

Hawaii Okinawa Center Celebrates Second Anniversary

An "Open House" is planned for the second anniversary of the construction of the Kaikan, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, on Saturday, June 20, 1992 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The highlight of the event will be the unveiling of the Wall of Honor, the commemorative wall listing all of the major donors who contributed funds towards the construction of the Kaikan.

The Commemoration Committee preparing the list of donors spent countless hours over the past two years meticulously checking and rechecking the names to be engraved on the marble stones. The task has been especially difficult because of many requests for changes and corrections. The Committee wishes to thank in particular, Mrs. June Arakawa for her patience and dedication in seeing the project through.

The setting of the marble stones inside the banquet hall is being designed by a special design committee to insure a beautiful display of the Wall. Local Okinawan artist Seikichi Takara, a member of the design committee, believes the Okinawan community will be very pleased with the beauty of the marble stone. The marble arrived in Hawaii in late March and is in the process of being engraved.

A brief ceremony will begin at 10:00 am. It is expected that two to three thousand people will attend to view and inspect the Wall. Tea, punch, and andagi as well as background piano and koto music will be provided throughout the day. A time capsule will also be set in place during the ceremony. Special exhibits will also be ready for viewing as part of the open

house. For those planning to take photos, it is recommended that they arrive after 11:00 am when leisurely viewing will be possible. Viewing hours will end at 3:00 pm.

The Anniversary Committee will be selling souvenir T-shirts and commemorative books to offset the expense of the event.



Commemoration Committee Chairman Akira Sakima shows the Special Design Committee where the Wall of Honor will be placed. Special Design Committee members are top left to right: Architect Maurice Yamasato, Artist Seikichi "Chic" Takara, Ed Kuba, bottom: Dorothy Hoe and Robert Nakasone.



UCHINANCHU

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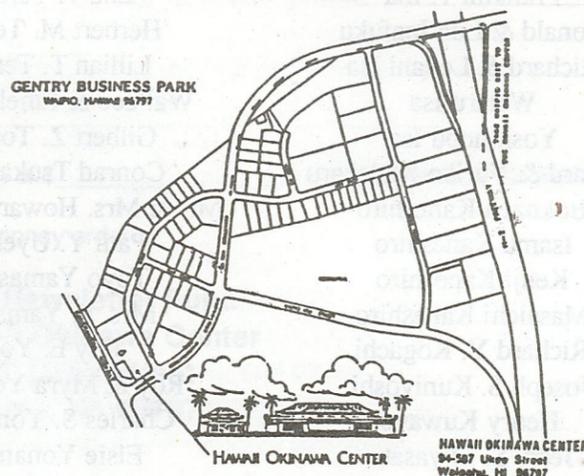
UNITED OKINAWAN ASSOCIATION
OF HAWAII, INC.
94-587 UKEE STREET
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HOC Spring Craft Fair - April 25, 1992

UOA is sponsoring the "HOC SPRING CRAFT FAIR" at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Saturday, April 25, 1992. Over 130 crafters are expected to present their merchandise for such special events as Mother's Day. Many handcrafted and homemade items made especially for this event will be available. Entertainment will be provided by the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko group, the Keiki Kane Choir of Mililani, and by the jazz dancers of DanceWorks. Food booths will be selling saimin, hotdogs, bentos, and UOA's famous andagi.

The event is being produced and manned by the members of Goeku Sonjin Kai, Gushichan Sonjin Kai, and Gushikawa Shijin Kai with Wil Hokama, chairman. UOA plans to sponsor two craft fairs annually to support its cultural programs and activities. The Winter Craft Fair scheduled for November 28 and 29, 1992 will be produced and manned by members of Oroku Azajin Kai, Oroku Doshi Kai, and Osato Doshi Kai.

Come and enjoy a day of creative fun and festivities! You'll find real bargains at reasonable prices and enjoy the free entertainment as well.



KARIYUSHI III - Sunday, April 26

UOA's KARIYUSHI III will be held on Sunday, April 26, 1992 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. "KARIYUSHI" is now in it's third year of recognizing the accomplishments of Hawaii's Okinawan senior citizens. Dance performances will be given by various senior citizen clubs. Some of Hawaii's most accomplished singers will also sing songs of the Ryukyu.

