



Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

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KIN-CHO COMMEMORATIVE BOULDER ARRIVES AT HOC

by Gary T. Honda
Executive Director, Hawaii United Okinawa Association

After a journey of approximately 16 days, the 18-ton Kin commemorative boulder arrived at its final destination, the Hawaii Okinawa Center, on the morning of November 6. For most of the 16 days it took for the boulder to get from White Beach in Okinawa to the HOC, it was just a "big rock!" It was a "big rock" that required much coordination between the U.S. Marines at MARFORPAC (Marine Forces Pacific) at Camp Smith in Honolulu; Camp Hansen in Kin-cho, Okinawa; Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe and the U.S. Navy ship, *USN Mt. Vernon*. Many of us had dubbed this commemorative boulder, the "big rock," simply because that's all it was to us. A big rock. It took a lot of time, people and patience to ensure that this "big rock" would arrive safely at HOC.

When Kin-cho Mayor Katsuhiro Yoshida first mentioned over a year ago that Kin wanted to gift a boulder in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii and as a memorial to the first group of immigrants who arrived in Hawaii on the *SS City of China* on January 8, 1900, many of us thought he was joking.

Dwight Ikehara, president of the Kin Chojin Kai, wondered what we would do with such a gift. Although the HOC Board of Trustees approved the placement of the boulder in the open space behind the statue of Kyuzo Toyama, they questioned how the boulder would be brought to Hawai'i.

In June 1998, the HUOA sent a letter to then-commander of the Marine Forces Pacific, Lt. Gen. C.W. Fulford, Jr., seeking the U.S. Marines' support in transporting the "big rock" from Kin-cho to Hawai'i. We were pleasantly surprised when Gen. Fulford granted our request.

Shortly thereafter, however, Gen. Fulford's tour of duty in Hawai'i ended. He was replaced by Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, who had just completed an assignment in Okinawa. Gen. Libutti reaffirmed the Marines' commitment to help bring the "big rock" to Hawaii. His staff



Rev. Bruce Nakamura of the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission blesses the memorial rock before it begins its journey to the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Representatives of the HUOA, HOC and the Marine Corps were on hand for the short blessing ceremony at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

and members of the HUOA and HOC coordinated the transport of the "big rock," which arrived November 2.

Marine Maj. Leo Campbell and Gunnery Sgt. Dennis Davis provided tremendous support and assistance to us. Gen. Libutti was away on official business, so his second in command, Maj. Gen. Robert Magnus, helped us complete the project.

The "big rock" came ashore loaded inside a landing ship air cushioned, or LCAC, which is a hovercraft that "flies" about three to six inches off the ground and water.

It had been launched from the *USN Mt. Vernon* landing ship dock (LSD) outside of Kaneohe Bay. Everyone who witnessed the landing called it spectacular. The LCAC came from the water and slid right up onto the beach, then to the tarmac, where it finally came to a rest amidst flying debris.

Gen. Magnus and his staff participated in the ceremony to receive the "big rock." Rev. Bruce Nakamura of Jikoen Hongwanji Temple officiated a short Buddhist ceremony.

A 26-ton forklift then loaded the "big rock" onto a low-boy trailer, which was driven to Kona Crane and Rigging Rental Corporation at Sand Island. HOC trustee Tom Nago introduced us to Kona Crane's president, Douglas Oshiro, and his brother, Masao. They took over the most difficult part of the "big rock's" journey: transporting it to the HOC.

Architect Maurice Yamasato, a member of Hui Makaala and Haneji Club, had prepared the drawings for the rock's placement at the HOC. Seimo Higa and his crew did the actual work. Kin-cho sent Keiichi Higa from its Base Affairs Section to oversee the final days of the project. He was accompanied by three workmen and Morikatsu Kina, the stone sculptor who had helped select the "big rock." Kina-san told us the "big rock" was actually one part of a larger, more massive boulder that had been split into three pieces.

The most difficult task was transporting the "big rock" to HOC and preparing it to be hoisted into place.

Douglas Oshiro arranged for all the heavy equipment it would take to get the "big rock" to the Hawaii Okinawa Center. He and brother Masao contracted Ahuna Trucking for the lowboy trailer, and Associated Steel Workers, Ltd., for the crane. Warren Togami of Associated Steel brought in their flagship crane, capable of carrying over 100 tons.

After two days of preparation by Seimo Higa and the

Okinawa group, the rock began its journey to HOC in the early morning of November 6.

At approximately 7:50 a.m., the "big rock" arrived. At approximately 8:10 a.m., the giant crane turned onto Ukee Street and stopped near the statue of Kyuzo Toyama. It took about 90 minutes to prepare the "big rock" before it could be hoisted into its final resting place.

As many as 75 people from HUOA and the surrounding neighborhood had gathered to watch this once-in-a-lifetime experience. The entire process required delicate coordination between Douglas Oshiro and the crane operator. Masao Oshiro and the work crew maneuvered the rock around and set the cables for its final hoist. Finally, the rock was ready to be lifted high above the trees and into its foundation.

Everyone watched in amazement as the giant crane lifted the 18-ton "big rock" with ease and gingerly set it onto its foundation. After a series of checks by Kina-san and his crew, the "big rock" was lifted once more as the final preparations were completed. Masao Oshiro signaled for the crane operator to lower the "big rock" into place. The cables were removed and the clean-up began.

Only after everyone had gone home did I realize that the "big rock" was more than simply a big rock. As I stood beside the statue of Kyuzo Toyama and looked back at the "big rock," I realized that Kina-san had selected just the right rock and shaped it perfectly for its home at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. I realized that this was not just a "big rock," but that it represented the spirit of Kyuzo Toyama and the first immigrants who had stepped off the *SS City of China*. The rock embodied the essence of the Okinawan spirit.

As Rev. Bruce Nakamura and I had watched the rock being unloaded in the early morning at Marine Corps

"big rock" continued on page 12



Associated Steel Workers' giant crane lifts the 18-ton memorial rock from Kin-cho into the garden.

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Uchinanchu

NEWSLETTER FUND August -September 1999

Ippe nihei deebiru . . . thank you . . . to the following people for supporting Uchinanchu with monetary donations in August and September.

Uchinanchu is the voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, its members, and the "home" we all built together — the Hawaii Okinawa Center. By sharing stories and information, Uchinanchu connects all of us in the spirit of "Yaaninjyu" — one family.

Again, ippe nihei deebiru for your support.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lillian M. Takata

Member, Nago Club

Haisai and aloha!

It's hard to believe that two months have already passed since the Okinawan Festival was held, attracting record crowds once again. There are so many of you to thank that I would like to extend a great big Ippe, Ippe Nihei Debiru to each and every one of you that participated in some way to make the Festival a success once again.



The HUOA Autumn Dance Festival also came and went, drawing a large indoor crowd at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. What a wonderful way to top off the season by opening up our "home" to the wider community with music, dance and fellowship.

And, how fortunate we were to have had a second charity performance from Okinawa to benefit the HOC. "Chimu Suruti Udura — Our Heartfelt Dance," which was presented by the Ryusei Honryu Hozon Kai, was a special treat for all who attended. Through the preservation of their unique Ryukyuan dance art, the Hozon Kai has helped us to provide for the ongoing care of our home. For this, we express our most humble appreciation to Fumiko Higa Sensei and all of the Hozon Kai members from Okinawa, Tokyo, San Francisco and Hawaii.

