the-clock diner and adjoining Saimin Lanai.

And then like a part of the family, we watched Zippy's grow with all of us. But it was not without hard work and sacrifice. The brothers were close, with complementary focuses and approaches. Charlie focused on the operational aspects of the restaurant and Francis took on administration and finance aspects of the business. They worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week, particularly during the first five years of business.

Starting from humble beginnings, the family operated business has grown to 24 restaurant locations around the State. It continues to be a place where we all continue to build memories, the best place to go after a weekend outing, luncheon meeting, or that night-owl snack.

With its growth, Zippy's has helped the local Okinawan communities and greater Hawaii communities grow at the same time! Take a look around and you will see Zippy's and the Higa Family's positive impacts all around us. One that is immediately recognizable is the home of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Dedicated to our *Issei* in 1990, Francis and Charlie Higa played leading roles along with the Teruya Family (Times Supermarket) in the fundraising efforts to complete the building. Their generosity and dedication inspired others to assist in ensuring our organization and its programs and events could thrive for generations. One of the buildings on our campus bear their parents name: The Yeiko and Kameko Higa Building, which houses our library, gift shop, museum and offices.

A Catered Experience (ACE) has been catering parties since 1978. But as a wonderful partner to HUOA, ACE has helped manage and deliver great food and events to our community through a myriad of parties and events at the Hawaii Okinawa Center Legacy Ballrooms. That is why we are able to enjoy some of our Okinawan favorites, including *rafute*, *kandabaa jyushi*, and *sata andagi* at our events and various club *Shinnen Enkai* parties. ACE also provides food service for events in the Pomaikaʻi Ballrooms at Dole Cannery.

For years, Zippy's would open their central kitchen to HUOA for the annual Okinawan Festival. In its early years, much of the food would be prepared at Zippy's central kitchen under their guidance. Today, they share their precision and efficiency with us in measuring, prepping and packaging our ingredients before the festival, allowing us to ensure consistency and to add our own dash of *chimukuguru* and *aji* (taste) to our Festival favorites. Because they are such a pivotal piece to our festival food, they have always assisted us with planning and portioning well before we are setting up, and they are there to deliver our ingredients when needed on both days. Zippy's work goes behind the scenes, through the hands of our volunteers, and into the happy mouths and stomachs of festival-goers!

Jason Higa, Francis' son, is the current CEO of Zippy's. He ensures that the wonderful legacy of outreach to the community continues. With about 2,000 employees in the restaurants and affiliated companies (ACE, Food Solutions Inc, Napoleon's Bakery), Jason and his team instill the values of hard work and ohana in the workplace. Additionally, they have been tremendous supporters for various organizations in the Hawaii community from HUGS, Blood Bank of Hawaii, American Diabetes Association, Kapiolani Medical Center and Hawaii High School Athletic Association just to name a few!

Zippy's also continues to look for creative ways to support HUOA's work in the community. This year, Zippy's was our Title Sponsor for the Pau Hana Concert in August, bringing Na Hoku Hanahano Artist of the Year Maunalua and other local entertainment to the heart of the island! Additionally, Zippy's featured an Okinawan Keiki activity sheet and also introduced a Special Okinawan Menu in August and September with Shoyu Pork and the Oki-Dog (Zip Dog), to promote the Okinawan Festival! Part of the Festival Promotion proceeds were donated to benefit HUOA programs such as the Student Exchange and Children' Cultural Day Camp.

So, the next time you are at the Okinawan Festival, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, a benefit event or just at Zippy's enjoying food with family and friends, think of the humble start, ambition, passion and hard work of our fellow *Uchinanchu*, that continues to bear fruit for the entire community. Zippy's and A Catered Experience continue to be wonderful friends and partners to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. We are extremely thankful for this and look forward to finding ways to continue to help each other and serve the community together!

Ippee Nifee Deebiru and *Omedetou Gozaimasu* Zippy's!

Bridging from Generation to Generation - For Our Children!

