



# Uchinanchu

The Voice of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association

January 2000

Issue #74

Circulation 10,100

## THE GREAT OKINAWAN CENTENNIAL WEEKEND

*Let the Celebration Begin!*

### “NUUZI KAKIYABIRA — RAINBOWS: BRIDGES IN TIME”

*An Opening Program You'll Never Forget*

by Karleen C. Chinen  
Member, Bito Doshi Kai

The celebration marking one hundred years since the first Okinawan immigrants arrived in Hawaii will commence with the presentation of "Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time," a moving and heartwarming performance to be presented on January 8, 2000 — exactly one hundred years to the date after the first 26 Uchinanchu touched the shores of Hawaii.

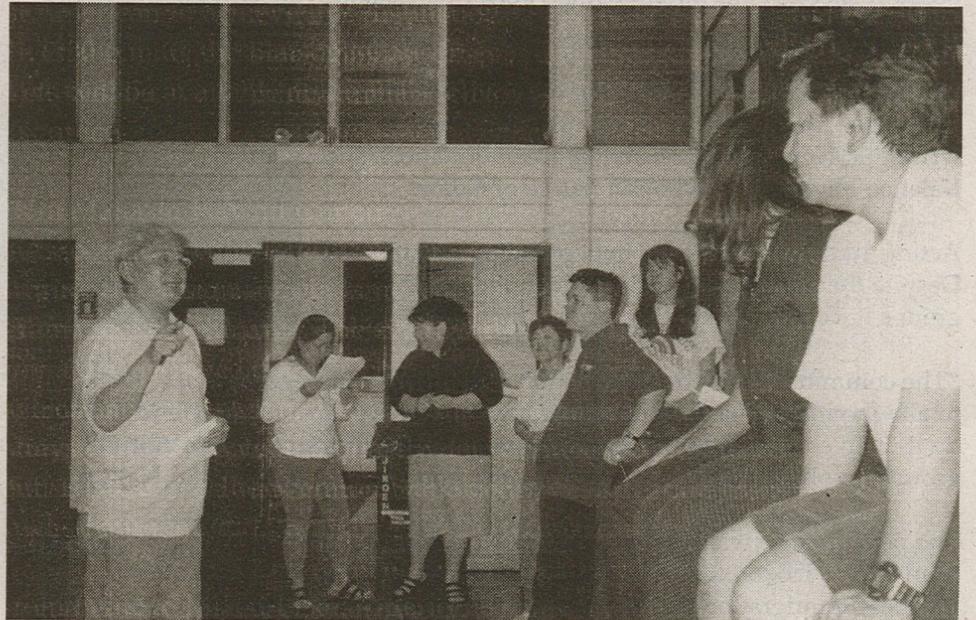
The 9:30 a.m. program, which will be held in the Legacy Ballroom of the Hawaii Okinawa Center, will open with a short formal program featuring speeches by Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, representing Governor Ben Cayetano; Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine; Consul General of Japan Gotaro Ogawa and Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris. The formal portion will conclude with the unveiling of the memorial rock from Kin Cho. The unveiling will be led by Mayor Katsuhiko Yoshida from Kin Cho. The memorial rock was installed at the HOC last November. To minimize movement, the opening ceremonies committee has contracted JN Productions to shoot the unveiling and to project it on a screen in the Legacy Ballroom.

The unveiling will be followed by the presentation of "Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time," a dramatic performance based on the life experiences of Hawaii's Uchinanchu. It tells the story of Toyama Kyuzo's early struggles to gain permission from Governor Narahara so Okinawans could emigrate to Hawaii, the hardships the early immigrants endured on Hawaii's sugar plantations, World War II and the post-war years, the rejuvena-

tion and sharing of Uchinanchu pride, and finally, the passing on of this precious gift of heritage to the younger generation of Uchinanchu. The concept was developed by the HUOA's centennial opening program/memorial service committee, chaired by Richard Zukemura, a UOA past president and member of Yonabaru Chojin Kai. The script was developed by Jim Nakamoto and Karen Yamamoto Hackler, both veterans of community theatre in Hawaii.

"Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time" was inspired by the writings and stories of Toyama Kyuzo and several Hawaii Uchinanchu — including Jon Shirota, who recalls the painful impact of the discrimination inflicted upon Okinawans while growing up on Maui; Takejiro Higa, a U.S. Military Intelligence Service soldier during the Battle of Okinawa; and former Kalihi Valley pig farmer Akira Sakima. "Nuuzi . . ." will be performed in English, with a sprinkling of Japanese and Uchinaaguchi.

