

# Reaching Out:

After the busy bustle and hustle of Christmas, it was great to be able to have a day of rest - a day to just sit and "talk story". The person chosen to share this "talk story" day was none other than Jane Fujie Serikaku, the incoming President for UOA. Over coffee, stacks of pancakes, and a sprite, the Past, Present, and Future of UOA was described and discussed in great depth. Ms. Serikaku was more than willing to answer a barrage of questions that were posed to her. Here is just a small sample of her views.

**UNL:** What changes if any, are you planning to make in the operating structure of UOA?

**JANE:** Our UOA is a very strong and viable organization. Changes that will be made will be done due to a necessity. For many years, the

UOA President has been very visible and involved in all activities. Our leadership team, which includes our president-elect and three vice-



*Uchinanchu is "really being Uchinanchu at heart"*

presidents will work collaboratively and share many of the responsibilities that were previously shouldered by the president. We shall work as a team to promote and perpetuate our culture and continue to look for alternatives to enhance our existing programs and projects.

**UNL:** As an elementary school principal, I know you have to negotiate with teachers, parents, students, unions, etc. How will you use this skill as President of UOA?

**JANE:** I think it is very helpful. I wouldn't use the word negotiate - my word would be collaborate. Collaboration is a process that enables us to have many people involved in discussions, planning, and in decision-making. This effort, makes people feel that whatever they do is appreciated. They should feel a sense of ownership.

**UNL:** As the first female President

of UOA, do you feel the "traditional" views concerning women in power or authority is changing in the Okinawan culture?

**JANE:** That is a tough one! I guess I never thought of myself as the first woman President. I would like to believe that I was elected because of my leadership capabilities. So many women have been active in various committees, projects, and programs and have done extremely well. I believe, given the opportunity, women can become effective leaders in UOA or any other organization.

**UNL:** What will be your main goals for 1993?

**JANE:** Reaching out - I think that is a major goal for us. It is not only just reaching out to the people but to get them involved. There's no question that we will always honor the elderly because that is why we are here. That's the reason for the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Now we have a special place we can call home. But I think the reaching out portion for us means a lot more than only the elderly. We are reaching out to the young adults, and we want to also begin to provide a lot more informational and cultural activities for our young children. We need to also reach out to the Japanese community because we are Japanese. We need to become part of the Japanese community. I don't think that we should be identifying ourselves as just Uchinanchu. Yes, we are proud and I think every group should be proud of itself - proud that they are whatever they are, but still remain part of the greater community.



# UCHINANCHU

UNITED OKINAWAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII • NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1993

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Volume # 39

## ANNUAL UOA STUDY TOUR TO OKINAWA

Coordinators Jane Serikaku and Wil Hokama are busy collaborating with Naka's Travel to finalize the itiner-

ary for the 1993 Study Tour. The Study Tour will depart Honolulu via Japan Airline on Monday, June 14, 1993 and return on Thursday, June 24th.

Included in the itinerary is a visit to the Okinawa Prefectural government, Shuri Castle, the southern portion (Gyokusendo park, Himeyuri-no-to, etc.), Northern Okinawa (Ryukyu Village, Orion Beer factory, reception hosted by Nago City, etc.), witnessing the Itoman Hari Boat Festival, and visits to the Ryukyu Glass factory and other places of art.

To enable participants of our UOA Study Tour to better understand and appreciate the history and culture that they will become immersed in, all travelers will be required to participate in a series of at least 3 sessions of orientation/demonstration/lectures about Okinawa.

Approximate cost will be \$1675. An optional two-day Yaeyama tour is being offered for approx. \$475. For more information, please call Wil Hokama at 526-4126 or Jane Serikaku at 622-4879. If you're

ready to sign up for the tour, please call Nadine at Naka's Travel, ph. 523-6402 for the application forms. Jane and Wil look forward to an exciting and fulfilled Study Tour. Won't you join them?

### UOA CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Jan 9, 1993	Japanese Cultural Center		
	New Year's Festival	Moiiliili	10:00 am
Jan 12	UOA Board Meeting	HOC	7:00 pm
Jan 18	HOC Trustees Meeting	HOC	7:00 pm
Jan 19	HOC Long Term Planning		
	Workshop	HOC	7:00 pm
Jan 26	Karaoke Night	HOC	6:30 pm
Feb 9	UOA Executive Council	HOC	7:00 pm
Feb 14	Aloha Fun Run	Aloha Stadium	5:00 am
Feb 15	HOC Trustees Meeting	HOC	7:00 pm
Feb 20	Genealogy Workshop	HOC	8:30 am
Feb 23	Karaoke Night	HOC	6:30 pm
Feb 27	UOA Blood Bank Drive	HOC	7:30 - 1:00 pm
Mar 9	UOA Board Meeting	HOC	7:00 pm
Mar 15	HOC Trustees Meeting	HOC	7:00 pm
Mar 27	UOA Installation Banquet	HOC	5:30 pm
Mar 30	Karaoke Night	HOC	6:30 pm

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# 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 following supporters during the months of October, November and December 1992.