Ikuyu Madin

いくゆまでぃん

A Capital Campaign of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

Our Supporters

Ikuyu Madin Kai Members Of The 200 For 2M Campaign

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

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Nancy Akamine Arizumi, Claire Matsumoto, Wilma Ogimi
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Bob Yonahara
Harold & Elsie Yonamine
In Memory of Kenneth K. & Hazel C. Uehara

The Hawaii United Okinawa Association would like to acknowledge the following individuals, families, organizations and companies who have donated or pledged to our Campaign. Since our last report we received over $24,650 in gifts for the building of the Hawaii Okinawa Plaza this period. The amount includes a very generous donation in memory of Takeo and Matsue Shimabukuro and the Okinawan Genealogical Society of Hawaii.

Our 200 FOR 2M CAMPAIGN continues to grow, we currently have 68 committed members. We would like to welcome HUOA member Yomitan to our family of ten member clubs. The HUOA is truly grateful for your support and the confidence you have displayed through your generous donations and humbly ask for your continued support.

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

Donations listed below were received from September 16, 2016 to November 30, 2016.

Aloha Tofu Inc. (2)
Arashiro Ohana by Adele Tsukamoto
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Stanley Y. & Christine M. Higa
Jane Nakama
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In Memory of Gicho, Tsuru & Yoshinobu Takaesu by Harriet Takaesu
In Memory of Mrs. Amy Takata by Ginowan Shijin Kai
To Honor of the late Takeo & Matsue Shimabukuro by R.,K. & C. Shimabukuro

Preserving Our Legacy

2016 to 2017–Annual Giving Program

On November 4, 2016, the HUOA launched its 18th Annual Giving campaign. Over 9,700 letters were mailed to our membership and close friends. Last year, through the generous support of 844 individuals, families and organizations we raised $118,325, approximately 15 percent more than the previous year. This year we are on our way to exceed last year's totals. Your generous response to our campaign request, as of November 30th – has raised $54,364, representing an impressive 395 donations.

Ippee Nifee Deebiru! Your generosity truly reflects the ideal of "*Itsi Madin – Laulima, forever working together.*" Together we faced the uncertainty of a cancelled Okinawan Festival and today – we will work together to help our culture thrive and grow.

Our work is just beginning, your continued contribution helps to sustain Hawaii United Okinawa Association's many programs and the upkeep of our wonderful home – the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The following list of donors reflects contributions from September 1 to November 30, 2016.

PLATINUM ($2,500 TO $4,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Shigeji Kogachi

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In Memory of Lillian Chizuko Sawai and Sharon Hiroko Oshiro by Yoshinobu Oshiro

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In Memory of Eitai & Tsuruyo Oshiro Asato by Harold & Joyce Asato
In Memory of my beloved husband Harry Gima by Grace Ashitomi Gima
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In Memory of Chester & Hatsumi Toguchi
In Memory of 100th year old sister, Gladys Kikue Uchima by Yoshinobu D. Oshiro

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In Honor of Fumio & Ella Teruya by Wesley M. Teruya
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Preserving Our Legacy

2016 to 2017–Annual Giving Program

Continued from page 9

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In Gratitude to Norman Nakasone by Shinwakai Ikenobu- Nobuko Kida Sensei

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George Tengan
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Warren Teruya and Family
Yoshiko Tokashiki
Gary Tokuda
Jon Tonouchi
Stanley & Janet Tonouchi
Stan & Sue Toyama
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Continued on page 11

HUOA Legacy Awards Luncheon

Congratulations to HUOA Legacy Awards honorees Choichi Terukina Sensei, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ed.D., the late Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi, Seikichi "Chick" Takara, and Roy Tokujo.
The elegant and memorable Legacy Awards Luncheon was held December 4 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom.
Please look for additional coverage of this important event in the next issue of Uchinanchu.