A Buddhist memorial service honoring the issei who immigrated to Hawaii will be part of the program. The service will be conducted by Bishop Chikai Yosemite of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and Reverend Bruce Nakamura of the Jikoen Hongwanji Mission. An offering of tea will be made by Governor Inamine and HUOA president Albert Miyasato. Representatives of several organizations will offer *oshoko* (incense offering)



Director Jim Nakamoto gives some pointers to cast members at a rehearsal three days before Christmas.

during the service. Others may offer *oshoko* at the conclusion of the program.

"Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time" acknowledges all who made possible the "Uchinanchu aloha" Hawaii's Okinawan community celebrates after one hundred years in the Islands. The performance is being directed by veteran theatre director Jim Nakamoto, who headed McKinley High School's drama program until his retirement. He has been involved in community theatre for many years, working primarily with Kumu Kahua Theatre. Nakamoto directed actor Jason Scott Lee and local Uchinanchu actress Amy (Nishihara) Tamaribuchi in Edward Sakamoto's play, "Stew Rice." In 1998 he directed Sakamoto's moving drama about the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, "Our Hearts Were Touched With Fire," at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. The cast included state Rep. Marcus Oshiro, who also has a major role in "Nuuzi . . ."

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## CAPACITY CROWD EXPECTED FOR OPENING BANQUET

Tickets are going fast for the centennial celebration opening banquet, set for Saturday evening, January 8, 2000, in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the seven-course Chinese dinner to be served at 6:30 p.m. A large contingent of guests from Okinawa will be attending the banquet.

To help offset some of the banquet expenses, the committee, chaired by Howard Takara from Oroku Azajin Club also sold special tables. Gold tables were purchased by Armstrong Produce, Ltd.; Bob Tanaka; Central Pacific Bank; City Bank; First Hawaiian Bank; Zippy's Inc.; Teruya Brothers, Ltd. and Dexter Teruya. Silver Tables were bought by Fleming Co., Inc.; McKesson Drug Co.; Nelson O. Yoshioka Jr., O.D. and Cheryl C. Niitani-Yoshioka, O.D.; Uezu Enterprise and Arthur and Marjorie Uyehara. Sponsor Tables were purchased by Aloha Shoyu Co., Ltd. and Hawaiian Sun Products.

HUOA clubs are invited to put up displays on their respective clubs in the foyer of the Hawaii Ballroom. Display guidelines can be obtained by calling Takara at 988-3201.

An exciting program is being planned by the opening banquet committee. Besides the traditional speeches by VIPs from Okinawa and Hawaii, a short videotaped excerpt from the morning opening program, "Nuuzi Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time," will be shown at the banquet. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of Okinawan folk dances from the "Miruku Yugafu" program, a special centennial gift to Hawaii's people from Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine and the people of Okinawa. Tickets for the banquet are \$50 per person. For information, call George Bartels, Jr. at 541-1301.

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Nakamoto also directed Maui-born Uchinanchu playwright Jon Shirota's play, "Lucky Come Hawaii," several years ago.

Nakamoto has pulled together a dedicated cast — and even discovered a few new Uchinanchu talents — and a highly skilled production crew. Volunteers from the HUOA are assisting in the production. Featured in the cast are state Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Amy Tamaribuchi, Lane Inamine, Kris Mayeshiro, Sue Shiroma Nada, Lena Kaneshiro, Devon Nekoba, Thomas Morinaka and Karen Hironaga.

"Nuuzi . . ." weaves together performances by a number of Okinawan and Hawaiian cultural groups, among them: Ryukyu Kobudo Taiko, Hawaii Shibu; Jikoen Hongwanji choir; Young Okinawans of Hawaii; Afuso-ryu Hawaii Sandaa Kai; Hawaiian music and hula by *kumu hula* (hula teacher) Blaine Kamalani Kia; songs from Broadway musicals; and a specially assembled centennial chorus directed by Ethel Iwasaki, a retired DOE music teacher. One of the highlights of the morning is sure to be the Hawaiian chant by master chanter and *kumu hula* Puanani Kanahale from the Big Island. Kanahale composed it specially for the centennial performance and will be flying in to perform it in person.

Jim Nakamoto has been working on the production with the opening program committee for more than six months, fleshing out the script, writing it, and re-writing it. He is being assisted by Doris Taitano, a special education teacher at Kalaheo High School who is a native of Guam.