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## 1993 UOA LEADERSHIP STUDY-TOUR TO OKINAWA

**Objective:** To attract, inspire and develop Club & UOA leaders.  
**HOW:** By offering a select group of men and women an intensive educational and experiential study tour of Okinawa. In 1980, 37 men and women went on a study tour sponsored by the Okinawan government. The study tour had a great impact and many of the participants returned to make significant contributions to their clubs and the UOA.

**STUDY TOUR:** Depart Hawaii on June 21 for 10-14 days. The group will be hosted by the town, city and prefectural governments of Okinawa. Lectures, discussion sessions, tours, recitals and social meetings are anticipated. Participants will be required to attend pre-study tour workshops on Okinawan history, culture, government, protocol and etiquette, as well as workshops on club, UOA and HOC organizations. Post study tour evaluation meetings will be required.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** The UOA will finance one-third (1/3) of the airfare, ground transportation, and hotel accommodations for fifteen (15) participants. The balance of the costs will be the responsibility of the club and or the participant. Total cost is estimated at \$1650.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Each club will select their participant. The names of the fifteen (15) participants who will receive UOA subsidy will be picked randomly. Those not selected for the UOA subsidy in 1993 will be automatically eligible for the 1994 leadership study tour. Other individuals meeting the criteria may participate on a space available basis at their own cost.

**CRITERIA:** Participants must be between the ages of twenty-five (25) and forty-five (45). Each club will be responsible for selecting their participant. Clubs should keep in mind the objectives of the program. Individuals need not be active or current officers, however consideration should be given to their demonstrated potential.

It is the UOA's hope that the participants will return from the Study Tour inspired and committed to serve and provide leadership in their clubs and/or the UOA. More information will be disseminated to Club presidents at the January 12th UOA Board Meeting.

### CRAFT FAIR COMING - APRIL 24, 1992

Hawaii Okinawa Center - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

The United Okinawan Association will be holding its second "HOC Spring Craft Fair" at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio Gentry. If you wish to participate as a vendor, please use the application below. Hui Makaala, Ishikawa Shijin Kai, and Itoman Club have started planning for this exciting shopping event and are requesting assistance from the UOA community. If you are able to volunteer, please contact: Patsy Young, Hui Makaala (586-2181); Judy Nakamura, Ishikawa (488-8781); or Jane Takayesu, Itoman (839-2151).

For additional information, please contact the UOA office at 676-5400 or 676-7907, ask for Karen.

### 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

- |                              |                                |                  |                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| President.....               | Warren Higa                    | Typesetting..... | Jane Okamura   |
| Editor.....                  | Gregg Takara                   | Advertising..... | Michele Cortez |
| Assistant Editor, Club News, |                                | Writers.....     | Warren Higa    |
| Finances.....                | Karen Kuba-Hori                |                  | Mary Miyashiro |
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Need to communicate a message to the Okinawan community? Place and Ad in the Uchinanchu.

size	1/2 page 10 1/4 x 7 1/2	1/4 page 7 1/2 x 5	1/5 page 5 x 3 3/4	1/6 page 3 1/2 x 2 1/4	1/8 page 2 1/2 x 2
one issue	\$700	350	175	100	75
four issues	\$2,500	1,200	600	350	260

\* for camera ready Ads, there will be a \$25.00 minimum for production work.

call Karen Kuba-Hori at 677-4414 or 676-5400

### HOC Spring Craft Fair Vendor's Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Home) (Business)  
 Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Street) (City) (Zip)  
 Describe craft items to be sold: (Please be as specific as possible) \_\_\_\_\_

Are products handcrafted: YES [ ] NO [ ]  
 (Products improved or originally created/made by the vendor.)

Choice of booth location will be based upon type of craft sold and date application is received, with final determination by the Craft Fair Committee.

I am interested in:

- [ ] \$70.00 - Indoor Perimeter Space 6' X6'. (Against walls and stage, and in front lobby)
- [ ] \$60.00 - Indoor Space 6'X6'.  
Indoor vendors are to provide their own tables, unless renting from us.
- [ ] \$60.00 - Outdoor Space 10'x10'. Please provide your own table(s) and tent. (NO PEGS)
- [ ] \$10.00 - Table Rental, for indoor vendors only. (6' x 29")

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: for table rental make separate check)

Make check payable to: UOA Craft Fair  
 Mailing Address: 94-587 Ukee Street, Waipahu, HI 96797  
 You will be notified of your booth assignment by March 31, 1993.