The HUOA Leadership Study Tour departed for Okinawa on September 29, followed a few days later by the annual study tour, which this year included more than 75 people. The two groups joined together for the northern tour. This trip has created so many new and unique experiences for everyone, regardless of whether or not it was their first time to visit Okinawa.

In the midst of all these activities, the HUOA/HOC Merger and By-laws Committee has been hard at work. Two special board meetings were held in September to review the recommended changes to the HUOA By-laws as well as the new organizational chart. The committee will try to incorporate all of the suggestions and ideas brought up by the board. The merger proposal was discussed further at the October 30 regular board meeting.

And, of course, we are continuing to move forward with our planning to commemorate the centennial of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii. Some information on the centennial is included in this issue of Uchinanchu, with more information to come in future issues. Our first annual-giving fund drive is also in full swing. The response from our community has been heartwarming and I thank you for your support.

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Uchinanchu

Uchinanchu is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Although subject to change, issues are generally published in February/March, April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November and December/January.

Volunteer writers are welcome. Send your name, address and telephone number to *Uchinanchu* newsletter, Hawaii United Okinawa Association, 94-587 Ukee St., Waipahu, Hawaii 96797. *Uchinanchu* reserves the right to edit all material for clarity and accuracy.

President Lillian Takata, Nago Club

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Karleen C. Chinen,

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HOT "HAWAII OKINAWA TODAY" DECEMBER SHOWS

The "Hawaii Okinawa Today" team has been hard at work planning, shooting and editing programs for your enjoyment and information. Here are the programs scheduled for December. Please keep in mind, however, that this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

Dec. 1 Hawaii Okinawa Center Show

Dec. 8 "Maigokoro" Performance (Part 1)

Dec. 15 "Maigokoro" Performance (Part 2)

Dec. 22 Okinawan Folk Tales, Student Exchange, and the Autumn Dance Festival

Dec. 29 Highlights of 1999 Show

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Your support is greatly appreciated! Ippe nihei deebiru!

HUOA AND HOC EVALUATING MERGER TRANSACTION

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Board of Trustees of the Hawaii Okinawa Center are currently discussing the possibility of merging the two organizations to become one—the Hawaii United Okinawa Association.

The merger question was initially researched in 1993 during strategic planning workshops, although no action was taken at the time. The idea was revisited in 1995 when the United Okinawan Association (UOA) was renamed the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA)—and, again, no action was taken to merge the organizations.

This year, a special merger committee made up jointly of HUOA and HOC representatives began examining the issue once again. The proposed merger has been discussed at several regular and special HUOA Board of Directors meetings, including one held October 30.

The management of HUOA is presently conducting a "due diligence" examination in conjunction with the proposed merger. "Due diligence" is a legal process in which the books and records of HOC and HUOA—including minutes, insurance policies, endowments, contracts and other documents—are carefully studied to determine the benefits and risks, if any, of a merger. The results will help determine the steps necessary to merge the two entities and what consequences may occur as a result of the merger. When the due diligence process is completed, the results will be reviewed by the respective boards of the HUOA and the HOC so the directors can make an informed decision about whether to proceed with the merger—and if so, to determine the terms and conditions of the merger.

If the merger is approved by the boards of both organizations, a special meeting of the members of

HUOA—which are the individual associations (*sōjinkai*), or clubs, acting through their respective presidents or designated representatives—will be called. Notice of the meeting, a detailed description of the merger, and a copy of the proposed plan of merger will be sent to the president of each member association for review prior to voting at the special meeting.

The due diligence process is expected to be completed later this month. The HUOA and HOC boards are scheduled to meet on December 1 to review the results and consider the merger. If both boards vote to proceed with the merger, a vote by HUOA members—who, again, are the individual associations or clubs, acting through their respective presidents or designated representatives—will be conducted at a special meeting expected to be held later in December.

INSTALLATION BANQUET TO HONOR 2000 OFFICERS AND '99 "UCHINANCHU OF THE YEAR"

The final group of Hawaii United Okinawa Association "Uchinanchu of the Year" honorees for this century will be introduced at the December 11 installation banquet at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Also highlighting the evening will be the installation of Albert Miyasato as HUOA president for the Year 2000 and his fellow officers, and the presentation of HUOA's sports awards. Miyasato is a member of Club Motobu.

Supporting Miyasato as officers will be: Jimmy Iha (Chatan Sonjin Kai), president-elect; vice presidents Keith M. Kaneshiro (Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai), George Tamashiro (Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai) and Gladys Tokunaga-Asao (Tamagusuku Club); executive secretary Karen Shishido (Hui Makaala); recording secretary Jane Tateyama (Club Motobu); Japanese language secretary Chikako Nago (Young Okinawans of Hawaii); treasurer Douglas Miyasato (Aza Yogi Doshi Kai); and assistant treasurer Jane Okamura (Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club). The anticipated merger of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association with the Hawaii Okinawa Center would eliminate the position of correspondence secretary.

Tickets for the 6 p.m. installation banquet (registration from 5 p.m.) are \$25 per person and can be obtained by calling your club president or the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400.

The names of the following "Uchinanchu of the Year" honorees were submitted to the installation committee by their respective clubs.

Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai • David Kobashigawa

Aza Yogi Doshi Kai • Matsue Shimabukuro

Bito Doshi Kai • Roy S. Nakasone, Jr.

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Albert Miyasato, 2000 HUOA President

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Oroku Doshi Kai • Steve Sakuma

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Tamagusuku Club • Dr. David T. Arakaki

Wahiawa Okinawa Kyoyu Kai • Maurice M. Yonamine

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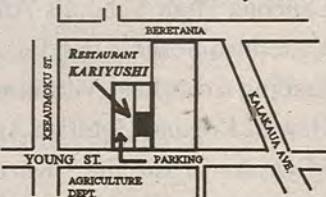
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"YAAANINJYU" A ROUSING SUCCESS!

Record Crowd for Last Festival of the Century

by Albert Miyasato
1999 Okinawan Festival Co-chair
Member, Club Motobu

The 17th Okinawan Festival, held Labor Day weekend at Kapiolani Park, far exceeded the expectations of even the most optimistic volunteers and supporters. By some reliable estimates, the 1999 festival attracted as many as 65,000 people over the two-day weekend.

The accuracy of the estimate was evident in the number of festival buses that shuttled festival-goers from the Kapiolani Community College parking lot to Kapiolani Park. Last year, three air-conditioned TransHawaiian buses operated from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday. Last year's festival crowd was estimated at close to 50,000. This year, however, six buses were needed to transport festival-goers, and each was full on every run.

Hundreds of people roamed the grounds or occupied choice areas in front of the stage well before the festival officially began at 9 a.m. Many others waited in front of their favorite Okinawan food booths, or at the Heiwa

Dori tent, where authentic Okinawan packaged foods were sold. Still others spent their time in the plant, t-shirt, bonsai or koi tents. People were even in line, waiting for the scrip booths to open.

The festivities opened on Saturday with a colorful parade of *paranku* drummers dancing their way into the festival grounds. They were followed by representatives of the HUOA's 51 member clubs carrying their respective club flag.

The focus shifted to the stage for a brief program of speeches by Lt. Gov. Mazie Hiroko, Mayor Jeremy Harris, Consul General of Japan Gotaro Ogawa, United Japanese Society of Hawaii President Yoshimi Endo and HUOA President Lillian Takata, who also introduced Jimmy Iha and myself as the festival co-chairs.