Because this is the "YEAR OF THE YANINJU (Family)", the lunchtime entertainment will feature the youth of our Okinawan community. The Master of Ceremonies will be none other than John Waihee, IV, son of Hawaii's Governor. The Hawaii Eisa Club and the Paranku Club of Hawaii will close the event with a rousing performance throughout the hall. "As a special treat and inducement for the audience to dance the Kachashi, a favorite cookie called "Castella bolo" will be given to the first 200 participants", says chairperson Dot Hoe.

Tickets are being distributed with the Shizue Kaneshiro Okinawa Buyo Club, the Tomei Nisei Kyubu Club, the Happy Senior Okinawa Dance Club, the Pearl City Okinawa Minyo Group and the Waipahu Senior Okinawa Minyo Group. Tickets may also be purchased from Betsy Miyahira at 847-3825 or the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400. The \$10 price will include bento and drinks for lunch.

Thank You

The donations to help support the *Uchinanchu* continues to grow with each quarterly issue. The United Okinawan Association, the Hawaii Okinawa Center and especially the *Uchinanchu* staff would like to thank you for such tremendous generosity and support. Donations were received from the follow supporters during the months of January, February and March 1992.

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NOMURA-RYU ONGAKU KYOKAI AND RYUKYU SOKYOKU KOYO KAI - SPRING CONCERT

Family, friends, and fellow enthusiasts of the Okinawan performing arts gathered at the annual Spring Concert of the Hawaii chapters of the Nomura-ryu Ongaku Kyokai (sanshin) and Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai (koto) on March 8, 1992. As the stage was being prepared for the second program, a definite air of excitement and anticipation prevailed for what was to follow.

The curtains of the Natsunoya Teahouse stage opened and everyone sat attentively as the ceremony began for the presentation of the 'sanshin kyoshi menkyojo' or junior teaching certificate in 'sanshin' to Keith Konosuke Oshiro.

Keith and his instructor, Master Sanshin instructor Kanyei Izumigawa Sensei, stood steadfast in their 'tomesode' or formal crested kimono and 'hakama' attire as the 'sanshin' association's chapter president George Kohara carefully raised the certificate from a cloth covered table and handed it to the association's Japanese secretary Tomu Arakawa to read the Japanese context of the diploma.

With 'sanshin' and 'bachi' in hand, seventeen years have passed since Keith entered the doors of Izumigawa Sensei's home for his first lessons. There is an ample supply of words that can describe the intensity of vocal training, study of the poems which accompany the music, and the performance of the minute details which make classical Okinawan signing and sanshin playing so difficult.

Training in this art form for any musician never ceases. However, upon attaining a certain level of performance which can only be gauged by the master's ears and eyes, the student is permitted to tape record a selection of songs prescribed by the association's headquarters in Okinawa. Keith's choices were Shui Bushi and Fwishi Bushi. His tape was first reviewed by Izumigawa Sensei and later sent to Okinawa where it was examined by sanshin senseis who are authorized to confirm or reject an application for the 'kyoshi' title.

The awarding of the 'kyoshi' certificate formally authorizes the bearer to teach his art to another, and it is also a pre-requisite for the musician's application for a 'shinhan' or master's title.

The moment that the certificate touched Keith's hands, it must have weighed heavily with the responsibilities which accompany a 'menkyojo' or 'menjo.' It was also a moment that represented seventeen years of hard work and diligent study. And, more importantly, the awarding of the certificate reflected Izumigawa Kanyei Sensei's lifelong commitment and mission to preserve and perpetuate the beautiful culture of Okinawa through the intricacies of its musical arts. Keith's certification is a testament to Sensei's dedication and resolve that the cultural legacy of our ancestors will be transmitted to the next generation.

Congratulations to Keith Oshiro, Izumigawa Kanyei Sensei, and all of the families and friends who have supported and encouraged both teacher and student on their journey together.