# Club News

## SASHIKI CHINEN CLUB

Sashiki Chinen Club held its annual installation dinner at Natsunoya Teahouse, on November 7. Congratulations to our 1993 officers, President Stan Gibo, Vice President Bob Mayeshiro, Secretary Katsu Yamashiro, and Treasurer Stan Nakamura.

Also, congratulations to our 1992 Sashiki Boys Wing Student Study Tour recipients. They are, Joy Tsuda, daughter of Charles and Jean Tsuda, and Kip Itokazu, son of Rev. Kiyo and Laura Itokazu. They left for Sashiki Son on December 11th, for eleven days with Doreen Yamashiro.

This year's Shinnen Enkai will be held at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on the evening of February 27, 1993. Hope to see all of the members there, don't forget to contact your district representatives.

## HANEJI CLUB

Haneji Club Shinnen Enkai  
Hawaii Okinawa Center  
January 16, 1993 (Saturday)  
5:00 pm Cocktails, 6:00 pm Dinner

Please turn in or call reservations by January 2, 1993 to:

Toyo Yamashiro  
647 Coolidge St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
phone: 946-0370

Prepayment reservations is desired.

## GOEKU SONJINKAI

We would like to express our gratitude to our President Fred Kaneshiro and Treasurer Lena Higa for their faithful service. Both officers will be retiring from Goeku's Board next year. Don't forget our Shinnen Enkai is scheduled for February 6th (Saturday), 5:30 pm at the Flamingo Chuckwagon. Family Fun Day will follow on March 14th, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

## THE HAWAII ITOMAN COUNCIL

The Hawaii Itoman Council comprised of Itoman, Kanegusuku, and Miwa Clubs hosted Itoman Mayor Gisei Uyehara, his five administrative aides, and their city's Honolulu Marathon runners to a special gathering on December 13th. The dinner held at the Koza Okinawan Lounge included karaoke singing and the exchange of gifts and mementos. Over sixty persons attended this special event.

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## ITOMAN CLUB

Itoman Club will be holding its annual Shinnen Enkai dinner on Saturday, February 13th, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Anyone interested in attending should contact one of its club officers.

## KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

Kanegusuku Golf Club held a tournament on November 15th, at Olomana Golf Links. Low net honors went to Toshi Shimabukuro (66) and Kiichi Oshiro (71).

Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai's 67th New Year's party will be held on Sunday, February 7, 5 p.m. at Wisteria Restaurant.

## WAHIAWA KYOYU KAI

Our membership along with NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI would like to congratulate Mr. Seikichi Tamanaha on the celebration of his 88th birthday. Mr. Tamanaha, founder of Wahiawa's Tama's Market, was honored at a birthday party on September 19th. Highlights of his celebration included a certificate of accomplishments from the State House of Representatives, a congratulatory letter from Governor Waihee, and a special poem composed by the honoree. After the party Mr. Tamanaha expressed his anticipation of his 97th birthday celebration with the following:

I've reached this 88th birthday  
celebration with few problems,  
And like a child's pinwheel, I too  
return to my childhood.

From now and hereafter my thoughts  
are fulfilled.  
My heart is light as I live in this  
worldly life.

As my children and grandchildren  
prosper, I am happy,  
Today's happiness is God's blessing.

Seikichi Tamanaha  
September 19, 1992



## 9TH ANNUAL UOA MIXED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

This 32 team league, which began in 1983 with 8 teams, were led by President Lynn Higa, and capably helped by spirited and energetic people like Irene Masuda, Terry Taira, Frances Kobayashi, Mike Chinen, Gainor Miyashiro, and Craig Okazaki. Radford High School Gym was the focal point of this event, from March 1st to May 17th. The winners of the 1992 season were: Urasoe, in open division; Young Okinawans of Hawaii, in "A" division; Yonabaru in "B" division; and Kochinda II in "C" division. Registration for our 1993 season is currently going on, please contact your club president or sports chairman if you are interested in participating.

## UOA SUPPORTS ALOHA FUN RUN FEB. 15

As a community service project, the UOA will support the Aloha Fun Run on February 15, 1993 by passing out Fun Run Tee shirts to all the participants. Tentative plans call for each club to provide approximately 4 reps to sort, organize, and pass out the shirts. Volunteers will probably be asked to be at the Aloha Stadium by 5 am. The committee led by Kevin Uyehara of Itoman Club will provide coffee and donuts in the wee hours and bento lunches for all of the volunteers. This is the third year that the Fun Run Organizers have asked UOA to support their activity. It is a great community effort to raise funds for needy charities. If you would like to support the activity, contact your club president and volunteer your time.