(L-R): HUOA President Tom Yamamoto, Consul General of Japan Yasushi Misawa, Legacy Award honorees Choichi Terukina Sensei, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ed.D., Karen Shishido representing the family of the late Tokuichi "Dynamite" Takushi, Seikichi "Chick" Takara, and Roy Tokujo, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

Continued from page 10

2016 to 2017–Annual Giving Program

Preserving Our Legacy

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Tomeo Yoshizawa
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In Memory of Riyosei & Kamato Arakaki
In Memory of Ellen Masako Chuck by Wilfred Chuck
In Memory of David Chun by Haruko Chun
In Memory of George Ginoza by Carol Ginoza
In Memory of Sadafumi & Norma Higa by Jean Nishikawa
In Memory of Wanda E. Higa by Jane K. Higa
In Memory of Yoshimori & Ernest Higa by Shizuko Higa
In Memory of Aileen F. Hokama by Dana Hokama
In Memory of Charles M. Kamiya by Helene Kamiya Shimane
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In Memory of Boka & Kamata Nohara by Irene Y. Chun
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In Memory of Thomas T. Shiroma by Amy Shiroma
In Memory of Tadashi Tamayose by Kenneth T. Ginoza
In Memory of Kenichi Tsuha by Agnes Tsuha
In Honor of Preservation and Maintenance of Hawaii Okinawa Center by George & Linda Uchima

HUOA DONATIONS

September 16 to November 20, 2016

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

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Presenting Sponsor: ZIPPY'S RESTAURANTS
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CLUB NEWS
Our Clubs, Our Future

Hui Makaala Scholarships Awarded to Outstanding Students

The 2016 Hui Makaala Scholarship Fundraiser and Fashion Show luncheon was held on July 24 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. It marked the event's 47th anniversary. Funds raised through the annual fashion show and luncheon help to fund scholarships for deserving young scholars.

Adaniya

Asato

Itomura

Odo

Pak

Talkington

Tsuhako

Tsukenjo

Yoneshige

In 2016, Hui Makaala awarded nine scholarships totaling $20,000. The nine scholarship recipients for 2016 were recognized at the event.

- Stephanie Adaniya (Iolani School): Stephanie is the daughter of Fred and Yaeko Adaniya. She will be attending Brown University and is a member of Tamagusuku Ryu Senjukai Hawaii.
- Reese Asato (Iolani School): Reese is the son of Jaysin and Julie Asato. He will be attending Purdue University and has participated in the Okinawa-Hawaii student exchange program. He also volunteers at the Okinawan Festival.
- Dane Itomura (Punahou School): Dane is the son of Jon and Darlene Itomura. He will be attending UC San Diego and is memmer of Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts.
- Kassie Odo (Pearl City High School): Kassie is the daughter of Kenton and Kris Odo. She will be attending Oregon State University and plays the sanshin with Ryukyu Koten Afuso Ryu Kenkyu Choichi Kai Hawaii.
- Shayna Pak (McKinley High School): Shayne is the daughter of Randy and Denise Pak. She is attending the University of Hawaii and is a member of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii and Nomura Ryu Ongaku Kai Hawaii Shibu.
- Copeland Talkington (Kamaile Academy): Copeland is the son of Thomas and Christine Talkington-Chung. He will be attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is a member of Chinagu Eisa Hawaii.
- Marisa Tsuhako (Waiakea High School): Marisa is the daughter of Clyde Oshiro and Martha Terao. She attends the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is a member of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii.
- Summer Tsukenjo (Sacred Hearts Academy): Summer is the daughter of Dayne and Melissa Tsukenjo. She will be attending Kapiolani Community College and is a member of Hawaii Eisa Shinyuu Kai, Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, and the Yonashiro Club.
- Jolyn Yoneshige (Castle High School): Jolyn is the daughter of Craig and Jo-Ann Yoneshige. She is attending Hawaii Pacific University and is a member of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii.

Applications for 2017 scholarships will be available starting in January at huimakaala.org. Deadline for submission is June 2, 1017.