Judi Yoshida, Iris Yafuso, Melissa Ueunten and Robyn Matsumoto perform a hula to the late Lorraine Kaneshiro's recording of "Hana".

entertainment were heartened by vigorous applause from the audience.

At precisely 5 p.m., the sounds of drums signaled the start of the ever-popular bon dance, which continued until 9 p.m. By 8 p.m., seven circles of dancers were going around and around to the beat of the Fukushima, Iwakuni and Okinawan vocals, drums and music.

Throughout the day, food lines were often four deep. As in previous years, the best seller was the barbecue chicken plate, followed closely behind by *andagi*, Okinawan plate, Okinawan soba, *yaki soba* and pigs feet soup. Howard Higa's invention, *nmu muchi*, sold out too fast to rack up higher sales.

The Heiwa Dori tent, with its variety of goods from Okinawa, was the most popular in terms of non-perishable Okinawa food items, followed by t-shirts, craft gallery sales and children's games.

The Okinawan Festival is known for having something for everyone: from toddlers to 90-year-olds, from locals to mainlanders and even international visitors, and all ethnic groups.

But as we all know, the festival doesn't just happen. Thousands of hours of planning and preparation by volunteers, HUOA officers, directors and club members go into making the festival a success. More than 2,000 volunteers were involved in this year's festival, assisting not only for the two days of the event, but for several weeks before Sept. 4. These volunteers gave of their time and energy with no expectation of any kind of compensation. Many use their vacation time so they can devote all their attention to the festival.

Additionally, many festival volunteers check into nearby Waikiki hotels to be close to the festival site. For several years now, the hotels have shown their gratitude by offering Okinawan Festival "specials" for volunteers and their families months in advance of the event.

The work didn't end when the festival closed. The day after the festival was the traditional Labor Day — and, for many volunteers, it literally was a day to labor. The huge task of dismantling everything that had been built — the 40- by 60- by 4-foot stage, the distinctive and colorful stage decorations, the broadcast stands and scrip booths — and carefully re-loading them into the HUOA's container for transport to the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio was done on Monday. The electrical wiring was dismantled and the park grounds cleaned. We also helped Omar the Tent Man fill holes left by the stakes for the 20-plus tents we had rented.

Evaluation reports were turned in to us three weeks later. An evaluation meeting was held to share the information with the various chairs involved in the festival. Everyone expressed their joy in working side-by-side with each other for the common goal of perpetuating and sharing our Okinawan culture.

And, overwhelmingly, everyone agreed that the Festival must be held again next year.



The chondara and the shisa lead the festival parade.

Ippe nihei deebiru . . . Mahalo . . . Thank You . . .
for helping to make our 1999 Okinawan Festival — "Yaaninju" — a success.
We truly appreciate your support.

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CLUB NEWS

HAWAII SHURI-NAHA CLUB

The following 1999 graduates were recognized at our annual picnic on July 9:

- Reyn S. Hashiro (University of Hawaii), son of Wayne and Kathleen Hashiro;
- Wendi Lopes (Hawaii Baptist Academy), daughter of Donald and Carolyn Lopes;
- Megan McGarry (Onalaska High School, Wisconsin), daughter of Richard and Julie McGarry; and
- Joy Nakayama (Roosevelt High School), daughter of Janice Kawachi.

Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club held its semi-annual golf tournament at the Pali Golf Course on August 3. The top finishers were Ross McGarry (men's low gross) and Jerrold Matayoshi (men's low net), and Hiro Matsuno (women's low gross/net).

Winning honors for the 1999 HUOA softball league was Garrett Kameda for most RBIs and most extra base hits. Congratulations to you all on your accomplishments.

YOMITAN CLUB

Yomitan Club members held their annual summer picnic at Ala Moana Beach Park on July 18. The beautiful sun-filled day featured races and games with lots of prizes and good picnic food that was consumed by everyone.

Earlier this year, Yomitan Club produced a book titled, "Proud to Be . . . Yomitan . . . Keeping Memories Alive." The book features photos of Yomitan Club issei and their descendants, three-generation family trees and stories. Our initial order of books sold out, so we ordered 100 more books. We are releasing 50 books for purchase by the public at \$25 per book. Anyone interested in reserving a book can contact Linda Takushi at 486-0207.

OKINAWA CITY-GOEKU SON

Hope you have your fireworks ready to celebrate the arrival of the new millennium. Your board and shinnen enkai committee are planning an extra special evening for you to celebrate the new year. Please mark your calendar: February 12, 2000, Dole Cannery Square Ballroom, 5:30 p.m. Members, we will require an RSVP, so please mail in your dinner reservations as soon as you receive your notice in the mail.

As part of the festivities, we are planning to have a nice souvenir dinner booklet honoring our issei members. We are requesting your assistance by submitting photos of your Goeku issei family members to Karen Kuba-Hori, 45-439 Ohaha St., Kaneohe, HI 96744. All photos will be returned to you. When submitting your photo, please write your issei's name, address and contact number. The deadline for submitting photos is December 30. Thank you for your assistance and hope to see you on February 12.

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Zippy's To Go products bound for the Mainland are shipped via UPS 2-Day Air, and via UPS Next Day Air to the Neighbor Islands. If you wish, you can pick up your sealed box of goodies at a designated Zippy's

HUI OKINAWA

Hui Okinawa held its *bonenkai* (end of the year party) and annual general membership meeting on Nov. 7 at Wailoa State Park's main pavilion. On the agenda were the presentation of annual reports and Hui Okinawa awards.

Highlighting the afternoon was the presentation of Hui Okinawa's awards by President Merle Tomori and awards chair Bernard Sagawa. Recognized were:

- Member of the Year: Alben Namihiwa, who was also selected Hui Okinawa's "Uchinanchu of the Year" for 1999;
- Chibayaa Award, honoring members whose dedication and diligent service over the years has served as an example to others: Roy Hokama, Aileen Kaneshiro, Amy Shiroma and Milton Yafuso;
- Hatarachaa Award, honoring members who gave of themselves and gave extraordinary effort and time to further Hui Okinawa's goals and projects: Kaye Nagamine, Kris Ortogero, Dean Oshiro, June Oshiro and Glenn Yafuso;
- Warabinchaa Award, recognizing Hui Okinawa's younger members for giving of themselves to further Hui Okinawa's projects and goals: Roanne Chow, Trudy Everett, Trista Inouye, Jonathan Hara, Kevin Kaneshiro, Marisa Ochi, Katie Shiroma, Jade Terao, Owen Tomori, Christine Yafuso and Marlene Yafuso; and
- Distinguished Service Award, honoring Hui Okinawa members whose beliefs and guidance have been instrumental in perpetuating the Okinawan culture and arts since the club's formation: Gladys Gushiken, Isamu Hokama, Richard Jitchaku, Yasuo Kuwaye, Seikichi Miyashiro and Hiroshi Yafuso.

The program also included the election of Hui Okinawa's Year 2000-2001 officers and directors, who will be formally installed in February. They are: Dorothy Taira, president, Carolyn Oki, 1st vice president; Clifford Kaneshiro, 2nd vice president; Andrew Gushiken, 3rd vice president; Lynn Namihiwa, secretary; and Alben Namihiwa, treasurer. The *bonenkai* was chaired by Thomas and Kris Ortogero.

KANEGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

Thank you to the 37 Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai volunteers who worked in the pigs feet soup booth at the Okinawan Festival during the morning (7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and afternoon (12:30 to 5 p.m.) shifts on Sunday, Sept. 5.

Kanegusuku club members Masuo Kino, Lynda Iraha, Harriet Kihara, Henry Nagamine, Ed Kino, Toshi Shimabukuro and Ronald Oshiro assisted with hospitality and wherever help was needed at the Autumn Craft Fair from 6 a.m. to noon on Oct. 23.

Kanegusuku Golf Club's Sept. 11 tournament at the Coral Creek Golf Course in Ewa was won by Kiichi Oshiro with his 64 net. Nobu Tamayose took second

location before heading out to the airport.

Here's a partial list from the Zippy's To Go menu:

- Zippy's original or vegetarian chili: 2 lbs., \$5.99
(Minimum purchase, 4 lbs., \$11.98);
- Kalua Pig: 3 lbs., \$15.20;
- Lau Lau: chicken or pork: 4 pcs., \$11.60;
- Oxtail Soup: 4 lbs., \$15.90; and
- Napples, apple or coconut: 4 pcs., \$3.95.

Shipping charges are based on location and merchandise amount. Call 677-8842 for more information.

Zippy's To Go can also be e-mailed at zippygo@gte.net or for those on the Neighbors Islands or out of state, call 1-877-677-4993.

place with net 72. Toshi Sugita won the Oct. 9 tourney at Olomana with his 68 net. Ed Kino and Helen Napoleon both shot 71.

The final tournament of the year will be held Dec. 11 at Coral Creek.

Kanegusuku Sonjin Kai's 74th shinnen enkai will be held Sunday, Feb. 20, 2000, at 5 p.m. at Victoria Inn's second floor banquet room.

OSATO DOSHI KAI

How important is it for a sonjin kai to establish a connection with their home town or city? According to sansei state Rep. Dennis Arakaki, who traces his roots to Osato-son through his grandfather, the late Riyosei Arakaki, the linkage is especially important to younger generations of Okinawans.

Osato Doshi Kai, which was formed in Hawaii over 80 years ago, has established that link through a children's home called Shimazoe no Oka. Arakaki discovered the home by chance in 1994 when he spotted a large building on a hill above his cousin's home in Aza Taira, Osato. After learning that it was a group home for children, he obtained permission to visit the home.

Shimazoe no Oka is a three-story home for about 75 children, ages 2 to 16. Those over 16 live in an independent training apartment nearby. The children are placed in the home because their parent or parents are either unable — or unwilling — to care for them due to illness, disability or imprisonment. The children are placed in one of five family units of mixed ages and boys and girls. They attend schools in Osato son.

In 1995, during the Sekai Uchinanchu Taikai reunion in Osato son hosted by Mayor Yagi, Arakaki established two scholarship funds with donations from members of Osato Doshi Kai: one for a deserving graduate, and the other, a general purpose fund.

For the fourth consecutive year, Arakaki plans to solicit donations from members of Osato Doshi Kai during the holiday season of giving. Although the donations are primarily from Osato Doshi Kai members, donations from others supportive of the program are welcome. Checks can be made payable to Osato Doshi Kai and sent to: 3046 Uaawa Pl., Honolulu, HI 96819.

"My dream is that one day we will raise enough money to sponsor a child or a pair of children from Shimazoe no Oka to visit Hawaii," Arakaki said.



Rep. Dennis Arakaki (wearing leis) with several of the children who live at Shimazoe no Oka. Also pictured are Isao Morita (back row, far left), executive director of the home, and Yasunori Arakaki (far right), chairman of the board of Shimazoe no Oka.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thur

December 1999

5

6

7 p.m.: HUOA Executive Council meeting @ HOC.

7

5:30-9 p.m.: "An Evening in Waipio" craft fair @ HOC.

8

"Lotus in Paradise: and the Japanese A Identity in Hawaii" e Japanese Cultural C Gallery. (through Ap

12

13

7 p.m.: Okinawan Centennial Commission and Committee meeting @ HOC

14

15

19

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22

26

27

28

29

HOC closed for Christmas holidays

2

3

4

5

HOC closed for New Year holidays

2 p.m.: "Miruku Yugafu"—special Okinawan centennial dance concert @ HOC. Aloha party to follow. Call HOC for details.

9

6-7 p.m.: "Splendored Tatters: The History and Meaning of Buddhist Clerical Robes (Kesa)," lecture by Dr. Willa Tanabe, UH professor of art history, @ JCCH. Call 945-7633.

7 p.m.: HUOA Executive Council meeting @ HOC, Higa Building, 2nd floor.

11

12

16

17

18

19

23

7 p.m.: Hawaii Okinawa Center Board of Trustees meeting @ HOC, Higa Building, 2nd floor.

24

6:30 p.m.: Karaoke @ HOC.

25

26

30

31

sday

Friday

Saturday

2

Buddhism
American
exhibit @ the
Center of Hawaii
Dec. 12, 2000)

9

Deadline for submissions
to mid-December Uchinanchu

3

5:00 p.m.: HUOA "Uchinanchu
of the Year" and Year 2000
Installation Banquet @ HOC.

16

17

4

11

23

24

25

12:30 p.m. Through Dec. 26: HOC closed for Christmas holidays.

30

31

1

12:30 p.m. Through Jan 2: HOC closed for New Year holidays.

6

Kyozo Toyama inurnment service
@ Mililani Memorial Park.

7

7:30 p.m.: Full dress rehearsal for
"Nuizi Kakiyabira—Rainbows: Bridges
in Time," opening program for the
Okinawan centennial celebration
@ HOC. Free.

8

9:30 a.m.: "Nuizi Kakiyabira — Rainbows:
Bridges in Time," Okinawan centennial
celebration opening program and memorial
service @ HOC. Contact your club president.
5:30 p.m.: Okinawan Centennial Celebration opening
banquet @ Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Hawaii
Ballroom. Tickets: \$50 per person. Reservations:
call 541-1301.
9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
New Year's Festival @ JCCH and Old Stadium
Park. Call 945-7633

13

14

15

10 a.m.-12 noon: Temple tour of
Shingon Mission Betsuin, Jodo
Mission of Hawaii and Honpa
Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin in conjunction
with JCCH exhibit, "Lotus in
Paradise: Buddhism and Japanese
American Identity in Hawaii."
Call 945-7633.

20

21

22

9 a.m.-2 p.m.: HUOA Board of
Directors meeting @
Hawaii Okinawa Center.
10-11 a.m.: "The Social Role of the
Japanese Language Schools at
Buddhist Temples," lecture by Rev.
Yoshiaki Fujitani, @ JCCH. Call 945-
7633.

27

28

29

10 a.m.-12 noon: Temple tour
of Tendai Mission of Hawaii,
Nichiren Mission and Soka Gakkai
International — in conjunction with
JCCH exhibit, "Lotus in Paradise:
Buddhism and Japanese American
Identity in Hawaii." Call 945-7633.

January 2000

"An Evening in Waipio" Craft Fair

Date:

Wed., Dec. 8, 1999

Location:

Hawaii Okinawa Center

Time:

Wed., 5:30 - 9 p.m.

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* delicious food

* enjoy shopping during
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Waipio

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Centennial Celebration

GOVERNOR APPOINTS OKINAWAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Gov. Ben Cayetano has appointed 15 community representatives to the Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commission, which will oversee next year's statewide celebration commemorating 100 years since the first immigrants arrived in Hawaii from Okinawa.