### OKINAWAN FOLKTALES

Taro and the Sea Princess	\$8.50
The Sea Dragon and the Lion Dog	\$4.50
Postage	\$2.00

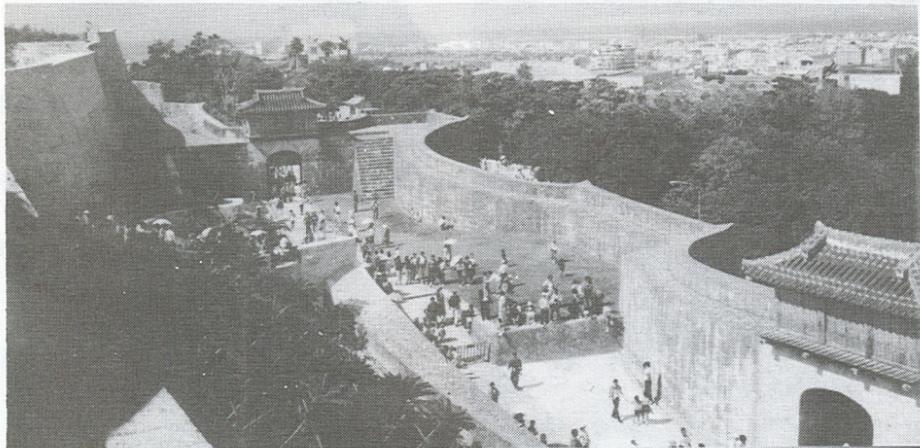
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**SHURI CLUB CELEBRATE CASTLE RENOVATIONS**

The Hawaii Shuri Club packed 95 members into their tour of the Shuri Castle Grand Opening in Naha, Okinawa in November. While the outward purpose was ostensibly to celebrate the grand opening of the newly renovated Shuri Castle, which incidently, should be viewed by all who cherish their Okinawan culture, Shuri Club people were quick to use the occasion to share their Hawaiian culture with their cousins in Okinawa.

The gang joined the Celebration Parade, (which, surprisingly took an hour break in the middle of the parade!). Despite the brief respite, the Hawaii gang openly waved to the crowds of people, shouting "Aloha" and "Chaganju". Every chance they got, the gals would do their hula while the guys would sing their renditions of "Tiny Bubbles" or "One Paddle, Two Paddle". Okinawans must think Hawaii people are so shameless (which is probably true), but you could tell by their smiles and laughter that they also love the sharing of aloha that Hawaii people showed.



November 6th saw the usual formal receptions which we all must bear from time to time. 500 were in attendance. Everybody "loosened their ties" however when the Hawaii boys (Randy, Ed and George Kuba, Stan Takamine, Bob Miyahira, and Paul Nakanishi) did "Boy from Laupahoe-hoe". The Okinawans eagerly joined in when the gang did the "Hukilau".

November 7th saw the festivities on the grounds of the Shuri Castle. While everyone else performed beautiful Okinawan dances, the Hawaii gang stole the show with their "Beautiful Kauai" and "In Your Own Hawaiian Way". Led by Tomi Higa, the gals included Nellie Borja, Lillian Hamasaki, Collen Kalima, Bobbi Kuba, Betsy Miyahira, Sheryl Miyama, Shelley Selzer, Betty Takamine and Kay Takara.

With all their partying, sightseeing, carousing, and plain ol' havin' fun, the Hawaii Shuri Tour group really had a grand experience. Incidentally, the Castle was magnificent.



**UOA SPORTS**

**1992 UOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League**

The UOA Mixed Handicap Bowling League started its season on February 23, 1992 and ended on October 18, 1992. There were 130 bowlers competing each Sunday noon at Kalihi Bowl. Our champion team this year is KATSUREN I, prevailing over 16 teams, after 32 weeks of competition. URASOE I came in second place.

The champions were captained by Jane Yoshikado. Her team members were: Shige Yonamine, Clarence Asato, Jane Yoshikado, Joyce Shimabukuro, Celeste Yonamine, Eugene Yoshikado, and Caryn Kaya and Rodney Shimabukuro (subs.)

Special Team awards went to: KOCHINDA for high game and MINAMI NAKAGUSUKU for High Ave. and High Series.

New officers for the league are Doris Arakaki (President), Shige Tamanaha (V-Pres.), Jakie Phillips (Secretary), and Celeste Yonamine (Treasurer). Thank you to our outgoing officers, Brenda Tamanaha (V-Pres.) and Tom Higa (Treasurer), for a wonderful job done.

**10TH ANNUAL UOA 14" SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

The league ended its 1991 season at the Halawa District Park in late May. Naha Shijinkai captured the championship with Itoman as runners up. Billy Tokuda and Russel Tsutsui have been instrumental in organizing this league from its inception with the help of Linda Tsutsui, Ed Kino, and Frank Arakaki.