Acting auditions were held in September, and rehearsals began in mid-October. Despite the hustle and bustle of the holidays, the cast, choruses and cultural groups have been rehearsing several times a week in preparation for the big day.

"The committee wanted a celebration and a memorial service to say 'thank you' to all who made possible the strong community we have today. We're trying to do it in an entertaining yet respectful way — and thanks to all the cultural groups involved, I think we have a pretty good performance," said Nakamoto.

The performance was fortunate to receive a \$20,000 donation from the Hawaii Imin Shiryo Hozon Kai, a local organization that supports programs on Japanese immigration and the immigrants' experiences. After seeing a reading of the script in September, George Takabayashi, a member of the Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commission and Hozon Kai president, proposed to the Hozon Kai that the group support the production with a \$20,000 donation. "I was quite impressed that there was such a person like (Kyuzo) Toyama-san. I learned that the immigration wasn't an easy thing," said Takabayashi. "This program came under what the Hozon Kai is interested in preserving — how the immigrants from Okinawa came to Hawaii. I thought this is something we can give a little kokua. We felt this would be money well-spent to educate Okinawans about the tremendous hardship their forefathers went through."

Takabayashi presented a check from the Hozon Kai to 1999 HUOA president Lillian Takata, HUOA Centennial Committee chair Dexter Teruya and Edward Kuba, chair of the State of Hawaii's Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commission at the October 2 Commission meeting.

"We are truly grateful to Commissioner George Takabayashi and the Hawaii Imin Shiryo Hozon Kai for their generous donation to the opening performance," said Kuba and Teruya. "It was totally unexpected. The Hozon Kai's donation has made it possible for the opening program committee to put on a first-class performance that really honors the sacrifices of our Okinawan issei and yet inspires us to look to the future and think about the heritage we are leaving for our children and grandchildren and the generations beyond."

Tickets for the January 8 performance are free and were distributed to HUOA club presidents/representatives at the Dec. 1, 1999 Special Board of Directors meeting, or mailed to them if they were unable to attend the meeting. Any undistributed tickets should be returned to HUOA executive director Gary Honda as soon as possible so they can be redistributed. The club tickets should *not* be distributed to issei club members. Special seating for issei and one caregiver is being set aside for the January 8 program. Club presidents/representatives should contact Gary Honda at the Hawaii Okinawa Center with their issei's names and information on special needs (i.e., wheelchair, etc.). Please address the information to Gary Honda — phone: 676-5400, fax: 676-7811, or e-mail: hondagt@aloha.net — as soon as possible to ensure seating for your club's issei.



Hawaii Imin Shiryo Hozon Kai president George Takabayashi (far left) presents a check for \$20,000 to 1999 HUOA president Lillian Takata as centennial chairs Edward Kuba and Dexter Teruya look on. Takabayashi is also a member of the State of Hawaii's Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commission.

Doors to the Hawaii Okinawa Center's Legacy Ballroom will open at 8:45 a.m., and the program will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. An "overflow tent" with a 200 person capacity will be set up in the parking lot to accommodate those willing to watch the program on a closed-circuit TV screen. Seating in the tent will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Due to the limited seating capacity of the Hawaii Okinawa Center, director Jim Nakamoto has offered to open the January 7 final full dress rehearsal at the HOC to the public. The 7:30 p.m. performance will be staged without interruptions.

"We're thrilled that so many people have expressed interest in attending the opening program and we're sorry that we aren't able to accommodate everyone," said Dexter Teruya and Ed Kuba. "We hope people will understand the dilemma we faced. The committee considered moving the program to a larger venue, but the more we discussed it, the more we realized that despite the space limitations, this program had to be staged here, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, which was built in memory of our issei. Their spirit lives on in these walls and we wanted to share this very special program with them — for no matter what adversities we face in the future, their spirit will keep us safe and strong and united as an Uchinanchu community."

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three issues	\$1620	810	405	200	135
six issues	\$3000	1500	750	375	250

Digital files preferred. There will be a \$25 minimum charge for additional production work.  
Call 676-5400.

## 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.

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### PLEASE KOKUA!

Production costs for Uchinanchu have escalated due to increases in circulation, labeling expenses and postage. Your contribution to help defray some of the expenses is greatly appreciated.

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Your support is greatly appreciated! Ippe nihei deebiru!