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HAWAII STUDENTS FLYING TO OKINAWA ON GOODWILL TOUR

The Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program will begin its second phase this June. Hawaii students, 30 of them, will travel to Okinawa between June 10 and 24 to enrich their cultural understanding of the people of Okinawa. Applications are still being accepted but interested students must hurry because interviews are being scheduled now.



The Program was initiated by the Okinawa Government with the Hawaii State Legislature and, in particular, Representative Dennis Arakaki. With the assistance of the Hawaii Department of Education and the United Okinawan Association, the program brought 30 students from Okinawa to Hawaii this past March. (photo stories are provided in this issue). "We want to provide students with the opportunity to learn first-hand about the diverse cultures of other countries", says Representative Arakaki. "We are very pleased with the way the Hawaii and Okinawa students have taken to each other and we believe the program will be a continuing success.", he added. Unfortunately, Hawaii cannot pay the full cost of the trip the way the Okinawa government does for its students. The Hawaii students will, however, receive free accommodations, meals and ground transportation provided by the Okinawa government. The airfare of \$900 plus the cost of a U.S. passport will be paid for by the parents of the Hawaii students.



UOA's Student Exchange Program coordinator this year is Jimmy Iha of Wahiawa Kyoyu Kai. Interested students or parents must contact their high schools or the Hawaii Okinawa Center immediately for application forms.

Karaoke Night at HOC



Reserve the last Tuesday of each month - Karaoke at Hawaii Okinawa Center - 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tentatively scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month, singers are welcomed to practice, learn new techniques, or simply enjoy fellowship with other UOA club members. No admission to enter for UOA club members, only a charge of \$1 per song (from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. two songs for \$1). Bring your own pupus and refreshments; coffee and tea will be provided.

For those who wish to learn how to set up the karaoke machine, call UOA at 676-5400, leave your name, club affiliation, and telephone number (both home and office).



GUSHICHAN SONJIN KAI

Gushichan Sonjin Kai celebrated its shinnen enkaï on March 14 at Masa's Cafe. Cocktails began at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner and a formal program, Gushichan's very own talented members provided entertainment with Okinawan dances, hula, shamisen, koto, harmonica, and songs. The highlight of the evening was the performance by the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko-Hawaii Shibu group of energized youngster and young adults. Five members of the group are also members of Gushichan.

The club officers for 1992-93 are:

President	Helen Oh
First Vice President	Robert Jakahi
Second Vice President	Gail Watanabe
Treasurer	Norman Uesato
Assistant Treasurer	Kenneth Jakahi
Secretary	Earlyn Koizumi
Assistant Secretary	Susan Omonaka

Dr. Bunkichi Uesato has been selected as the "Uchinanchu of the Year" for his countless years of outstanding service as president and club advisor. He was instrumental in holding the club together for many years. Dr. Uesato is also a charter member of Hui Makaala. He was born and raised in Oloo, Hawaii, attended Hilo High School and graduated from the University of California Dentistry School. He returned to Honolulu and opened his dental practice. He continues to work because he enjoys his job so much.

The club's annual picnic is scheduled for August 16 at Ala Moana Beach Park, Area 26.

ITOMAN CLUB

The Itoman Club and the Takamine Club are currently in the process of consolidating their memberships into a single organization.

Jane Takyesu is the president of the Itoman group and Masao Kinjo has led the Takamine group for many years.

In Okinawa, geographically and politically, Itoman Cho and Aza Takamine are now both part of greater Itoman Shi, or city.

Members of the Takamine Club interested in being included on the membership roster should call Jane Takayesu at 839-2151. If any reader knows any Takamine Club members, please inform them of this since they may not be receiving the Uchinanchu newsletter.

The next Itoman Club meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 3, at 1 p.m. at the Takayesu residence. Call Jane at 839-2151 for information.

KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

The Club's 66th Shinnen Enkaï was held February 16th at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. McCalvin Lum handled the program of recognizing the club donors and the perpetual club offices: President Ed Kino, Secretary Calvin Lu, Treasurer Roy Yamauchi, and his assistant Sharon Quitan; naming her father Richard Ota as Kanegusuku's "Uchinanchu of the Year" for his many years of contribution to the Club; and drawing for lucky number door prizes. Entertainment was provided by Grant "Sanda Gaw" Murata and Sansei Minyo Kenkyu Kai and Kanegusuku Kachashi "victims" of Grant.