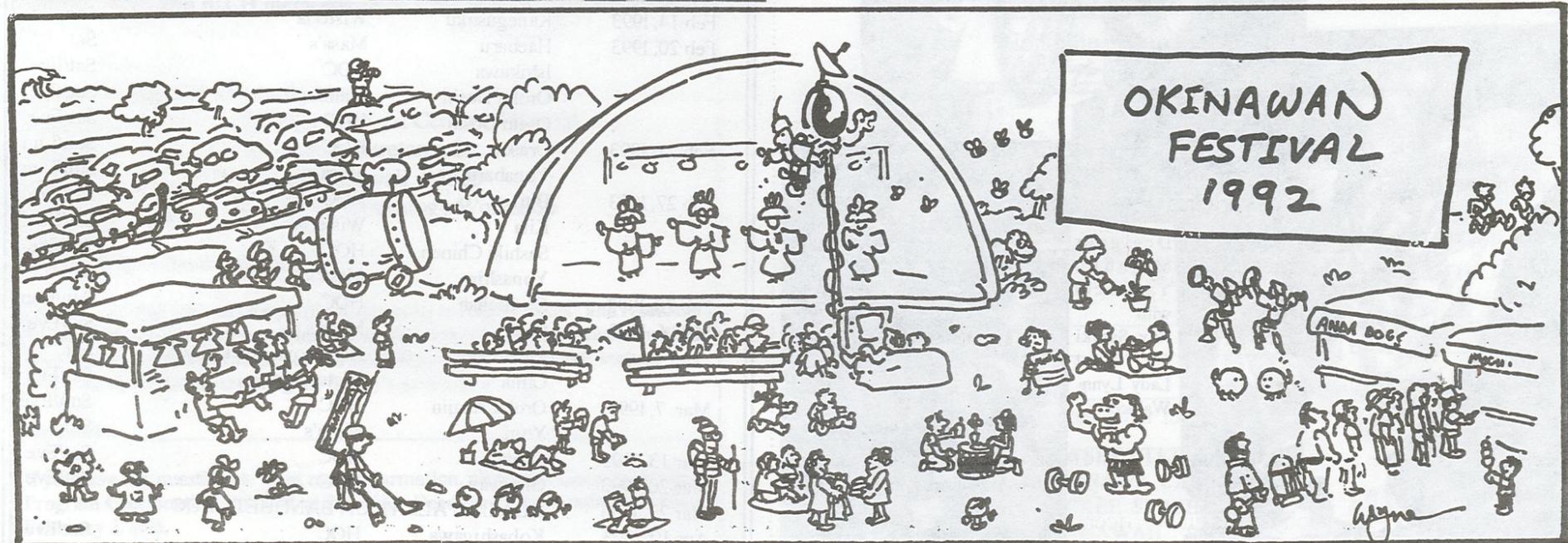


**SUNAMI SPORTS HAWAII**  
 WISHES TO THANK EVERYONE  
 IN THE UOA FOR THEIR PATRONAGE  
 THIS YEAR, AND HOPE  
 YOU AND YOURS WILL HAVE  
 A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY!

**IPEI NIHE DEBIRU  
 AND HAVE A HAPPY 1993!**

WE WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST  
 YOU WITH YOUR CLUB SHIRTS  
 WE SPECIALIZE IN  
 TEAM UNIFORMS,  
 ALSO CARRY SOFTBALL  
 AND BASEBALL EQUIPMENT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
 PLEASE CALL  
 PHONE 848-0677  
 961 AKEPO LANE.  
 BEHIND ALOHA TOFU  
 ON THE 2ND FLOOR.



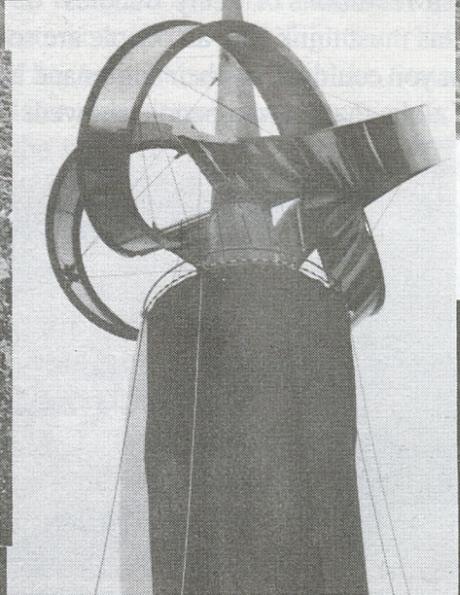
**SUCCESS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL IN OKINAWA**

The Festival, also known as the Asia Pacific Festival of the Arts in Okinawa, was held from November 7 through the 15, 1992, at the Okinawa Convention Center in Ginowan City, Okinawa. The festival was held to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Okinawa's return to Japan. Artists from eight Pacific Rim countries took part in the week of festivities.

Hosted by Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota, the participants were various folkloric troupes and dancers from Indonesia, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Okinawa, Hawaii, and the People's Republic of China. "Okinawa is ideally suited for facilitating various cultural exchange projects because of its geographic location and historical characteristics", proclaimed Governor Ota. "It is hoped that Okinawa will serve as Japan's southern base of interchange in the fields of economics, culture, and the arts and sciences" he added.