The Commission was created by the governor at the request of the Hawaii State Legislature. The centennial celebration will open officially on January 8, 2000 — exactly 100 years to the date since the first Okinawan immigrants stepped off the *SS City of China* at Honolulu Harbor. The milestone will be commemorated with a program and memorial service at the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The event is expected to be attended by top government officials from Okinawa Prefecture and Hawaii.

"Okage Sama de 2000: Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha" has been selected as the theme for the celebration year. It expresses gratitude to the many people — Okinawans and non-Okinawans alike — who have supported Hawaii's Uchinanchu community over the past century.

The commissioners, who are serving on a volunteer basis, represent Hawaii's four counties, government, labor, business, the community at large and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Gov. Cayetano has appointed attorney Edward Kuba to chair the Commission. Kuba served as 1986-87 president of the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii.

Also appointed to the Commission were:

- **James Y. Arakaki**, chairman of the Hawaii County Council, representing Hawaii County;
- **Tony Y. Arakaki**, retired elementary school principal and former president of the Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai,



Gov. Ben Cayetano and Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono (behind his left shoulder) with members of the State of Hawaii's Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commission. From left: David Iha (Kauai), Wayne Miyao, Charlie Higa, George Takabayashi, Karen Shishido, Edward Kuba (chairman), Clyde Hayashi, Tony Arakaki, Lillian Takata, Jean Seki, Garrett Toguchi, Joyce Omine and Albert Miyasato. (Not pictured: James Arakaki and Wayne Miyahira) (David Shimabukuro photo)

representing Maui County;

- **David Y. Iha**, secretary to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and former Provost of Kauai Community College, representing Kauai County;
- **Joyce T. Omine**, cultural affairs coordinator for the Honolulu International Airport, State Department of Transportation, representing the government sector;
- **Garrett M. Toguchi**, member of the Hawaii State Board of Education, representing the government sector;

- **Clyde T. Hayashi**, Hawaii state director for the National AFL-CIO, representing the labor community;
- **Wayne T. Miyao**, senior vice president of City Bank, representing the business community;
- **Jean K. Seki**, senior vice president of the Bank of Hawaii, representing the business community;
- **Charles A. Higa**, president of Zippy's Restaurants, representing the business community;
- **George Takabayashi**, past president of the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, representing the community at-large;
- **Karen L. Shishido**, former president of Hui Makaala, and an employee of the City & County of Honolulu, representing the community at-large;
- **Lillian Takata**, 1999 president of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA);
- **Albert Miyasato**, president-elect of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and former chairman of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, representing the HUOA; and
- **Wayne Miyahira**, 1990-91 president of the United Okinawan Association of Hawaii. Miyahira is vice chair of the Commission.

A committee of volunteers from the Hawaii United Okinawa Association is assisting the Commission in planning and executing the year's events and activities. The committee is chaired by 1997 HUOA president Dexter Teruya. At least a dozen cultural and community events are being planned to commemorate the centennial.

CENTENNIAL SCHEDULE

OKAGE SAMA DE 2000 Get Ready for a Busy, Busy Millennium

by Karleen C. Chinen

Member, Bito Doshi Kai

"Okage Sama de 2000: Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha" promises to be a year buzzing with activity to commemorate a century since our Okinawan ancestors began settling in Hawaii. The following is the game plan for the centennial year.

Although most of the events and activities are 90 percent firm, please remember that committees are continuing to meet to work out details. As such, the information is still subject to change.

Jan. 7: The ashes of Toyama Kyuzo, regarded as the "Father of Okinawan Immigration," will be inurned in a special *o-haka* sent to Hawaii by Kin-cho in Okinawa. Kin Chojin Kai members are invited to join their Kin-cho "cousins" for the Buddhist inurnment service. @ Mililani Memorial Park.

Jan. 8: "Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time." This program marks the opening of the centennial celebration. A short formal program featuring speeches by dignitaries will be followed by the unveiling of the memorial rock from Kin-cho. A Buddhist memorial service honoring the issei who immigrated to Hawaii will be part of a dramatic and musical performance on the experiences of Hawaii's Uchinanchu. The performance is being directed by retired McKinley High School drama teacher James Nakamoto. Attendees may offer *o-shoko* after the program. Very limited seating. 9:30 a.m. @ the Hawaii Okinawa Center. Note: Due to the limited seating for the Jan. 8 program, Nakamoto will open the Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m. dress rehearsal to the public.

Jan. 8: Okinawan centennial celebration opening banquet, which honors our Okinawan issei. The banquet will feature special entertainment from Okinawa and messages from local and Okinawa dignitaries. Tickets: \$50 per person. 5:30 p.m. @ the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Hawaii Ballroom. Contact your club president for tickets. For more information about the banquet, call George Bartels, Jr. at 541-1301.

Jan. 9: "Miruku Yugafu," a special Okinawan dance concert featuring performers from Okinawa. Aloha party to follow. 2 p.m. @ HOC. Call HOC for details.

March 10: "100 Years in Hawaii!" golf tournament @ the New Ewa Beach Golf Club.

March 12: Charity dance concert produced by Kubota Teruko Sensei. Time/location TBA.

March 12: JTB's Honolulu Festival parade. In conjunction with the centennial celebration of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii, JTB plans to focus its Year 2000 Festival in Waikiki on Okinawa. Time TBA.

May 11-June 10: "Leilani's Hibiscus," presented by Kumu Kahua Theatre. Maui native Jon Shirota's story about Okinawan roots and Okinawan-Hawaiian inter-racial love comes to the Kumu stage. Kumu Kahua Theatre (Bethel & Merchant streets).

May-July: University of Hawaii Summer Session Program on Okinawa and Okinawans. Campus TBA.

May 19-20: Kauai Okinawan Dance Festival @ the Kukui Grove Pavilion in Lihue; time TBA.

June 10: Hawaii Okinawa Center 10th anniversary celebration. This event at the HOC celebrates 10 years since the Hawaii Okinawa Center opened its doors. Details TBA.

June 11: Kintetsu International's Pan-Pacific Festival parade in Waikiki. In celebration of the centennial of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii, Kintetsu plans to make Okinawa the focus of its Year 2000 parade..

July 16: Mini *Tsunahiki* (tug-of-war) featuring friendly competition between HUOA clubs and our visitors from Okinawa. The event coincides with the arrival in Hawaii of a contingent of students and officials from Kin-cho aboard the *Nippon Maru*. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Ala Moana Park.

Aug. 19: Haari boat race in Hilo; time TBA.

Sept. 2-3 (Labor Day weekend): an extra special Okinawan Festival @ Kapiolani Park. Besides the usual music, dance,

cultural exhibitions and Okinawan food, artisans from Okinawa have been invited to do hands-on demonstrations of Okinawan arts.

Sept. 8: Centennial piano concert by 1998 Van Cliburn honoree Jon Nakamatsu at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Time TBA.

Oct. 22: "Hui Makaala and the Hawaii United Okinawa Association Salute the Centennial" — luncheon fashion show featuring the designs of Madame Yamauchi of Okinawa @ the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

Nov. 7: "From Bento to Mixed Plate: Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Multicultural Hawai'i," developed by the Japanese American National Museum, makes its international debut @ the Okinawa Prefectural Museum (Shuri Museum) in Naha City.