## “MIRUKU YUGAFU” PERFORMANCE SET FOR JAN. 9

by Gary T. Honda  
Executive Director  
Hawaii United Okinawa Association

“Miruku Yugafu — Working for Peace in the Year 2000,” a high-energy folk dance performance, will mark the climax of the Okinawan Centennial Celebration opening weekend. The performance, set for 2 p.m., Sunday, January 9, 2000, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center, is a centennial gift to the Okinawan community and to the people of Hawaii from Governor Keiichi Inamine and the people of Okinawa. This is a great performance to bring friends to so they can discover the joy of the Okinawan performing arts.

The chance to see “Miruku Yugafu” will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The performance was specially designed to represent the various *shichoson* (geographical areas) of Okinawa. The performance is open free of charge to the public; however, attendees must have a ticket. Tickets have been distributed to the various Hawaii United Okinawa Association member associations and cultural groups. Interested individuals can call their club presidents for tickets. A limited number of tickets are available through the HUOA's Hawaii Okinawa Center. Call 676-5400 for more information. Although the performance is free, donations will be accepted at the door.

“Miruku Yugafu” is a two-hour performance highlighting Okinawan village life in song and dance. This *geinodan* will include performers from Nago-shi, Agarie-ku; Ie-son; Yomitan-son; Kita Nakagusuku-son; Nishihara-son; Chinen-son; and Taketomi-cho, as well as alumni of the Geidai (Okinawa University of the Arts).

The first half of the program will focus on village life in Okinawa. It will open with an old Okinawan children's song and move through a variety of songs and dances depicting the life of farmers. Also on the program will be a love story about a farm girl and an official from Shuri Castle, a dance that applies the techniques of karate, and seven additional numbers. The first half of the program will close with the “Nishihara Cho No Shishi Mai.”

The second half will feature even more lively performances focusing on entertainment in the villages. The numbers will include: “Okinawa No Miruku Gyoretsu,” “Hana No Kajimaya,” “Kuduchi Bayashi” in the Agarie version, “Shinki Kuduchi,” “Shundo,” “Feenu Shima” in the Atsuta version,



Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine

“Sanguroro,” “Tanchamae,” “Bo,” “Zakimi Bo,” “Kuroshima Kuduchi,” and a spectacular finale.

The performance is one you won't want to miss! Call your club presidents or the HUOA's Hawaii Okinawa Center for tickets.

The performance will be followed by the traditional HUOA Aloha Party. This will be a very special get-together, for it will be an opportunity for the officers and members of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association clubs to meet Governor Inamine. All current and Year 2000 officers are urged to attend the Aloha Party and join in the fellowship with the governor and members of the *geinodan* group.

Governor Inamine personally requested this opportunity to meet with members of the various clubs as he is very interested in the HUOA and views the member clubs as the future of the Uchinanchu community in Hawaii.

The Aloha Party is the only time he will be available during his brief but busy visit to Hawaii for the start of the centennial celebration. Some of the mayors from the *shichoson* will also be attending the Aloha Party. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to meet Governor Inamine, our many special guests from Okinawa, and to enjoy the company of the other club officers and members. Tickets for the heavy pupus Aloha Party are \$15. Call the Hawaii Okinawa Center at 676-5400 to reserve your tickets.

## “FRIENDSHIP CARAVAN IN HAWAII” TO FEATURE EISA PERFORMANCES

The Shurijo Fukugen Kisei Kai (Shuri Castle Restoration Association) has organized a group tour called the “Friendship Caravan in Hawaii.” The group will be visiting Hawaii during the centennial weekend and will participate in a number of activities from January 7-9, 2000. During their visit, Yasuhide Uezu, executive director of the Shuri Castle Restoration Association, plans to present several gifts to the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. The presentation of two Shurijo photo panels — one a painting by Aiko Nadoyama, and the other, a calligraphy piece by Shiroma-sensei — will be made at the opening banquet.

The “Friendship Caravan in Hawaii” group will also present a special 50-minute eisa dance concert at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Sunday, January 9, immediately after the “Miruku Yugafu” performance and before the Aloha Party. The eisa performance is free to the public. It will feature the Shuri Zuiun Dance Group, Imazin Taiko Preservation Children's Group, and the Lequios Shishimai Dance Group.

The Shuri Zuiun Dance Group is a *hatagashira* group. *Hatagashira* are special ornamental fixtures placed atop a large pole about 15-20 feet high and weighing over 100 pounds. The pole is usually carried by one person who is assisted by several others holding lines to help secure the pole from falling. The *hatagashira* is a traditional part of special celebrations in Okinawa and has a long history. The Shuri Zuiun Dance Group will be performing with a *hatagashira* weighing more than 150 pounds. The group will also teach several members of the Okinawan community how to handle the *hatagashira*. The HUOA has a *hatagashira* which was a gift to the organization by the people of Nago City.