Hawaii was ably represented by the Hawaiian dance troupe "Halau Hula O Maiki". The group was founded in 1948 by Maiki Aiu Lake. The repertoire of the Halau reflects the history and heritage of Hawaii with its strains of Oriental and Occidental influence. The Halau has toured all over the world, including Europe and Japan.

Participating with the Halau and representing the Governor of Hawaii was Mr. Wendell Silva, Director of the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts. Representing UOA and assisting in the coordination was former UOA President John Tasato. UOA benefited by John's determination to see that Hawaii and UOA were ably represented at the Festival. Much of the Halau's planning and preparation for the trip was organized by John with and through the assistance of Teddy Tanaka.



Photos from Hui Makaala's 23rd Fashion Show.



Designer Mitsuko Yamauchi with Ray Sasaki and First Lady Lynn Waihee.



**SHINNEN ENKAI LISTING**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Jan 16, 1993	Haneji	HOC	Sat/Eve
Jan 17, 1993	Nago	HOC	Sun/Eve
Jan 23, 1993	Minami	HOC	Sat/Eve
	Ginoza	Masa's	Sat
Jan 30, 1993	Aza	Victoria Inn	Sat
	Kin Chojin	HOC	Sat/Eve
Feb 6, 1993	Tamagusuku	Masa's	Sat/Eve
	Club Motobu	Natsunoya Tea House	Sat
	Kochinda	Victoria Inn	Sat
	Goeku	Flamingo Chuckwagon	Sat/Eve
	Tomigusuku	Ala Moana Hotel	Sat
	Wahiawa	Dot's	Sat
	Yagaji	Victoria Inn	Sat
	Yomitan	HOC	Sat/Eve
Feb 13, 1993	Awase	Flamingo Chuckwagon	Sat/Eve
	Gushikawa	Jikoen	Sat
	Hawaii Shuri	HOC	Sat/Eve
	Itoman	HOC	Sat/Eve
	Nishihara	Masa's	Sat
Feb 14, 1993	Kanegusuku	Wisteria	Sun
Feb 20, 1993	Haeburu	Masa's	Sat
	Ishikawa	HOC	Sat/Eve
	Oroku Doshi	Flamingo	Sat/Eve
	Osato Doshi	HOC	Sat/Eve
Feb 21, 1993	Urasoe	HOC	Sun/Lun
	Yonaburu	Masa's	Sun/Lun
Feb 27, 1993	Bito	HOC	Sat/Eve
	Kita	Wisteria	Sat/Eve
	Sashiki Chinen	HOC	Sat/Eve
	Yonashiro	Masa's	Sat
Feb 28, 1993	Gushichan	HOC	Sun/Lun
Mar 6, 1993	Gaza	Masa's	Sat/Eve
	Katsuren	Natsunoya Tea House	Sat
	Onna	Victoria Inn	Sat/Eve
Mar 7, 1993	Oroku Azajin	HOC	Sun/Eve
	Yogi	Masa's	Sun
Mar 13, 1993	Chatan	HOC	Sat/Eve
Mar 20, 1993	Ginowan	HOC	Sat/Eve
Mar 27, 1993	UOA INSTALLATION BANQUET - HOC		
Apr 10, 1993	Kobashigawa	HOC	Sat/Eve

## HAWAII'S OKINAWAN COMMUNITY GLOBAL NETWORKING

In 1990, the first worldwide Uchinanchu Festival was held in Okinawa. During this momentous occasion the Okinawan prefecture government selected 100 persons worldwide to serve as goodwill ambassadors. The United Okinawan Association of Hawaii, was honored by having eight of its members selected. They are Shizuko Akamine, June Arakawa, Dr. Franklin Odo, Alfred Kina, Wayne Miyahira, Stan Takamine, John Tasato, and Roy Yonahara.

On November 4, 1992, UOA President Warren Higa and past President Edward Kuba were appointed by Okinawan Prefecture's Governor Ota to join our eight ambassadors. It is Governor Ota's vision that our ambassadors, along with their international counterparts, cooperate with the Okinawan Prefecture Government in its goal to be a keystone in international exchange.

To strengthen the Goodwill Ambassador network, the Okinawan Government has sponsored geographical conferences. This year with the cooperation of the Hokubei Okinawa Kenjinkai (Los Angeles) and its women's organization, the North America Block conference was held in Los Angeles. June Arakawa reports, "it was a very heart warming experience to meet the Goodwill Ambassadors from various parts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia, and France. It was a good way to introduce ourselves and have the opportunity to express our feelings as Uchinanchus. The Ambassadors tried to solve problems confronting many organizations, especially -- who will continue what we have started -- how to get young people interested and involved in the organization. The United Okinawan Association was praised for doing a good job in this area."