Kanegusuku Golf Club held its four tourney of 1992 on January 12th at Olomana Golf Links. Second place honors went to Harold Tome and Toshi Shimabukuro with 72 net scores. The second and third tournaments at Olomana were held on March 22nd and April 5th.

SOME NEW OFFICERS OF CLUBS INSTALLED AT SHINEN ENKAI PARTIES...



Haeburu
L to R: President Kenneth Kaneshiro; Secretary Joan Moriyama; Treasurer Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro.



Kita Nakagusuku
President Takejiro Higa with member Norma Higa and guests from Okinawa.



Tomigusuku
L to R: Pres. Michael Tokioka; 2nd VP Michael Oshiro; Treas. Willy Nagamine; Asst. Treas. Patrick Nakamura.
L to R: 1st VP Selma Higa; Corres. Sec. Juliet Jakahi; Rec. Sec. Dede Toma.



Minami Nakagusuku
L to R front row: Advisor Harold Isa; Treasurer Dennis Ueoka; Secretary Debbie Higa; 2nd VP Doreen Higa; 1st VP Kaaren Takara; President Harold Higa L to R back row: Advisors George Kobashigawa, Shige Asato, Larry Senaha, Milton Higa and Tomu Higa.



Nishihara Chojin Kai
President Dr. Raymond Oshiro (seated first left) and his staff of officers and advisors.



Ginoza
L to R: President Terry Toguchi; VP Albert Miyashiro; Secretary Joan Kinoshita; Treasurer Charlene Nekomoto.



Hawaii Shuri Club
L to R: President Randall Kuba, VP Davis Yogi; Secretary Jane Okamura; Treasurer Janice Kawachi.



Tamagusuku Sonjin Kai
Pres. Takashi Tshako; VP Gary Gibu; Sec. Joyce Chinen; Treas. Keiji Tshako.



Wahiawa Kyoyu Kai
L to R: 1st Auditor Sonny Abangan; 2nd VP Gilbert Gina; Treasurer Doris Tengan; 1st English Secretary Gale Kohagura; President Ralph Ige. (Not pictured are 1st VP Susan Shiroma; 2nd Secretary Carol Yamamoto; 2nd Treasurer Gary Kiyon; and 2nd Auditor David Kauina.



Kanagusuku Sonjin Kai
L to R: President Edward Kino; Secretary Calvin Lum; Treasurer Roy Yamauchi.



Ishikawa Shijin Kai
L to R: Treasurer Jean Idemoto; President Judy Nakamura; Advisor Bob Nakasone; VP Cheryl Komihara; Advisor Jim Yamashiro; Secretary Lynn Oshiro.



Yomitan
L to R: President, Lynn Higa; Vice-Pres. Donald Devaney; Treasurer Les Matsuda; Asst. Treas. Janet Yokoyama; Secretary Shirley Kaneshiro; Asst. Sec. Marion Matsuda.



Goeku
L to R: Auditor Barbara Maeshiro; Sec. Rae Higa; Treas. Lena Higa; VP Karen Kuba-Hori; Pres. Fred Kaneshiro

GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Ginowan Shijin Kai celebrated their 80th anniversary at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on February 29. Among the honored guests were the Mayor of Ginowan City, Seiken Tobaru, and Council Chairman Shunshin Nakamura, who both gave their congratulatory remarks. There were over 65 guests from Okinawa who accompanied the Mayor and Chairman on a five-day visit to Hawaii. The Okinawan visitors enjoyed touring the island and attending a seminar on rural development presented by Dr. Rick Higashionna.

The first portion of the program included the introduction of Ginowan Officers, aza representatives, club members born in 1922, college graduates and those 80 years and over. The latter were presented with a special gift from Mayor Seiken Tobaru. The Mayor presented a pair of lions to President James Higa in recognition of Ginowan's 80th anniversary.