OGSH Bonenkai

President Rodney Kohagura stands behind those celebrating *Tokachi* (88 years old). (L-R): Dr. Shinyei Gima, Sakae Nakata, Dorothy Chee, Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro, and Hisashi Matsumoto.

Mahalo Shuri-Naha!

Mahalo to the members of Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club who gave Hawaii Okinawa Center a good cleaning! Kneeling: Jason Taira and Ed Kuba. Standing: Michael Goya, Chris Taylor, Janice Kawachi, Brian Maeshiro, and Dick Matsumoto. On ladder: Suzanne Yumol and Tina Matano.

Okinawa City-Goeku Son Cleans Up

Mahalo to Okinawa City-Goeku Son for spending an early Sunday morning scrubbing and cleaning the Hawaii Okinawa Center. (L-R): President Mae Chung, Chrissy Talkington Chung, Chloe Talkington, Lena Higa, Tom Talkington, Judi Morikami, Kristen Kahue, Janise Oshiro, Donovan Chung, and Karen Kuba-Hori.

Sports Corner

Onna Sonjin Kai Captures HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League Title

(L-R): HUOA President Tom Yamamoto congratulates Onna Sonjin Kai members Lambert Smith, Shari Toyama, Jean Hayase, Ryan Randall, and Kai Furukuwa. Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai finished in second place, and Team Go-Tama third.

Interested in Bowling?

The HUOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League is led by President Brian Ikehara, Vice President Carl Nakata, and Secretary-Treasurer Germaine Kiyomoto-Isara. The league will be starting up a new season on Sunday, January 8, 2017.

Bowlers interested in joining the league are urged to call Germaine at 284-0148. You can sign up as an individual or as a team organized by your club. A great time to check the league out would be on Sunday, December 4 and December 11, beginning at 1 p.m. at Leeward Bowl in Pearl City.

Merry Christmas to All!

The "Evening in Waipio" Craft Fair crew from Aza Yogi Doshi Kai, Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, and Gushikawa Shijin Kai also did a great job trimming the HOC Christmas Tree. Members of three clubs were in charge of this year's Evening in Waipio Craft Fair.

Makule FastPitch Scores in Okinawa

By Lane Inamine

Author's Note: While there were many events and activities scheduled for the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai, our Hawaii Makule FastPitch team will forever remember the great time that they had with two teams from Itoman City.

With the objective of introducing Hawaiian Modified Fastpitch *Kenko* softball to Okinawa, our quest began by sending emails to Okinawa—one to Itoman, one to Yomitan, and one to Nakagusuku.

In our correspondence, we explained that our Hawaii Makule softball team wanted to arrange a friendly game with a team from Okinawa. Itoman responded with open arms and said they had already reserved a field to play at. In fact, they had two teams that wanted to participate, so we agreed to play a doubleheader.

This event happened on October 28, the week of the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai. This is the first time that this modified style of fast pitch softball has been played outside of Hawaii and I am happy and proud to say that these Goodwill games were a big success.

The players from Itoman and Hawaii had lots of fun and really enjoyed themselves. There was also a representative from Nagase Corp International, the company that manufactures the *kenko* softballs, who flew in from mainland Japan to support the event.

Goodwill Makule Teams: Front Row: Hawaii team. Back Row: Players from Itoman's two teams.

We have planted the seed of Hawaiian Modified FastPitch *Kenko* Softball by sharing it with our softball brothers in Okinawa. Like Mamo Kuniyoshi said, "*ICHARIBA CHOODEE!*"

My dream is to see an event like this on a larger scale so hopefully the players from the Itoman teams will spread the word out to the greater Okinawa softball community and who knows what may happen?

This is *Your* Newsletter

Please send us your club news items and photos.
Email us at info@huoa.org
Mahalo!