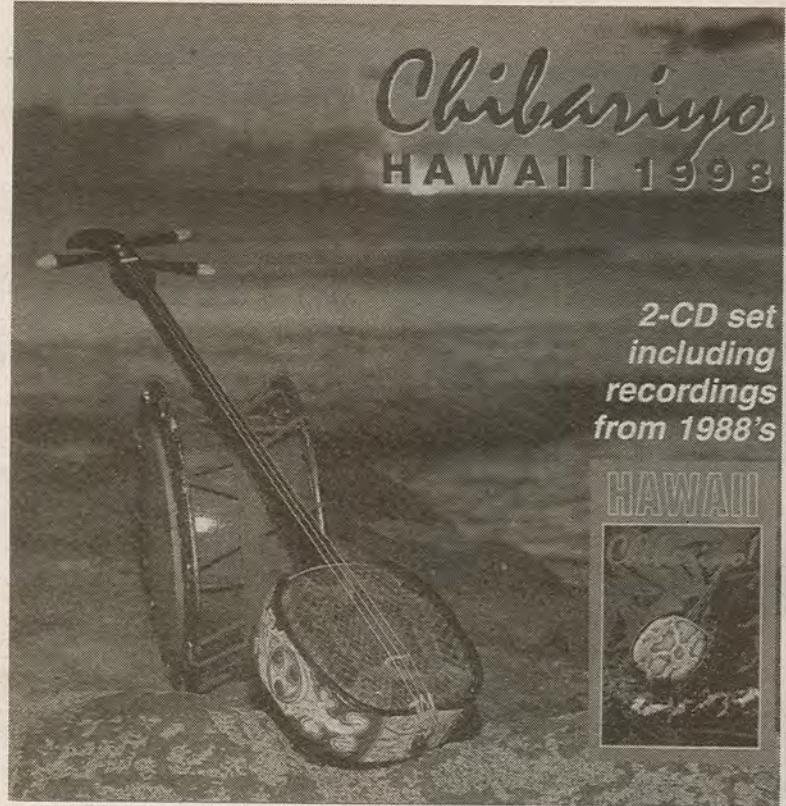
Nov. 4: Sports banquet spotlighting Uchinanchu contributions to Hawaii's sports history @ Hawaii Okinawa Center. Time TBA.

Dec. 10: "Looking to the Future" — closing banquet of the Okinawan centennial celebration, with the focus on the future generation of Uchinanchu. Location and time TBA.

In addition to these events, cultural performances are being planned for the Neighbor Islands. Information on these "on the road" performances will be announced as details are firmed up.

Another major project of the centennial celebration will be a series of community service projects, titled, "Gratitude in Action." Hawaii's Uchinanchu community has always generously supported the larger community in times of need — and will continue to do so in the future. However, during the centennial year, we would like to share our "Uchinanchu aloha" with the Hawaii community in a more organized fashion through the "Gratitude in Action" community service series. *Uchinanchu* will keep you informed of how you can show your gratitude with action.

These events will be supplemented with several HUOA activities, making for an even busier year. When the hustle and bustle of the centennial year gets you down, pause for a moment and think about the beautiful community built by those first 26 Uchinanchu immigrants and the tens of thousands who followed them — our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents — and then reflect on the words of our centennial theme: Okage Sama de . . . Ukazi Deebiru . . . with heartfelt thanks to you . . .



"CHIBARIYO HAWAII 1998" CD Sales Helping Fund Centennial Celebration

by Karleen C. Chinen
Member, Bito Doshi Kai

For nearly a year now, Hawaii's Uchinanchu community has been enjoying a recording of popular Okinawan tunes recorded here in the Islands by local sansei and yonsei. "Chibariyo Hawaii 1998," a two-CD set, was produced by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association to raise funds for next year's Okinawan centennial celebration.

The driving force behind the project was 1991-92 United Okinawan Association of Hawaii president Isaac Hokama, who currently heads Osato Doshi Kai. He was assisted by two other *sonjin kai* presidents: musician Wayne Takamine of Hawaii Shuri-Naha Club, and Amy Higa of Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai, who handled the project's logistics.

Hokama was also instrumental in recording the cassette, "Chibariyo Hawaii 1988," the proceeds of which benefited the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The CD serves two purposes, he said. It raises funds for the centennial celebration, but is also a commemorative piece showcasing the young talents of Hawaii-born Uchinanchu, thereby fulfilling the issei's dream of keeping alive the Okinawan culture for the generations to come.

The two-CD set features a total of 32 Okinawan songs, 18 of which were recorded last year. The other 14 tunes were recorded for the 1988 cassette, but were not included in the final product.

The only song reprised for the second recording was "Bashofu," a vocal rendition sung by Lorraine Kaneshiro and Lynn Oshiro on the 1988 cassette and a

koto number performed by Jolene Nakama on the '98 CD.

The CD features performers and students from the local Okinawan music groups, including the Nomura-ryu Ongaku Kyokai, Hawaii Shibu; Ryukyu Sokyoku Koyo Kai, Hawaii Shibu; Afuso-ryu Gensei Kai, Hawaii Shibu; Deigo Club of Hawaii and the Sansei Minyo Kenkyu Kai. The performers are primarily sansei and yonsei who do not speak *Uchinaguchi* (Okinawan language). The youngest of the performers, twin sisters Carolyn and Marlene Shimamura, were 9 when the CD was recorded last year.

The CD was released last December by the HUOA, executive producer of the project. Although sales thus far have been through the HUOA network, retail sales are being considered. For now, the two-CD set is being sold for \$20 at the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

The project got started in April of 1998 when Hokama assembled the local Okinawan performers. He explained the project to them and asked for their participation in producing the CD. All of the performers donated their time and talents to the project.

The 1998 recording features a wider pool of artists. "We wanted to get the people born in Okinawa recorded," explained Hokama. "On this new recording, we got people like Nobuko Tanaka and Chikako Shimamura, who were born there, but work here now."

Most of the *jikata* (musical accompaniment), was handled by Kiyoshi Kinjo and Grant "Sandaa" Murata Sensei and his assistant instructors, Kenton Odo and June Uyeunen Nakama.

Hokama began by putting together a list of "must" tunes for the CD, songs like "Asato Ya Yunta," "Tanchame," "Hana," and a light-hearted rendition of "Haisai Ojisan" by Shoei Moriyama. The CD also features several popular songs penned by Choichi Terukina Sensei of Okinawa, which Afuso-ryu students in Hawaii were performing.

According to Hokama, the CDs represent a good mix of musical forms being performed in Hawaii.

For the next few months, Hokama and Takamine worked on the musical arrangements. By August, they were ready to begin recording. The first vocalist they scheduled into Pierre Grill's Rendez-Vous studio in Manoa was Lorraine Kaneshiro, the local songbird whose talents and upbeat personality had brought so much pride to Hawaii's Okinawan community. At the time, Kaneshiro was battling terminal cancer. "We had to get Lorraine in first. Her session was only one session. One hour . . . boom . . . she was out," Hokama recalled.

He and Takamine had already laid down the music track to one of her favorite tunes, "Hana." The song of peace was written and composed by Okinawa's Shokichi China, who was inspired by the bloodshed and destruction of the Vietnam war. If a flower can bloom in every person's heart, there will be no more wars, he wrote.

The tune was a hit in Southeast Asia. In Hawaii, Kaneshiro's rendition deeply touched the hearts of the local community.