The Conference had four keynote speakers. One of whom shared her experiences as a transplanted Okinawan living in Georgia. She detailed her experiences of prejudice and self doubt. The following excerpts details her story.

Twenty five years ago, I came to this country with great curiosity and fear. My married life started in the deep south, in Georgia. In 1967, Georgia was the center of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s civil rights movement. He was assassinated in 1968 and buried in Atlanta. The racial problem in the south at that time was only between whites and blacks. I was very sure there were some Asians or Japanese in Atlanta, but I felt like I was the only one of the Asian race in the city. I hardly saw any Asian people in Georgia at that time. Now, we have thousands of Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, and Southeast Asians in Atlanta.

When I completed my elementary teacher's certification, I applied for a teaching job in 1970, but the application form had only two race categories: white or black. When I asked the administration clerk what I should do, she looked at me and said, "white." I didn't know till last year, I had been counted as white all these years. I always wondered why I was not contacted when we had cultural festivals for the school system. Now I understand why.

## Host Families Needed for 1993 Student Exchange

### EXCHANGE

The Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange Program is on again for 1993. The program is an annual sister-state program that began in 1991 between the Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education and the Hawaii Department of Education in partnership with the Hawaii State Legislature and the United Okinawan Association.

The purpose of the program is to provide high school students with the opportunity to learn first-hand about diverse cultures of other countries. The program should also foster a sense of "internationalism" in today's youth.

Between March 6 and 20, 1993, Okinawa students will be visiting Hawaii. They will be on Oahu on March 6 to 16 and 19-20, and on the Big Island, March 16-19. Between June 11-25, 1993, Hawaii's students will be visiting Okinawa.

The Department of Education has asked the UOA to encourage its members to host the students from Okinawa. The host family must provide a home for an Okinawan student from March 6-16, 1993. They should attend an orientation meeting on March 6 before meeting the student. Host families will provide the necessary food and amenities to



Through these 25 years in the country, unfortunately, I have experienced some unpleasant and degrading incidents as an Okinawan. In my early years in Atlanta, I met a G.I. and his Okinawan wife in a department store. I was thirsty for a conversation in Japanese. While we were conversing, they asked me innocently, "By the way, which bar did you work for when you were in Okinawa?" I felt very degraded.

However, recently my inferiority complex has been diminishing through my seminar experiences in Tokyo. Every summer, my professor husband and I have been invited by the Japan Risk Management Association as speaker and interpreter. My job is to interpret for three professional Americans including my husband. It is very strenuous, but showing my ability to speak in Japanese and English helps me to reduce my inferiority complex. As a result, my self-esteem gets as high as any other mainland Japanese.

This is my way of solving my problems, but what about other Okinawans or Okinawan-Americans who don't know what to do with their inferiority complex and lack of self-esteem or pride?

I think, we, as Goodwill Ambassadors, can upgrade our pride and self-esteem by providing an effective organization of Okinawan Kenjin Kai. In order to have a successful organization, we must seek Okinawa Prefecture's continuous support and close communication as well as with local Kenjin Kai in this country.

Through my teaching experience, this method works quite well with my 4th grade class. When I read a biography of a famous African-American to my black children, I can see their eyes gleam with pride. The same thing would happen to the Okinawan-Americans. They would be inspired and their self-esteem would be as high as any of the famous people in the magazine. This Okinawan-American's pride.

The United States Okinawan network includes clubs from New York, Washington, Alaska, North Carolina, Washington D.C., New Jersey, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Northern California, San Diego, and Sacramento. Globally, twenty one nations are represented. If you wish to contact any of these clubs, please contact our United Okinawan Association of Hawaii office.

their student guest. The student however will be responsible for their own personal expenses. Some transportation assistance will be needed to and from school and to other planned activities. Above all, the host family should remember that they are part of the student's education, make them feel comfortable and at home, include them in family activities, and take them on free or inexpensive outings such as shopping, trips, visits, etc.

Students of host families will be preferred in selecting the Hawaii students traveling to Okinawa.

The maximum number of Hawaii students going to Okinawa in June is 30. Any public school student, grades 9-12, who submits an application and is selected after an interview process will be eligible. Private school students of UOA members, however, may also apply. The committee will be looking for students who will be good ambassadors of Hawaii, and who can attend 3-4 orientation/information sessions during March to June. The student/family must be able to provide for the air fare and passport. Okinawa will cover all ground and home-stay requirements.

The UOA Board of Directors are considering a small stipend to each student of a UOA member. Further details will be provided later.

If you are willing, able, and interested, call or fax to Karen Kuba-Hori at the UOA office at 677-4414 for an application form.

# HAWAII OKINAWA CENTER



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ii soogawachi debiru!

Shinnen omedeto gozaimasu!

Hauoli makahiki hou!