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~ Member of Aza Yogi Doshi Kai ~

welcome!
Mensore

Brazil Aza Oroku-Tabaru Visits Honolulu

On October 18, 2016, the Oroku Azajin Club hosted 52 Brazil Urukunchus at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The Brazillian Urukunchus were on a four-day stopover in Hawaii on their way to the Worldwide Uchinanchu Taikai. We had some 25 to 30 Hawaii people to meet, greet and entertain them.

At the HOC, Jane Serikaku and Hatsue Morales presented the HOC development story and conducted a tour of the center's facilities. There was a short program by Gene Kaneshiro with messages from HUOA Executive Director Jane Serikaku and Oroku Azajin Club President Scott Arakaki. Walter Yogui and Marcos Teruya of the Brazil group and the Honorable Eric Crispen, Honorary Brazil Counsel, also spoke at the program. Entertainment was provided by Dexter Teruya and members of the Nidaime Teshin Kai Hawaii Shibu sanshin group. Impromptu entertainment was also provided by Keiko Takara, one of our Brazillian guests, as well as others.

One of the highlights of the program was their presentation inviting Hawaii Urukunchus to the 100 Year Aza Oroku-Tabaru Brazil Celebration scheduled for August 26 and 27, 2017, in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Please note that we have a committee working on a trip to Brazil of some seven to 10 days, which will include the celebration and side tours. All interested persons should contact Howard Takara at 988-3201 or Dexter Teruya at 988-5808.

The program concluded with our traditional "Banzai!" toast, the Brazillian toasts of "Viva!" and "Saude!" concluding with an energetic kachaashi by all!

Welcome OTS

The Okinawa Tourist Service (OTS) has been sending groups from Okinawa throughout the year to visit the Hawaii Okinawa Center. This group had a special surprise visit by Ura Keiko san who truly made their visit a memorable one!

'Peace Boat' Docks at HOC

Thirty Peace Boat passengers spent three hours at the Hawaii Okinawa Center eagerly learning about Okinawan immigration to Hawaii, the active participation of HUOA members, and the leadership roles that third and fourth generation HUOA members have taken in leading our vibrant organization. The visitors expressed their amazement and appreciation of our efforts to engage youngsters and young adults to promote, preserve and perpetuate our culture. Mahalo to past president Jon Itomura for serving as their escort throughout the day!

Front: Mika Nakandakari (Yomitan), Erina Fukumujra (Urasoe), and Rina Nagayama (Okinawa Shi) Back: Shota Kinjo (Itoman), and Manami Toyozato (Ginowan).

Geidai Students Visit HOC

Students from the University of Performing Arts (Geidai) in Okinawa select their favorite t-shirt off the shelves at HOC. The students presented two wonderful performances at UH Manoa Orvis Auditorium in conjunction with the grand opening of the Okinawan exhibit at the East West Center.

Hawaii Performers Earn Konkuru Awards

The HUOA is honored to congratulate the following musicians and dancers from our performing arts community for their *konkuru* (performing arts completion) in Okinawa and various awards they received in 2016. The following individuals join earlier recipients who were recognized in earlier issues of *Uchinanchu*:

Uta-kutu:

Ryukyu Sokyoku Hozon Kai-Sarina Sokyoku Kenkyusho (Sarina Udd Sensei):
-Kinuko Fukumine (Yushusho)
-Tatsue Young (Shinjinsho)

Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai Hawaii Shibu (Bonnie Miyashiro Sensei)
-Sara Nakatsu (Shinjinsho)

Ryukyu Buyo (dance):

Azama Honryu Sumi no Kai (Akemi Azama Sensei)
-Allison Yanagi (Saikosho)
-Dazzman Toguchi (Yushusho)

Hooge Ryu Hana Nuuzi no Kai (Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone Sensei)
-Sara Nakatsu (Shinjinsho)

In addition to these awards, Mr. Seiichi Yagi received his *kyoshi* and *denshosha* credentials as noted below:

Ryukyu Koten Ongaku Tansui Ryu Hozon Kai
-Seiichi Yagi (Kyoshi)
-Seiichi Yagi (Denshosha)