Although very ill, she was still strong enough to record the song. At home, she had listened to the music track they had laid down, practiced singing to it, and then went in for the recording. The 1998 Okinawan Festival was the last time she sang the song in public.

Kaneshiro died this past June at the age of 55 following a long and courageous battle with cancer. But her recording of "Hana" and memories of other songs she sang will always keep her memory alive.

Work on the recording continued through October. Hokama and Takamine would lay down the music track in one session and then bring the singers in to record the vocals. "We didn't want to waste anybody's time," Hokama said.

For most of the performers, recording was a totally new experience which took some adjusting to. Most of the performers had always played their instruments and sung at the same time, so, for many, it felt *un-natural* to be singing without their instruments. Unknowingly, they began gesturing as if they were playing their samisen.

Alison Ebisu, an Afuso-ryu student, said it was exciting to be a part of something so "auspicious." The recording's permanency made it even more exciting, she added.

Hokama was intrigued by how much the technology of recording had changed in 10 years. "With digital technology, we can cut and paste; we can make a flat note on tone; we can change the timing of each note. That's all part of the mixing down and what any artist would do," he noted. "Otherwise, we'd still be in the studio," he laughed.

Technology aside, however, he says the bottom line is that the performers had to practice their songs for the recording, which only enhanced their skills and raised them to a higher performance level.

Featured on the CD are most of the musical instruments used in Okinawan performances, including the *sanshin*, or *samisen*; *kutu* (koto); *taiko* (drum); *kuchu* (fiddle); *fue* (flute) and *samba* (bamboo implements)—as well as *yobibue* (whistle) and *heeshi* (vocal accent). Hokama and Takamine supplemented the arrangements with guitar, bass guitar, keyboards, piano and flute, creating a *hapa* sound.

For the popular *minyo* (folk) tune, "Asato Ya Yunta," Murata changed the lyrics in the last verse slightly to give the song a Hawaii flavor. "Saa Hawaii yoitoko ichido wa mensoree. Haru, natsu, aki, fuyu . . . Aloha no shima yo (Spring, summer, autumn, winter . . . Hawaii is always the Islands of aloha) . . ." Hokama recruited his friend, Bobby Ingano, to provide some steel guitar accompaniment to the verse to give it an extra special Hawaii sound.

The financial success of "Chibariyo Hawaii 1998" is now in the hands of the Okinawan community. It is a homegrown recording they can and should take tremendous pride in by sharing it with friends and relatives all over the world as an enduring tribute to the rich culture brought to Hawaii by the issei nearly a century ago.

"We've got the talent," concluded Hokama. "If you listen to this CD, it's pretty good compared to even stuff you can buy in Okinawa."



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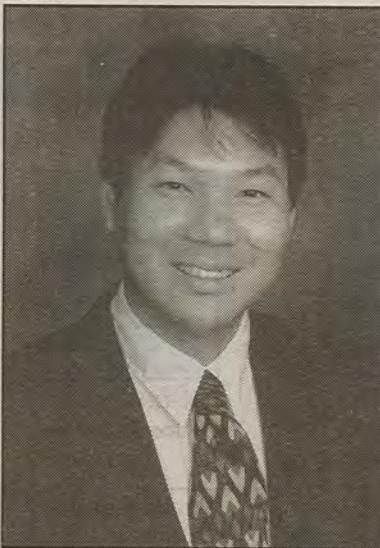
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Member, Chatan Sonjin Kai



Back row (left to right): Koto Shiroma, unknown, unknown, unknown, Sadao Arakaki, Ryokin Nakama and Taro Azama. Front row (left to right): unknown, Kitatsu Kawamae, Kentsu Yabu (or Yabu Gunso), unknown, Sadao Asato.

YABU GUNSO'S 1927 VISIT TO HAWAII

Do You Know These Men?

by Charles C. Goodin, *Hikari Dojo*

In the annals of karate history, few names are better known than that of Kentsu Yabu (also read as "Yabe"). As a young man, he was a student of Sokon "Bushi" Matsumura, the "grandfather" of the Shuri-Te line of karate. When Matsumura passed away, Yabu continued to train with Anko Itosu, the man most responsible for introducing karate to the Okinawa school system. Yabu actively taught karate in the public schools and at the

Teacher's College. He was also very active in Okinawan sumo.

The first Okinawan to attain an officer's rank in the Japanese army (he rose to the rank of lieutenant), Yabu was better known by the nickname "Sergeant," or "Gunso." Thus, most people knew him as Yabu Gunso. He was also known as "Yabu No Tanme," a term showing respect for his age and seniority in the art. Karate was always held as an important aspect of the Okinawan culture, and many viewed Yabu as a living cultural treasure.

Yabu's son, Kenden, originally immigrated to Hawaii, but later moved to California. Yabu visited his son and his family in California twice, first in 1920 or 1921, and again in 1926. On the way back from his second visit, Yabu, who was about 60 years old at the time, stopped in Hawaii. He arrived in March 1927 and spent most of his time on Oahu. He also visited Kauai in May, and Maui in late August with Admiral Kenwa Kanna, who was visiting from Japan. Tetsuo Toyama, of the Jitsugyo No Hawaii, appears to have been his primary sponsor. He remained in Hawaii until just after Christmas, at which time he returned to Okinawa.

At the time of his visit, Yabu was the most senior and respected karate sensei in Okinawa. While here, he naturally met with many of his former students from Okinawa. Until that time, karate was practiced privately (almost secretly) in the Okinawan community. With Yabu's arrival, karate moved for the first time into the public eye. He gave a small demonstration on March 31 at the Nuuanu YMCA, at which time it was announced that he was opening a school of karate, or "Japanese boxing."

This was followed by a larger demonstration at the Nuuanu YMCA on July 8, which was attended by several hundred people and covered by both Japanese and English newspapers. For the second demonstration, Yabu enlisted the aid of his former students as well as many new students who had been attracted to the art. Children as well as adults participated in the demonstration.

A going-away demonstration/party for Yabu was held around Christmastime. Yabu posed for a group photograph with several of his adult students. I was first shown this photograph last year by Mrs. June Arakawa and since then have tried to identify all of the students. The photo belonged to Sadao Arakaki and is published here with the permission of his family. I have met or spoken with relatives of four of the students and have identified the men indicated in the caption.

Do you recognize any of the "unknown" men? I have a list of names written on the back of two of the photographs and believe the missing people are: Kyuzen Kiyabu, Kitaro Kawakami, Mr. Higa, Saburo Teruya and Yasuhiro Uehara. But at this time, I do not know which names go with which people.

Can you help? If you know any of these men (or their families), or can identify the unknown people, please contact me, Charles Goodin, at 488-5773 (work), 422-2557 (home), or by e-mail at goodin@lava.net. I am writing a book on the early history of karate in Hawaii and am also looking for any old photographs, articles, books or stories relating to the subject. Thank you!



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A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM OKINAWA

The following letter from Jodie C. Tomasa was received by HUOA Scholarship Committee chair Shigeko Asato following Tomasa's return from Okinawa as the Hawaii recipient of the 1998-99 Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarship. The 1999-2000 "Ryudai" scholarship was awarded to Gary Uno, son of Margaret Uno of Orokua Azajin Club.

Also presently studying in Okinawa is Alison Oshiro, who was selected for the Geijutsu Daigaku (commonly referred to as "Geidai") cultural scholarship. Oshiro is the daughter of Kenneth and Lynn Oshiro, members of Nishihara Chojin Kai.