The entertainment portion of the program included a slide show depicting the Ginowan immigration to Hawaii to present day club activities. Ginowan members displayed their multi-talents in a skit which depicted a typical scene played by Akira and Jane Sakima as grandparents who were questioned by their grandchildren played by Tyler Umeno, Tricia and Michelle Ogimi as to how they first came to Hawaii. The skit goes on to depict picture brides meeting their new husbands, plantation life with music and dances performed by Ginowan members. The program also included a variety of hula, tap, Okinawan Tahitian, rap, paranku performances by our talented club members. The Oyama senior citizens group and the Jitsunen Tomono Kai from Ginowan, Okinawa, also provided enjoyable Okinawan and folk dances. The celebration was concluded with everyone dancing the 1990 Emin Ondo, Ginowan Ondo and Kachashi. All who attended this festive occasion were treated to a memorable event.

Approximately 600 Ginowanchus and guests attended this festive celebration which also included a golf tournament held at the Olomana Golf Club on February 28, the publication of an 80th Anniversary Commemorative Book which attempts to record the Ginowan legacy and to understand our roots. The above functions accomplished our goal of bringing club members closer together to perpetuate the Uchinanchu spirit, strength, and courage for our future generations of Ginowan children.

**GINOWAN SHIJIN KAI 80TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE BOOK ORDER FORM**

For those interested in purchasing the Ginowan shijin Kai 80th Anniversary Commemorative Book which features a historical background and stories on their isseis, niseis, and kibeis, please fill out the form below: (keep our Ginowan heritage and legacy alive by purchasing a book for your family and friends)

Quantity _____ x \$8.00 each \$ _____
 Option handling/mailling @ \$2.00 each \$ _____
 TOTAL \$ _____

Enclosed your check payable to: Ginowan Club

Mail to: Ginowan Book
 c/o Janyce Miyashiro
 5615 Kawaikui Street
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Also available for purchase is the 80th anniversary cup, slide show video, and program video. For more information on the above, please contact James Higa at 737-8131.

**HILO'S HAARI BOAT FESTIVAL
- AUGUST 21,22,23**

Hui Okinawa's third annual Haari Boat Festival will be held from Friday, August 21 through Sunday, August 23, 1992, announces Festival Co-chairman Collins Tomei. Nago Mayor Tetsuya Higa and his family will visit Hawaii for the occasion. The rumor is that he will have two championships team with him, one of which is an all-women team. Hilo is a sister-city of Nago, Okinawa.

Nago Chojin Kai, the Hawaii winning team for the past two years, is prepared to put its trophy on the line. Any team that beats Nago will get to throw the Nago team in the Wailoa River!

UOA will be supporting the Festival with a \$500 donation to the prizes for the winning teams. UOA coordinators to be contacted are Vice-President Kenneth Kaneshiro of Haeburu Sonjin Kai and Kevin Uyehara of Itoman Club. To cover expenses, there will be a registration fee of \$100 per team. The committee is also setting a flat \$50 per paddler fee to cover such costs as the Luau reception dinner, Race day lunch, Heavy pupus for awards ceremonies, and a Haari Boat T-Shirt.

All UOA clubs and members are asked to get your 10 men teams ready for the boat races up the Wailoa Park river in Hilo. Teams will be allowed to practice between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday, August 21. A reception will be held at the Civic Auditorium between 6:00 pm and 9:30 pm with a luau and entertainment.

Race Day will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday with a procession and the annual costume contest. The Award Ceremonies will be at the Wailoa Park pavilion between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm with heavy pupus and entertainment.

The Softball Tournament sponsored by Hui Okinawa will begin at 9:00 am at Victor Stadium. The Softball Awards will be presented at 1:00 pm. Softdrinks and snacks will be provided. Golf is still tentative but keep your golfbags handy. The Haari Boat Festival is shaping up to be a major event this year. All UOA Clubs should notify Collins Tomei as soon as possible whether they will participate. His fax number is 935-9260 and home phone number is 959-2410.