Congratulations and HUOA's heartiest best wishes for your continued success as you and your respective *sensei* pursue higher goals of achievements to preserve, perpetuate and promote the beautiful aesthetic culture of Okinawa—*Omedetogozimasu!*

Clean Sweep: 2016

By Allison Yanagi

2016 was a banner year for Sara Nakatsu, Dazzman Toguchi and myself, Allison Yanagi, in terms of our performing arts life. Sara passed two *Konkuru* tests, *Shinjinsh*o level, for both dance and *Koto*; Dazzman passed his *Yushusho* test for dance, and I passed my *Saikosh*o test for dance. Passing our tests was a huge accomplishment for all of us—made more meaningful because of the challenges and obstacles that we had to overcome in order to succeed.

Sara passed her tests with flying colors in spite of having very little time to prepare. As the recipient of a 2016 Okinawa Prefectural Scholarship, Sara was studying full-time at the Okinawa Prefecture University of Arts, known as Geidai. Attending classes and rehearsals is required for her course work, and attending formal meetings and gatherings were also required to retain her scholarship in Okinawa.

Sara also traveled multiple times a week to the dance *dojo* and *koto dojo* for training geared specifically for the tests. With the blessing of her teacher, Lynne Yoshiko Nakasone, and with Azama Akemi *Sensei* as her coach, Sara worked very hard to refine aspects of her dance, including her posture and her walking technique. Under the tutelage of her Geidai *koto* teacher, Miyazato Hideaki *Sensei*, Sara, who is also a student of Bonnie Miyashiro *Sensei*, perfected her *Koto* technique and musicality. Sara not only performed her tests well, but she also continues to represent Hawaii well at Geidai and as a *Kenpi* Scholar.

Dazzman overcame the challenges of physical distance and time in order to pass his *Yushusho* test for dance. As students of Azama Akemi *Sensei*, he and I are physically separated from our *Sensei*, and, until recently, we were able to practice with her only if we traveled to Okinawa.

To address this problem, last year we pooled our resources and brought Akemi *Sensei* to Hawaii for a month to receive special training. Dazzman continued his training by traveling to Okinawa in April for two weeks, and again in early July, when he spent nearly two months in Okinawa to take his test. In order to accommodate so much traveling between Hawaii and Okinawa, Dazzman held two jobs and eventually quit one of them in order to commit the time to his test in July. Due to physical separation and other challenges, it took Dazzman 10 years to pass his *Yushusho* test, and he felt that his achievement was long overdue.

I also had to overcome similar challenges as Dazzman, such as physical separation and lack of practice. In fact, it had been nine years since I passed my last test, and I too felt that my *Saikosho* test was long overdue.

Unlike my previous experience, however, my decision to take my test was further complicated by the fact that I now have two children, ages 6 and 4. Finding time to practice by myself was difficult, but spending a month in Okinawa away from my family would be even harder. In order to shorten the divide between Akemi *Sensei* and myself, my husband purchased an iPad for *Sensei* so that we could have lessons through Facetime. This allowed me to learn my dances without having to spend more time and money traveling to Okinawa. I spent nearly a month in Okinawa training before my test, even taking leave without pay in order to have sufficient practice time. My entire family sacrificed a lot so that I could pass my final test. I'm grateful to have such a supportive and understanding family, and many friends who encouraged me the entire way.

(L-R): Allison Yanagi, Dazzman Toguchi and Sara Nakatsu

I'm sure that Sara and Dazzman feel the same way that I do. Without supportive friends and family, the challenges posed by these tests would seem insurmountable. But people in Hawaii and Okinawa supported us, and because of their blessings and encouragement, we passed. *Okagesama de.*

Uchinaa-guchi (Okinawan language) Word of the Month

December

aki·in[1], *vt.* [akeru] 1 To open up; unlock (a door); undo (a parcel). 2 To empty (a box, a glass). 3 To stay away (from home). See also furachun.