Haisai! I'm back! About a month ago I returned from spending a year in Okinawa on the Okinawa Prefectural Government-sponsored scholarship at the University of the Ryukyus. At the university, I was able to study Japanese, Okinawan *hogen* (dialect), and Japanese and Okinawan history. I also took advantage of the many clubs and activities on campus. I went camping on Zamami Island and participated in the university's annual festival and speech contest.

Not only were we able to learn about the unique history of Okinawa, but the issues that Okinawa faces today, such as military base issues and the changes women experience in society today. In this past year, Okinawa has caught the world's attention. In pop culture, there are many new up-and-coming talents moving up in the music industry. Kiroro, Da Pump, Namie Amuro and Speed are just some of the young Okinawans who have gained widespread recognition. In the area of archaeology, scientists from all over have come to study bones and artifacts that have recently been found in the seas that surround the Ryukyu Islands. Even in my own *sanshin dojo*, there were people from around the world who



Jodie Tomasa at the 1994 Naha Matsuri in Okinawa.

have come to study *koten* (classical) and *minyo* (folk) Okinawan music.

While attending the University of the Ryukyus, I also studied sanshin from Afuso Ryu Gensei Kai, Terukina Choichi Kenkyujo. There, I learned alongside students from all over Okinawa, mainland Japan, America, South America, Mexico and Hawaii. I learned so much from everyone, especially from the Terukina family. Being around the people of Okinawa is like being part of a huge family. It's just like the aloha spirit of Hawaii. I felt it from my first day there, with all of the small shops of beautiful fabrics, ceramics and lacquerware. I mustn't

forget the *shokudo* (small eateries) owned by Okinawa's ojisans and obasans.

The most wonderful thing that I brought back from Okinawa is not the emerald green ceramic plate I bought in Tsuboya, or the best *ume* ever made from Heiwa Dori, but something that will last me even longer. It's an experience that showed me what a great culture my ancestors came from and the beauty of Okinawa's classical music (it's not the "constipation music" my brother and I thought it was when we were little). Most importantly, I learned of the spirit that lives in the hearts of Okinawan people that puts that contagious smile on their faces, young or old. My goal is to be able to tell everyone in the community about the experience and tempt them enough to get them to want to go themselves.

Much mahalos to the Okinawan government, HUOA, the Okinawan International Foundation (Kokusai Koryu Zaidan), the University of the Ryukyus, Terukina Sensei, Kishaba Sensei and all of my family and friends who supported me and sent me crack seed and Hawaiian kine magnets fo' put on my dorm door. I can't forget all those who keep Okinawan culture alive in Hawaii and support the kenjinkais. Because of your support, I have so much to share and pass on from this experience.

To the young people who are considering trying for the Okinawa Prefectural Government scholarship, I encourage you to GO FOR IT! You won't regret it.

With much aloha,
Jodie C. Tomasa

Jodie Tomasa, daughter of Chatan Sonjin Kai members Ronald and Sharon Tomasa, earned her bachelor's degree in Japanese language from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She presently works for her father's accounting firm.

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COMMEMORATIVE BOULDER

continued from page 1

Base Hawaii, he had told me, "This spirit of the Okinawa peoples, their island home and the spirit of the Okinawan immigrants who came to Hawaii are one and the same. Contained within that spirit are all those who have come before us, those who are present today, and all who will appear in the near and distant future. This celebration of the 100th anniversary of Okinawan immigration to Hawaii is so marked and symbolized by this gift and spirit from Kin. Let this spirit (Kin rock and inscription) be a living testament and inspiration for all peoples and all seasons."

The "big rock" is no longer just a rock. It now has special meaning, and I look upon it as the best gift Kincho could have given to the Hawaii Okinawa Center, for it will forever be a reminder of who the Okinawan people are, where they came from, and where they are capable of going. Ippe nihei deebiru to Mayor Yoshida, the U.S. Marines, the U.S. Navy and the Oshiro brothers.

THE DREAM THAT DRIVES HOC USE

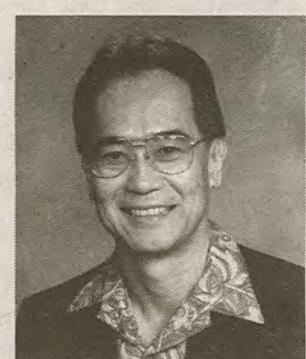
In 1996, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and the Board of Trustees of the Hawaii Okinawa Center adopted a set of rules and regulations governing the use of the HOC by cultural organizations. The center was built to honor our issei, whose fervent wish was to pass on the rich Okinawan culture to their children and grandchildren and the many generations that would follow. They also hoped that the culture would be promoted and perpetuated and shared with others.

The rules and regulations governing use of the HOC were adopted to help make their dream a reality by systematically encouraging cultural groups to use the Hawaii Okinawa Center.

As we enter the second one hundred years since our issei arrived in Hawaii, we do so with the hope that many more cultural groups will utilize the center to ensure that the wishes of our issei are kept alive eternally.

For details regarding the use of the Hawaii Okinawa Center and application forms, please call the HUOA office at 676-5400.

PRESERVING OUR LEGACY



by Stan Koki, Trustee,
Hawaii Okinawa Center
Member, Ginoza Sonjin Kai

A big "Ippe Nihei Deebiru" to our Hawaii United Okinawa Association "family" for your tremendous response to our first annual-giving campaign. Your overwhelming support of our campaign to preserve, promote and perpetuate our Okinawan culture through the Hawaii Okinawa Center would make our issei so very proud. As chair of this first campaign, I am delighted with the response. It makes me so proud to be Okinawan—and to know what kind of people make up our Okinawan community. Your HOC Board of Trustees, HUOA officers, and the members of the fundraising committee send you our sincerest mahalo and "Okage Same de"—or in Uchinaguchi, "Ukazi deebiru"—with heartfelt thanks to you.

This effort has been a family affair from the start. On Saturday, October 30, I joined an army of volunteers who had gathered at the HOC to collate, stuff, seal and attach mailing labels to more than 10,000 envelopes that were sorted by zip code, counted and boxed.

They were mailed on Monday. By Friday, just four days later, we began receiving contributions. On Saturday, and again on Monday, stacks of envelopes arrived at executive director Gary Honda's desk. Each has contained an outpouring of love and *yuimaaru*—and a real commitment to keeping alive the dreams of our issei.

Our first contribution came from Mr. Roland Shimabukuro of Mikilua Poultry Farm, Inc. Actually, it arrived before the "Preserving our Legacy" envelopes had even been mailed. Mr. Shimabukuro had heard about our plans to launch this annual-giving campaign and quietly sent in a check for \$5,000, making him our first Diamond contributor. We thank Mr. Shimabukuro for his generosity and commitment to our Center's future. His special gift will help ensure the perpetuation of our Okinawan cultural heritage.

The Hawaii Okinawa Center is a place where Okinawans of all generations can learn about and experience the Okinawan spirit so it will continue to be passed on to future generations.

Please continue to send in your contributions. Our goal for this first campaign is \$120,000. We will keep you informed of our progress in future issues of *Uchinanchu*. To each and every one of you who will be sending in contributions in the next few weeks, a heartfelt mahalo from the Board of Trustees of the Hawaii Okinawa Center. May your thoughtfulness be rewarded with the riches of love, good health and true happiness.



The work crew takes a breather after putting the memorial rock in place.

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