CORRECTION

In the January issue, there were several errors in the list of UOA officers for 1992-1993. The Recording Secretary is Gail Watanabe of Gushichan Sonjin Kai. The correct name of the Japanese Correspondence Secretary is Kazumi Miyagi Tripp of Nago Chojin Kai. Assistant Treasurer Lisa Hiraoka was listed as a member of Tamagusuku Sonjin Kai. Lisa is a member of Haneji Club.

Also in the January issue, there were several errors in the UOA Program Schedule for 1992-1993. The "UOA Summer Craft Fair" on May 3 should be "HOC Spring Craft Fair" scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 1992. The Hilo Haari Boat Festival was given as Friday, August 14. The event will be held on August 21, 22, and 23, 1992. (See above story).

Also in the January issue, the holiday schedule for the Hawaii Okinawa Center office was given. The hall, however, will be open for scheduled events.

1992 UOA STUDY TOUR - June 22 to July 2

The 1992 UOA Study Tour is bound for Okinawa between June 22 and July 2, 1992. A smaller group interested in visiting mainland Japan will depart June 17 for Tokyo and meet the main tour group in Okinawa on June 23. The group will hear a lecture on Okinawa by a leading Okinawan historian from Ryukyu University at the new Ken-cho (Prefectural government building) in Naha.

The itinerary is arranged by UOA President-Elect Jane Serikaku, the tour leader. "The UOA Study Tour is always the best possible way to visit Okinawa because UOA is assisted by the International Exchange Office of the Prefectural government", explains Jane. "Space is still available and I would encourage our members to make the trip if they have never had the opportunity", she adds.

The southern tour of Okinawa visits the Shurei No-Mon, Gyokusendo park (underground stalactite grotto and habu (snake) exhibit and show, Mabuni Hills and Himeyuri No To. The northern tour visits Takoyama Kanko Park (a model Ryukyu village, a Ryukyu glass factory and Okinawa Exposition Park in Motobu. A reception will be hosted by the Mayor of Nago City. There is an optional two day tour of the Islands of Yaeyama to see the Okinawa of long ago. A highlight for many is the shopping excursions at the Haewa Dori, the narrow shopping streets in downtown Naha. Those interest should call Naka's Travel Service, tour agent for the UOA Study Tour, at 523-6402 as soon as possible.

**New Officers Installed
at March Banquet
WE ARE FAMILY**



Under the beautiful calligraphy of "Kazoku" or "Family" written by Ellen Konishi, in honor of the banquet theme, "We Are Family", the 1992 UOA Installation Banquet began as one of UOA's major events of the year. New officers sworn in were President Warren Higa of Nago Chojin Kai, President-Elect Jane Serikaku of Minami Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai, Second Vice-President Pamela Tamashiro of Hui Makaala, Third Vice-President Wil Hokama of Gushikawa Shijin Kai, Treasurer Dennis Tshako of Tamagusuku Sonjin Kai, Assistant Treasurer Lisa Hiraoka of Haneji Club, Executive Secretary Lillian Takata of Nago Chojin Kai, Recording Secretary Earlyn Koizumi of Gushichan Sonjin Kai, Corresponding Secretary Gail Watanabe of Gushichan Sonjin Kai, and Kazumi Miyagi Tripp of Nago Chojin Kai. (First Vice-President Kenneth Kaneshiro was out of town on business.)

The entire program was produced and directed by members of Nago Chojin Kai, the club of incoming-President Warren Higa. "I especially want to cite the imagination and hardwork of Nago President Michael Abe and his wife, Audrey, Banquet Chairperson Lillian Takata, and many others including Betty Higa, Cyrus Tamashiro, and Louise Tamashiro", says Warren.

Entertainment was provided by the Nago Chojin Kai "Repertory Company" and the Kaneshiro Ryubu Kenkyu Kai. Special guest appearances were made by Teddy and Nanci Tanaka, Jason Uesato of Goeku Sonjin Kai, Benson Araki of Nago Chojin Kai, and the Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko, Hawaii Shibu Group.

One of the highlights of the banquet was the recognition ceremony of the "Uchinanchu of the Year" of each of the 48 clubs.