The performance by the Imazin Taiko Preservation Children's Group, which is renown in Okinawa, promises to be one you will long remember. The sound of their taiko will fill the air and add to the weekend's festive atmosphere.

Finally, the Lequios Shishimai Dance Group is one of the best shishimai groups in Okinawa. The shishimai is the traditional Okinawan lion that brings good luck and wards off the evil spirits. The dances and moves of the Lequios Shishimai are amazing and must be seen to be appreciated. Make sure you take full advantage of the opportunity to see these amazing performances at the Hawaii Okinawa Center during the centennial weekend.

## AZA GUSHIKAWA SEINEN KAI TO PERFORM EISA

The Aza Gushikawa Seinen Kai will put on a special eisa performance at the Miruku Yugafu Aloha Party on Sunday, January 9, at the Hawaii Okinawa Center as the HUOA says “mahalo” and “ippe nihei deebiru” to the performers.

The Seinen Kai will also perform following the opening ceremonies on Jan. 8. They have planned a spectacular eisa performance, which will be presented in the Hawaii Okinawa Center parking lot.

The group is also coming to Honolulu to meet with members of the Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai. Their performance is their gift to the members in celebration of the centennial. Because of the many activities planned for the weekend, the group could not find a suitable time to perform for the Aza Gushikawa Doshi Kai members. After a series of discussions by telephone and fax, the group agreed to be part of the Aloha Party program, thus giving them a chance to perform for not only Aza

Gushikawa Doshi Kai members, but for everyone attending the Aloha Party.

Eisa performances by the Aza Gushikawa Seinen Kai are well known in Okinawa and considered among the best in the prefecture, so mark your calendar for either — or both — performances. For more information, call 676-5400.



# A Look at What's Ahead

"Okage Sama de 2000: Bridging a Century of Uchinanchu Aloha" will be a busy but memorable year for Hawaii's Okinawan community as they commemorate one hundred years since the first Okinawan immigrants arrived in Hawaii. The following is a schedule of events planned for the centennial year.

(Please note that the various committees are continuing to finalize details for the various events. As such, the following information is 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* (grave) 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. 9:30 a.m. @ Mililani Memorial Park.

**Jan. 8:** "Nuuzy Kakiyabira — Rainbows: Bridges in Time." See page 1 story for details.

**Jan. 8:** Okinawan Centennial Celebration opening banquet, See page 1 story for details.

**Jan. 9:** "Miruku Yugafu," a special Okinawan *minyō* (folk) dance concert sponsored by the Okinawa Prefectural Government. The dancers for this free performance come from all over Okinawa. 2 p.m. @ HOC (tickets required). Aloha Party to follow (tickets \$15). Note: Okinawa Governor Keiichi Inamine plans to attend this event along with the mayors and government officials from the various towns and cities in Okinawa.

**March 10:** Centennial Golf Tournament. Three-person teams, scramble format; 200 player limit. 12 noon @ the New Ewa Beach Golf Club.

**March 12:** Charity dance concert produced by Kubota Teruko Sensei. Time/location to be announced (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 11:** "Leilani's Hibiscus," presented by Kumu Kahua Theatre. Maui native Jon Shiota'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 two-event celebration at the HOC marks 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) Festival 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 (dragon boat) at 9:30 a.m. @ Wailoa State Park in Hilo.

**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:** Piano recital by Jon Nakamatsu, 1997 Gold Medalist of the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. Nakamatsu is the first American to achieve this distinction since 1981. 7:30 p.m. @ the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Tickets will be available at the Blaisdell Center box office.

**Oct. 22:** Hui Makaala-Hawaii United Okinawa Association scholarship fashion show featuring the designs of Madame Mitsuko Yamauchi of Okinawa. The event will also feature a performance titled "Ocho Emaki," which showcases Okinawan clothing from the days of the Ryukyuan monarchy to the present. 11:30 a.m. @ the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, Hawaii Ballroom.

**Nov.:** "From Bentō 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. Details on these "on the road" shows will be released as they become available.

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. However, during the centennial year, we plan to share our "Uchinanchu aloha" with the people of Hawaii in a more organized fashion through the "Gratitude in Action" community service series.

COMING SOON . . .

Okinawan Centennial Celebration Commemorative Medallion

*A centennial keepsake worth purchasing. Details coming soon . . .*