I hope that you are enjoying good health, and had a joyous holiday season with your family and friends.

During my first year as Executive Director, I met many wonderful dedicated hard-working people. I immediately noticed a deep feeling of pride among the volunteers, who continually give their talent, time and sweat to keep the center beautiful. The commitment of the volunteers and staff awakened in me my Okinawan heritage, and gave me a deep sense of Okinawan pride that had been dormant since my childhood. My first trip to Okinawa in March, 1992 provided the opportunity to meet relatives, government officials, representatives of the media, and to visit historical and cultural treasures of Okinawa. These experiences helped me realize and appreciate my heritage and position as the executive director of HOC.

One of my tasks as Executive Director is to create a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at the center where Okinawan families and Uchinanchus-at-heart can come together to promote, perpetuate, and enjoy the Okinawan culture in Hawaii and in the global community. Another goal I wish to pursue is to improve communications and interaction with Okinawa, especially in the area of youth programs.

Bob Asato

## LONG RANGE PLANNING WORKSHOP

To prepare for the BIG THREE EVENTS for all Okinawans at the turn of the century, the enthusiastic participants of the workshops have been revisiting the mission of the UOA and HOC. So that our united efforts will launch us into the next century with clear vision and purpose.

A third workshop is planned for Tuesday, January 19, 1993 at 7 p.m. Though the turnout for the first two workshops has been disappointing, participation by those attending and the results have been excellent. We still need your input and your help to develop a clear concise mission statement for the UOA and HOC and to understand the financial obligations of the center.

[Mahalo to Art Kaneshiro, for his hard work, inspirational leadership as facilitator, and for guiding us through our group discussions.]

## CLUBS ITS TIME TO HELP WITH HOC CLEAN-UP

We would like to ask your continued support and assistance in 1993 to participate in the Hawaii Okinawa Center Clean-up Program. Won't you help out? We have many Saturday and Sunday mornings available. Please call us at 676-5400, to confirm, change, or select a date.

### NOTICE

HOC Office Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:30-5 p.m.

Phone: 676-5400

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

HOC after-hours number: 676-7907

Caterer's and emergency number for guests: 676-0124

## HAWAII OKINAWAN CENTER 1993 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve (1/2 day)	December 31, 1992	Thursday
New Year's Day	January 1, 1993	Friday
	January 2, 1993	Saturday
President's Day	February 15, 1993	Monday
Memorial Day	May 31, 1993	Monday
Kamehameha Day	June 11, 1993	Friday
Independence Day	July 5, 1993	Monday
Admission Day	August 20, 1993	Friday
Labor Day	September 6, 1993	Monday
Veteran's Day	November 11, 1993	Thursday
Thanksgiving Day	November 25, 1993	Thursday
Christmas Eve	December 24, 1993	Friday
Christmas Day	December 25, 1993	Saturday
New Year's Eve	December 31, 1993	Friday
New Year's Day	January 1, 1994	Saturday

## GIFT SHOP

NOW AVAILABLE - "BOYHOOD TO WAR: HISTORY AND ANECDOTES OF THE 442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM"

This newly published book by Dorothy Matsuo brings alive the most highly decorated combat unit in history of the American military. With stories extracted from interviews with over 100 who survived the brutal war in Europe, the book identifies the legacy the niseis left for generations to come.

The men reached into their memories to talk about their emotions, experiences, and events as boys growing up in plantation camps or city ghettos; as young defense workers and college students being identified with enemy Japanese following Pearl Harbor; as patriotic Americans responding to the call for volunteers for the all AJA unit; as soldiers in training; as men in combat; and finally as survivors returning home to visit families of dead buddies to share their pain.

The HOC Gift shop has the book available at an introductory price of \$28.00. For mail orders, please enclose an additional \$4.00 to cover postage and handling.

VISA and MASTERCHARGE ARE NOW AVAILABLE for Gift Shop patrons.

## TIME CAPSULE

Hawaii Okinawa Center's Second Anniversary Celebration Committee had planned the setting of a Time Capsule along with the unveiling of the Wall of Honor. However, the contents of the Capsule were not assembled in time. Therefore, on June 20, 1992 guests in attendance saw the empty Capsule ceremoniously set in place under the large Shiisa at the entrance to the Main Hall. Our Capsule is a stainless steel container. It was designed and constructed by Jimmy Okudara.

On October 2, 1992 all items gathered from participating UOA clubs, were enclosed in the Capsule and set in place without fanfare. It will not be reopened until the Year 2042.

Members of the Time Capsule Committee are June Arakawa, Raymond Nakasone, Jimmy Okudara, Toshi Shimabukuro, and Masa Uejo. They would like to thank all participating clubs and their officers.



### BOYHOOD TO WAR

History and Anecdotes of the  
442nd Regimental Combat Team  
Dorothy Matsuo

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highly decorated combat unit**

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