Four "beautiful ladies" dancing Medetai Bushi during the Installation Banquet are actually L to R: 3rd VP Wil Hokama, President Warren Higa, President-Elect Jane Serikaku, and 2nd VP Pamela Tamashiro.



Nago "Repertory Company" stars L to R Rod Martin, Louise Tamashiro, Tom Higa and Betty Higa discuss Okinawan traditions during their skit for the banquet.



New Officers at the receiving line are L to R President Warren Higa, His wife Marion Higa, President-Elect Jane Serikaku, 2nd VP Pamela Tamashiro, and 3rd VP Wil Hokama.

UOA SPORTS

22nd Annual Hawaii Okinawan Invitational

The golf invitational will be held Saturday May 23 and Sunday May 24 at the Pali Golf Course. The fee will be \$70.00. There will be entry blanks available at most golf courses and at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

UOA Leagues Begin Play

The UOA softball, Volleyball and Bowling leagues are all underway. Softball games are being held at Halawa Field and started March 8. Volleyball started on March 1 and is underway at Radford Gym. Kalihi Bowl is playing host to the UOA bowling league. Next quarter's Uchinanchu will have all the results of league play.

Uchinanchu

The Uchinanchu is a quarterly newsletter for the members of the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii. Issue Dates will Depend upon upcoming UOA events but will generally occur on April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 15 of each year. Volunteers are always welcome. Send your name and telephone number to: Uchinanchu Newsletter c/o Hawaii Okinawa Center, 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

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HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

-Bob Asato, HOC Director

After nearly four months on the job, I continue to be impressed with the wonderful hard-working and dedicated people whom I have met at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

First of all, I would like to thank the volunteers who come to monitor events on weekends, the individuals and groups who keep the facility clean, the cook who does the shopping, the preparation, the cooking and the clean up, and the tireless and hardy crew who tend the garden and keep the pond and waterfall crystal clear.

Rain or shine, the gift shop volunteers who do everything else that need doing including coordinating the refreshments and lunch for the volunteers, the librarian/historian, the gardeners, the carpenters and the painters have come regularly and whenever there are jobs to be done.

I sincerely appreciate your commitment and hardwork for the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Your cooperation and support have made my job easier. And, I do enjoy your company too.

Some of my aspirations and goals for the Hawaii Okinawa Center are:

1) to promote the use of the center by marketing the Center to all groups and organizations throughout the State of Hawaii, and to make the Center financially sound, eventually becoming self-supporting by meeting operational costs.

2) to promote the use of the Center by working with the Board of Trustees and the caterers to keep costs reasonable so that UOA organizations can use the Center more often.

3) to increase the monitor pool. Please consider becoming a monitor for the Center. I am hoping to have a large cadre of monitors so that we can have them work in shifts (AM & PM) instead of having them remain the entire day from 8:00 AM to 11:30 PM. Also, the rotation of the assignments will not come around so quickly.

4) to make sure that the younger generation will always remember why the center was built and to make sure that we perpetuate and share with others our proud Okinawan culture and heritage.

With the extended weekday use for "non-food functions", additional manpower is needed to set up and put away chairs, and clean up the Center. All UOA organizations can help HOC by providing this manpower, and at the same time receive a percentage of the furniture/equipment setup fee. Call the HOC office for further information.

Proper Estate Planning Now, Could Save on Head Aches and Money Later

From time to time we will print topics to help inform our community of what we feel may be useful. We have established relationships with a number of local businesses who have supported the UOA and HOC. American Financial Services of Hawaii, Inc. (parent firm of American and Bishop trust companies) has offered to conduct free seminars for our community relating to estate planning. We will be running a series of articles that should prove useful to you. An announcement of a future seminar will be published in the next Uchinanchu. The following article is reprinted with permission from American Financial Services (AFS). If you would like to know more about estate planning, give AFS a call at 521-6543.

Do you own a home or other property in Hawaii?

Do you want your kids to inherit your property for a good start in life after you pass on?

If your answer is "yes," you probably need an inexpensive living trust, says trust expert Frank Hong.

Why?