January

haba·chun, *vi.* To make good progress; make headway; eat a lot.

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

Okinawan Proverb

Selected by the Uchinaaguchi Class Members with Hijirida Sensei

Proverb of the month:

Awatiiru naakaa, yoon naa.

あわていーるなーかー、よーんなー。

Meaning:
Even amidst a maddening pace, move prudently and stay calm.

HUOA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Mark Your Calendar!

December 2016

25	CHRISTMAS DAY
26	Observing Christmas Holiday-HOC Office Closed

January 2017

1	NEW YEAR'S Day
2	Observing New Year's Holiday-HOC Office Closed
11	Executive Council meeting, 7pm, HOC
21	INSTALLATION LUNCHEON & RECOGNITION OF UOY, HOC
25	Board of Directors meeting, 7pm, HOC

February 2017

8	Executive Council meeting, HOC, 7pm
20	PRESIDENTS DAY-HOC Office Closed
25	Arrival of students from Okinawa for Hawaii-Okinawa High School Student Exchange Program

Classes · Other Meetings at Hawaii Okinawa Center:

HUOA Sanshin: every Thursday, 7pm* (first practice in 2017: 1/5/17)
Ichigo Ichi E: 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7pm* (first practice in 2016: 1/3/16)
Ikebana: 1st Wednesday, 7pm* (first class in 2017: 1/4/17)
Karaoke nite: 4th Tuesday, 6:30pm*
Monday Crafters: every Monday, 9am* (first session in 2017: 1/9/17)
Okinawan Genealogical Society meeting: 3rd Saturday, 9am* (January-only: 1/28/17)
Uchinaaguchi: every 2nd Tuesday, 1pm*; every 4th Thursday, 7pm* (first session in 2017: 1/10/17)

*for more information, please call 676-5400
Subject to Change (entries as of 11/25/16)

HOT
"HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" SCHEDULE

In 2017, 'Olelo has granted us the same timeslot as for 2016. Our new shows will premiere on the first and third Saturday of the month at 7 p.m., and repeat the following Thursday at 5 p.m. on 'Olelo Community Media Channel NATV 53. No shows are aired on the fifth Thursday of a month.
All our shows will be submitted in high definition format. 'Olelo currently offers HD channels on Hawaiian Telcom's 1049 and 1053.
All 'Olelo shows are also streamed live on the Internet at www.olelo.org. Our latest shows are available on-demand on the same 'Olelo website at: What's on; OleloNet Video On Demand; then search for keyword "Okinawa". The HUOA website www.huoa.org has links to the site.
This TV schedule is also available on the HUOA website, which will be updated should any changes occur.

Jan 5, 2017 Special HOT Episode - Looking back at the contributions of those who helped build the Hawaii Okinawa Center, with emphasis on those who are HUOA Legacy Honorees.

Jan 7, Sat., 7 pm & Jan 12 & 19, Thurs., 5 pm New Year Special - Highlights of Memorable Anniversary Shows, and "Encounters with Haebaru Town".

Jan 21, Sat., 7 pm & Jan 26 & Feb 2, Thurs., 5 pm Show Eight of the 33rd HUOA Okinawan Festival held on Labor Day weekend (September 5 & 6, 2015) at Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. This episode features Shinsato Shosei Kai, and Chinagu Eisa Hawaii with Naha Daiko & Nankuru Eisa.

Feb 4, Sat., 7 pm & Feb 9 & 16, Thurs., 5 pm Part One of Chura Shigata "Beautiful Soul" presented by Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone Ryukyubuyo Kenkyusho on July 9, 2016 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

Feb 18, Sat., 7 pm & Feb 23 & Mar 2, Thurs., 5 pm Part Two of Chura Shigata "Beautiful Soul" presented by Ryusei Honryu Ryuko Kai Mitsuko Toguchi Nakasone Ryukyubuyo Kenkyusho on July 9, 2016 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

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