Because Hawaii's outlandishly inflated real estate market values can create severe pass-along problems--problems best solved by an economical living trust as the core of a well-designed estate plan.

A senior vice-president at AFS, Hong has seen skyrocketing real estate values pump up estate taxes and cause big problems in Hawaii. He cites an example:

"Let's assume a typical middle-aged Island family," Hong says. "Mom and Dad, both 49, work and one kid's in college, the other is in high school. Their large, old fee-simple Kaimuki home is valued at \$675,000.

"Parents on both sides helped buy their house for \$45,000 about 23 years ago," Hong continues, "Their mortgage was recently paid off.

"Their IRA savings, mutual fund investment, value of two cars, and Dad's company savings program total \$100,000."

What would happen if Dad and Mom unexpectedly die in a car crash? The kids would inherit a bundle: "But they'd be badly burned by probate fees and huge estate taxes,"

NEWS FROM THE GIFT SHOP

The Hawaii Okinawa Center Gift shop proudly announces the availability of HOC logo items. The Logo in Okinawan purple graces attractive gift items such as Quill pens, wristwatches, key holders, and gold and silver pencils.

For the golf fan, there are adult shirts with embroidered logo, caps, golf balls and tees for men and women.

Also available are auto license frames with Kariyushi/Hawaii Okinawa Center, oshibana cards by Doris Yamashiro and many other eye catching items that Ruby and Tada have purchased for the Shop. Among souvenir objects soon to be on sale are mugs and postcards.

Please support the Gift shop as profit from the sales benefit the Volunteer Program at HOC which includes the weekend clean-up sonjinkai crews. Gift Shop hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

UOA Moashibi Fellowship Night - Tuesday, May 19

UOA is holding its second Moashibi Fellowship Night for members and potential members of UOA clubs. The word "Moashibi" in Okinawan Hogen means having fun in a rascal sort of way. UOA's purpose however is to assist the 48 clubs of UOA in attracting new members to their clubs. Each club should make a list of potential new members and send them an invitation to join in a fun-filled evening of games and frivolity. There will be a \$10 donation at the door to help cover expenses. Children 12 and below will be allowed free. UOA recommends that the clubs pay either part or all of the donation at the door.

Chairperson for the event is fun-loving Gladys Tokunaga of Tamagusuku Sonjin Kai. With her experience and background of Las Vegas nightlife, Gladys is the ideal chairperson for this event. Heavy pupus and refreshments will be provided so plan to skip dinner at home and join the fun.

Hong points out. Here's why:

Take the house value of \$675,000 and add it to the \$100,000 in family assets, plus Dad's life insurance paying \$150,000. Now you have an estate worth a whopping \$925,000-- not unusual for a middle-aged Island family who bought their house early on.

"Probate and legal fees together are at least six percent of the estate value," Hong estimates, "or \$55,500.

"With the net federal estate tax the combined cost will easily exceed \$100,000."

The estate's executor (called "personal representative" in Hawaii) may need to sell the house to pay the \$100,000- plus tax-probate bite, finance the kids' education and meet other needs.

"One way a mess like this can be avoided," says Hong, "is by setting up an inexpensive self-trusted living trust. With such a trust, a couple's estate usually won't be liable for estate taxes unless the gross estate exceeds \$1.2 million. If this happens, there are additional methods to minimize the cost.

"If Dad and Mom create a trust arrangement like this, the kids can avoid probate and the need to pay \$100,000-plus in probate fees and estate taxes. They can keep the house."

How much is a trust? "A self-trusted living trust for Mom and Dad can cost as little as \$1,500 in a new program at American Trust," Hong says. "It's a one-shot cost for setting up the trust; there's no annual fee.

A self-trusted living trust provides further protections a will doesn't: If you become incapacitated, a trust can provide a guardian of your choice to handle your affairs (neurological diseases like Alzheimer's affect many older people). If you and your wife die this guardian can care for your kids.

Other benefits a trust gives you that a will doesn't: it eliminates expensive probate and can minimize federal estate taxes.

"If you own a home, you'll almost certainly benefit from a trust," declares Hong. "At the very least, it's essential to find out what a trust can do for you."